



## 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                                 |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Funding Announcement</b>              | USGS-17-FA-0077                                 |
| <b>Project Title</b>                     | Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study |
| <b>Recipient</b>                         | An-Najah National University                    |
| <b>Anticipated Federal Amount</b>        | \$90,000                                        |
| <b>Cost Share</b>                        | N/A                                             |
| <b>Total Anticipated Award Amount</b>    | \$90,000                                        |
| <b>New Award or Continuation?</b>        | New Award                                       |
| <b>Anticipated Period of Performance</b> | 3 Years                                         |
| <b>Award Instrument</b>                  | Cooperative Agreement                           |
| <b>CFDA # and Title</b>                  | 15.808                                          |
| <b>USGS Point of Contact</b>             | Jack Eggleston (jeggleson@usgs.gov)             |

## OVERVIEW

The USGS and the An-Najah National University (ANNU) 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

ANNU is a non-profit university located in the city of Nablus in the northern West Bank. ANNU performs scientific research, develops technology, and educates undergraduate and graduate students. Through the activities of professors and students, ANNU improves knowledge of and access to freshwater resources in the MENA region. In this project, ANNU will help to develop and demonstrate methods for expanding non-conventional water supplies in Jordan. ANNU will be responsible for organizing and performing project activities in the West Bank, facilitating visits by project partners, contributing to joint scientific publications, attending project meetings and workshops, and preparing required reports.

## 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:

- Assisting with remote sensing analysis, geospatial hydrologic analysis, algorithm development, written reports and online data dissemination;
- Coordinating ANNU study activities with other study partners and USAID;
- Providing input to ANNU regarding planning of travel and workshops, reporting requirements, and specifications and deadlines for deliverables; and
- Monitoring performance by ANNU.

## SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

| <b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR<br/>SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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:<br><br>(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;<br><br>(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:**

ANNU is a non-profit university that performs scientific research, develops technology, and educates undergraduate and graduate students. Through the activities of professors and students, ANNU improves knowledge of and access to freshwater resources in the MENA region. In this project ANNU will develop and demonstrate methods for expanding non-conventional water supplies in Jordan. The ANNU has extensive relationships within the MENA Region academic community and with national water agencies and institutions which also include research studies that encompass both regional and international water issues.

ANNU is uniquely qualified to perform the required services for this project. It is one of just four research universities in the Palestinian territories and has the unique combination of hydrogeology expertise and water quality expertise required for this project. Additionally ANNU works with the Palestinian Water Authority, the government agency that oversees permitting and development of ASR projects in the West Bank.

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

Cooperative Agreements - 43 USC Section 36d and Section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195)