

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC)
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Research in Satellite Data Assimilation for Numerical Weather and Climate Prediction Models
- **Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** NESDIS 2005-1
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 11.440, Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.
- **Dates:** Letters of Intent (LOI) must be received by NOAA/NESDIS no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, August 2, 2004, and full proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, October 1, 2004. **Applicants who have not received a response to their letter of intent within four weeks should contact the appropriate Technical Point of Contact. We anticipate that review of full proposals will be completed by January 31, 2005, and funding is expected to begin June 1, 2005. June 1, 2005 is to be used as the proposed start date on proposals unless otherwise directed by the appropriate Technical Point of Contact. All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.**

Funding Opportunity Description: The NOAA/NASA/DOD Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) announces the availability of Federal assistance for research in the area of Satellite Data Assimilation in Numerical Weather and Climate Prediction Models. The goal of the JCSDA is to accelerate the use of observations from earth-orbiting satellites in operational numerical prediction models for the purpose of improving weather forecasts, improving seasonal to interannual climate forecasts, and increasing the physical accuracy of climate data sets. The advanced instruments of current and planned NOAA, NASA, DOD, and international agency satellite missions will provide large volumes of data on atmospheric, oceanic, and land surface conditions with accuracies and spatial resolutions never before achieved. The JCSDA will strive to realize the maximum benefit of its investment in space as part of an advanced global

observing system. Funded proposals will help accelerate the use of satellite data from both operational and experimental spacecrafts in operational weather and climate prediction environments, advance data assimilation science including radiative transfer models, improve numerical weather prediction model physics to increase information extraction, and characterize the error covariances related to forecast models, radiative transfer models and satellite observations.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Program Objective

The NOAA/NASA/DOD Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) is a distributed center that engages units of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO); NOAA: NESDIS Office of Research and Applications (ORA), National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)/Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR); US Navy: Oceanographer of the Navy and Office of Naval Research (ONR), Naval Research Laboratory(NRL); and US Air Force Air Weather Agency. The Joint Center's goal is to accelerate the abilities of NOAA, DOD, and NASA to ingest and effectively use the large volumes of data from current satellite-based instruments and planned satellite missions over the next 10 years. JCSDA activities are divided into infrastructure development and proposal-driven scientific projects. Infrastructure activities will focus initially on the development and maintenance of a scientific backbone for the JCSDA, including a community-based radiative transfer model, a community-based surface emissivity model, and numerical prediction systems for performing assimilation experiments with real and simulated observations from new and future satellite instruments. The proposal-driven scientific projects are the primary mechanism for accelerating the transition of research and technological advances in remote sensing and data assimilation into the operational and product driven weather and climate prediction environment.

This research is directed toward acceleration of the science of satellite data assimilation in numerical weather forecast models. A primary measure of impact in this solicitation will be improvement of numerical weather prediction (NWP) models and forecast accuracy. For NWP applications, research can be performed with models and assimilation systems similar to the NOAA, NASA and DOD systems. Research supporting development of the radiative transfer models used in assimilation applications should be in fast radiative transfer codes such as those used in real-time NWP. Broader research topics in data assimilation, data impact, and improvement of radiative schemes for data assimilation applications that do not have the potential for direct application to real-time NWP systems are of less interest for this announcement.

2. Program Priorities

This announcement calls for proposals for scientific projects in the areas described below. If investigators are uncertain about the applicability of their proposed research to the priorities of the JCSDA, they should discuss their ideas with the appropriate technical point of contact listed below, prior to submitting their proposals.

1. Radiative Transfer Models (Technical Point of Contact: Al Gasiewski, 303-497-7275; Al.Gasiewski@noaa.gov). Precise and fast means of calculating observed satellite radiances and their parametric derivatives for specific bands are essential for satellite data assimilation. Algorithms are sought for both microwave and infrared frequency bands. The proposed research should advance the state-of-the-art leading to improved assimilation of satellite observations and is encouraged to focus on: (1) fundamental issues in atmospheric absorption by gases and/or absorption and scattering by aerosols, cloud particles, and/or precipitating hydrometeors; and (2) innovative radiative transfer solutions applicable to direct radiance assimilation. In the first case, an emphasis is placed on improved dielectric, spectral line, and/or continuum models and size/shape distributions that will decrease current errors in the calculation of satellite observed radiances. In the latter case, the emphasis is on fundamental improvements to existing radiative transfer models which extend the capability to assimilate IR and/or microwave radiances within cloudy and/or precipitating regions. For example, proposals could focus on:
 1. Fast models for computing continuum and spectral line gas absorption, including trace gases and Zeeman splitting;
 2. Fast schemes for calculating radiance gradients or Jacobians;
 3. Microwave and infrared surface emission and reflection models;
 4. Fast models for calculating the optical parameters for aerosol and hydrometeor absorption and/or scattering.
2. Advanced Instruments (Technical Point of Contact: Dan Tarpley; 301-763-8042; Dan.Tarpley@noaa.gov). Advanced satellite instruments (e.g. METOP IASI/AMSU, DMSP SSMIS, NPP and NPOESS sensors, GOES-R) will become available over the course of the next decade. Maximizing the impact of these observations on numerical weather prediction and data assimilation systems is a high priority of the JCSDA. Developments for advanced

instruments may also impact the use of currently available data. Examples of appropriate research areas include:

