



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-0214
Project Title	Community-based cyberinfrastructure research and development assistance
Recipient	Earth Science Information Partners
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$250,000
Cost Share	-----
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$499,000 over three years (dependent on funding availability)
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808 Core Science Analytics, Synthesis and Libraries
USGS Point of Contact	R. Sky Bristol

OVERVIEW

This project will further development of cyberinfrastructure that will assist in management and dissemination of data assets and continuous linking of this information together with data from other earth science partners to increase value in aiding decision makers and the public at large in making wise, science-based decisions.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The following objectives will be completed under this award:

1. **OUTREACH and COMMUNITY IDEATION** – Leverage the power and reach of the ESIP community to engage creative individuals and partner organizations in addressing cyberinfrastructure needs through the development of synthesis working groups and other means of assisting with challenges in scientific computing, data management, and data analysis. Provide physical facilities and digital capacity for the conduct of synthesis working groups.
2. **TESTBED** – Provide a technological capability that allows for robust research and development of new cyberinfrastructure capability and a process for testing, evaluation, and feedback from across the Earth science community to help inform new developments of production infrastructure. Provide the digital facilities necessary for the conduct of testbed exercises.
3. **TRAINING and CONTINUING EDUCATION** – Provide venues for training and continuing education for scientists, data managers, and science management professionals in the effective application and use of data and analytical technologies and methods in the Earth sciences. Provide the physical and/or digital facilities and online tools necessary for the conduct of training and continuing education activities.
4. **RESEARCH to OPERATIONS TRANSITION** – Improve the capacity to transition cyberinfrastructure from research to operations by creating opportunities for presentation and discussion on cutting edge research activities across the Earth science community, from other government institutions to academic and commercial sector groups, and the exploration of engineering methods and best practices to transition research tools into operational systems.
5. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT** – Leverage established student fellowship programs from undergraduate through postgraduate opportunities to engage students and early career scientists in the development of synthesis working groups, creative testbed experiments, continuing education opportunities, and research to operations transition activities.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part of 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:

- USGS will introduce and explain current challenges in cyberinfrastructure research and development through the ESIP community to spark ideation and development toward synthesis working groups.
- USGS will be part of synthesis working groups to help develop solutions in concert with partners identified through ESIP.
- USGS will participate in ESIP Lab exercises to research and develop technologies and methods and evaluate outcomes from ESIP Testbed activities.
- USGS will promote involvement in training and continuing education opportunities from its staff and provide input on training and education needs.
- USGS will participate in activities with student fellows to share interface points on projects that could involve fellows.

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

Single Source Justification Description:

The Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) is a non-profit (501c3) organization with a mission to support the networking and data dissemination needs of the global Earth science data community by linking the functional sectors of observation, research, application, education and use of Earth science. ESIP is a national and global leader in promoting the collection, stewardship, and use of Earth science data, information, and knowledge that is responsive to societal needs, with a long history of providing this capacity across Earth science government agencies and with strong partnership across academic, commercial, and nonprofit sectors. No other organization exists with the same mission and proven capacity for advancing the use of advanced cyberinfrastructure techniques and methods. No other organization has the level of reach and impact across so many different private and public sectors across the range scientific disciplines in Earth system science. ESIP is uniquely qualified for the work described in this notice of intent.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 USC 1457b: Use of cooperative agreements:

For fiscal year 2010, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with a State or political subdivision (including any agency thereof), or any not-for-profit organization if the agreement will: (1) serve a mutual interest of the parties to the agreement in carrying out the programs administered by the Department of the Interior; and (2) all parties will contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives. At the discretion of the Secretary, such agreements shall not be subject to a competitive process.