



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-0064
Project Title	Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery Study
Recipient	Arab Water Council
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$140,900
Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$140,900
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	3 Years
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808
USGS Point of Contact	Jack Eggleston (jegglest@usgs.gov)

OVERVIEW

The USGS and the Arab Water Council (AWC) will work together to improve water security within the Middle East and North Africa (hereafter "MENA") region by accelerating aquifer storage and recovery (hereafter "ASR"). This cooperative work is part of the Accelerating Aquifer Storage and Recovery study (hereafter "the 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 AWC is a non-profit regional organization supporting the water agenda within the MENA region. The AWC's activities encompass both regional and international water issues. The mission of the AWC is "to promote deeper understanding and better management of the water resources in the Arab States in a multi-disciplinary, non-political, professional, and scientific manner and to disseminate knowledge." The AWC is currently working to improve water resources management and capacity building within the MENA region. AWC will address the scarcity of freshwater within the MENA region and explore opportunities to improve water resources through agricultural management with countries within the region. The AWC agrees to provide the following services:

- Organize annual MENA regional workshops to allow for the exchange of information and lessons learned and to improve regional cooperation and communication in order to develop baseline guidance for the study.
- Organize meetings to discuss the goals of the study at a national level and define national institutions, organizations, and end-users that are related to the study, identify potential partners to this study, review results from previous similar studies and projects, and further discuss the results and constraints with national experts within this domain.
- Hold a final *regional* training workshop with the technical partners and the implementing agencies to disseminate maps and data, demonstrate use of technology, and assist national stakeholders in using new ASR methods.
- Coordinate travel for regional participants, including handling stakeholder communications, arranging visas, reserving facilities and hotel accommodations, and providing reimbursement to participants for travel costs.
- Prepare annual integrated reports summarizing progress and outcomes in coordination with the technical partners to document the study's regional and national findings.
- Disseminate study results, reports, and publications to the designated website that is to be established. The website will include an online map interface for viewing and downloading datasets and maps of ASR potential.

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:

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

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 Section 632(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), 22 U.S.C. Sec. 2392(b) 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:

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.

Single Source Justification Description

The AWC is a non-profit organization that supports the water agenda within the MENA region. Therefore, AWC has relationships within the MENA Region with national water agencies and institutions and the AWC's activities encompass both regional and international water issues. The mission of the AWC is to promote "promote deeper understanding and better management of the water resources of the Arab States in a multi-disciplinary, non-political, professional and scientific manner and to disseminate knowledge." AWC is currently working to improve water resources management and capacity building within the MENA region. AWC has the capability to address the scarcity of freshwater within the MENA region and further explore opportunities to improve water resources through agricultural management with countries within the MENA region. Because of their extensive relationships with water organizations in the regional water resources community and their knowledge of water resources within the MENA region AWC is the unique organization capable of performing the required tasks for this project. AWC collaborated with the USGS and the other study partners to develop the concept proposal that was funded by USAID. AWC has worked successfully in the past with the US government (USAID), the UN, and the World Bank.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

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