



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the U.S. Geological Survey's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	USGS-17-FA-0079
Project Title	Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study
Recipient	American University of Beirut
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$195,000
Cost Share	0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$195,000
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	3 Years
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	TBD
USGS Point of Contact	Jack Eggleston, jegglest@usgs.gov

OVERVIEW

The USGS and the American University of Beirut (AUB) will work together to improve water security within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by accelerating aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). This cooperative work is part of the Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery study that will demonstrate and apply new methods for identifying high potential ASR sites, based on remote sensing and geospatial hydrologic analysis. The study aims to build the capacity of MENA national institutions to develop non-conventional water resources.

The ultimate goal of the study is to increase available water supplies in the MENA region by accelerating use of ASR technology. To meet this goal, national water agencies within the region will be engaged from the outset so that technology is developed with the involvement of the officials and engineers who will apply it to program management and field applications.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The AUB is a non-profit university located in Beirut, Lebanon. AUB educates undergraduate and graduate students and performs scientific research and develops technology in the water area. Through the activities of professors and students, AUB improves knowledge of and access to freshwater resources in the MENA region. In this project AUB will help to develop and demonstrate methods for expanding non-conventional water supplies in Lebanon by:

- Contributing to project publications, including project reports, conference abstracts, and scientific journal publications;
- Sharing knowledge of local practices and technologies regarding water use, aquifer recharge, and agricultural irrigation;
- Serving as the project's primary point of communication with Lebanese authorities including the Ministry of Energy and Water;
- Selecting and characterizing field sites that will be used in the project to test mapping algorithms developed and demonstrated by the project;
- Devoting research time of two graduate students to ASR topics related to project goals;
- Facilitating visits to Lebanon by project partners by selecting field sites to visit, arranging schedules of AUB students and staff to participate in meetings, and communicating with authorities as needed. It is expected that one visit will occur per year, during each of the three years of the project.
- Traveling to and participating in project meetings held in the MENA region outside of Jordan. Travel costs will be paid for separately and not by funds allocated in this agreement.
- Compiling and submitting geospatial data needed to carry out runoff simulation and ASR potential mapping. Geospatial data to be compiled will characterize land use, precipitation, temperature, stream networks, and existing water infrastructure.
- Submitting quarterly (every three months) progress reports describing research activities and accomplishments/achievements funded by the project.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, USGS will be responsible for the following:

- Provide assistance with remote sensing analysis, geospatial hydrologic analysis, algorithm development, written reports and online data dissemination;
- Coordinate study activities with USAID; and
- Provide input to AUB regarding planning of travel and workshops, reporting requirements, and specifications and deadlines for deliverables.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
- (6) Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State, and academic partners) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

USGS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications

Single Source Justification Description:

The AUB is a non-profit university that performs scientific research, develops technology, and educates undergraduate and graduate students. Through the activities of professors and students, AUB improves knowledge of and access to freshwater resources in the MENA region. In this project AUB will continue to develop and demonstrate methods for expanding non-conventional water supplies in Lebanon. The AUB has unique relationships within the MENA Region academic community and with the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Lebanese national water agency and regulatory body that controls water projects in the country. AUB provides access to ASR study sites that would otherwise be unavailable to the study.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Cooperative Agreements – 43 USC 1457b and Section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195).