



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-0065
Project Title	Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study
Recipient	HYDROLOGY.nl
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$200,000
Cost Share	0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$200,000
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	3 Years
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808 – Research and Data Collection
USGS Point of Contact	Jack Eggleston, jegglest@usgs.gov

OVERVIEW

The USGS and HYDROLOGY.nl 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

HYDROLOGY.nl will be responsible for contributing expertise in ASR methods and technologies, geospatial analysis, joint scientific publications, project meetings and workshops, and report preparation. HYDROLOGY.nl will cooperate in all activities related to the ASR Study. This assures that the efforts of all parties will be complementary. The parties will meet, have teleconferences (with agendas), and communicate in writing at regularly agreed upon times to plan and discuss activities related to the ASR Study. HYDROLOGY.nl agrees to do the following:

- Contribute to project publications, including project reports, conference abstracts, and scientific journal publications.
- Share knowledge of local practices and technologies regarding water use, aquifer recharge, and agricultural irrigation.
- Travel to and participate in project meetings held in the MENA region. Travel costs will be paid separately and not by funds allocated in this agreement.
- Compile and submit to the project group geospatial data needed to carry out the runoff simulation and ASR potential mapping to be performed by the project. Geospatial data to be compiled will characterize land use, precipitation, temperature, stream networks, and existing water infrastructure.
- Submit 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:

- Coordinate study activities with USAID.
- Provide input to HYDROLOGY.nl regarding planning of travel and workshops, reporting requirements, and specifications and deadlines for deliverables.
- Monitor performance by HYDROLOGY.nl.

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:

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:

HYDROLOGY.nl is uniquely qualified to perform the services outlined in the agreement because its staff has global and Middle East hydrology expertise; existing projects in arid and semi-arid regions around the world on the topic of aquifer storage and recovery; and existing ties with the partner government agencies partnering in this work. Additionally, it coordinates the Netherlands' National Committee contributions to the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO. As a result, Hydrology.nl has a comprehensive international hydrologic understanding of current ASR science.

HYDROLOGY.nl is a knowledge hub for international hydrology and water resources. Bridging state-of-the-art science and policy on water and climate change adaptation; it is well-versed in

the international water arena; supports governments, the United Nations, and non-profit organizations with scientific backstopping, policy advice and communications (such as publications and events) related to international water resources, hydrology, and climate change adaptation to include a strong focus on sustainable development, vulnerable communities, poverty reduction and nature protection.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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