1. Data selection and thinning methods aimed at reducing the number of horizontal locations for which data are assimilated while preserving as much information as possible;
 2. Channel selection and/or data compression methods aimed at reducing the number of data points reported per profile with a minimum loss of information;
 3. **Observation error correlations: Innovative approaches to estimating, modeling, and accounting for the spatially correlated observation errors typical for high density satellite data;**
 4. Innovative uses of advanced satellite products (e.g. MODIS/GOES winds) from sounders and imagers.
3. Clouds and Precipitation (Technical Point of Contact: John Derber, 301-763-8000 x7740; John.Derber@noaa.gov). The proper inclusion of direct or indirect (through products) cloud and precipitation observations is one of the most difficult problems in data assimilation. However, the benefits of incorporating this data are expected to be significant for directly enhancing the predictive skill of moist components (e.g., clouds, precipitation, convection, icing, etc.) of the short and long-term forecasts and indirectly enhancing all other components of the models. Since techniques for assimilating clouds and precipitation are less well developed than for other observables, the scope of work here may extend beyond direct use of satellite data. Thus, appropriate development areas may include error statistics, bias correction and quality control, as well as development of appropriate moist balances, new techniques for handling non-linearities in the balance equations or forward models, and modification of the model's parameterization to increase compatibility with the observations and to eliminate inappropriate discontinuities. For example, proposals could focus on:
1. Assimilation of radiances in cloudy and precipitation areas through use of advanced radiative transfer models.
 2. Specification of observation error covariance statistics for specific instruments and forward models under a variety of cloud and precipitation conditions;

3. Definition of background error covariance statistics for various cloud mixing ratios predicted by cloud prognostic schemes and cumulus parameterization schemes.
4. Climate and Oceans (Technical Point of Contact: Michele Rienecker, 301-614-5642; Michele.Rienecker@nasa.gov). Satellite products estimated from various sensors are important for model validations and for improving seasonal-to-interannual climate forecasts. The challenges confronting data assimilation for climate applications stem from the paucity of observational data to constrain the models, minimizing or accounting for the effects of a constantly changing observing system configuration, and addressing biases in the observations or products, background field and forcing fields (e.g. for the ocean and land surface). Thus, proposals could focus on:
 1. Estimation of errors and error covariances in both satellite-derived and NWP analyses of surface winds, surface stresses, and surface fluxes of heat and freshwater;
 2. Estimation of observational error characteristics, covariances, particularly biases, correlated errors, and errors of representativeness for climate applications and re-analyses: surface altimetry, Argo profiles and other in situ profiles;
 3. Improved (multi-sensor) SST retrievals with better corrections for aerosol effects;
 4. Observing system experiments to help define the requirements for remotely sensed surface salinity;
 5. Uses of satellite data for re-analysis to produce better climate data record;
 6. Validation of climate model outputs with satellite products derived from multiple sensors.
5. Aerosol and Trace Gas Data Assimilation (Technical Point of Contact: Nancy Baker; 831-656-4779; baker@nrlmry.navy.mil). **The assimilation of aerosols, major atmospheric constituents (including ozone) and trace gases throughout the atmospheric column is an area of increasing priority.** Satellite observations can provide estimates of aerosol optical depth which is directly related to atmospheric visibility and air quality. **The observations at ultraviolet wavelengths (e.g. NOAA SBUV, EOS-Aura OMI) are employed to estimate the total ozone and have been included in the global forecast**

system to improve solar heating estimates. JCSDA calls for research in direct or indirect (through products) use of satellite derived measured aerosol and trace gas information to improve forecast of visibility, ozone index and air quality. Thus, proposals should focus on:

- a. Assessing and evaluating new air quality products (e.g. ozone and particulate profiles) **from advanced satellite instruments for numerical weather prediction (NWP) applications;**
7. Assessing the capability of hyperspectral infrared instruments (e.g. AIRS) to detect CO₂ variations;
8. Assimilating aerosol and ozone products to improve forecasts of visibility and health index with the state-of-the-art air quality forecast model including chemical and biological process;
9. Use of atmospheric constituents as tracers to improve the assimilation of other variables (e.g. using ozone as a tracer to improve winds).

C. Program Authority

Statutory authorities for this program are provided under 15 U.S.C. 313, 49 U.S.C. 44720(b); 15 U.S.C. 2907.1 et.seq.

2. Award Information

1. **Funding Availability for FY 2005**

Total funding available for this Notice is anticipated to be approximately \$1 million dollars. Individual annual awards in the form of grants or cooperative agreements are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$150,000, although greater amounts may be awarded. It is anticipated that 6-8 awards will be made.

B. Project/Award Period

Project duration will be 1-3 years, with funding for multi-year projects contingent on satisfactory progress in prior years and funding availability. June 1, 2005 is to be used as the proposed start date on proposals unless otherwise directed by the NOAA program officer. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all projects, nor that all research areas of interest will be supported.

3. **Type of Funding Instrument**

Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a grant or cooperative agreement depending upon the amount of collaboration, participation, or involvement by NOAA in the management of the project. Examples of substantial involvement may include but are not limited to, proposals for collaboration between NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist. Proposals selected for funding from NOAA scientists shall be effected by an intra-agency fund transfer. Proposals selected for funding from a non-NOAA Federal agency will be funded through an inter-agency transfer. Funding for contractual arrangements for services or products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this notice. **PLEASE NOTE:** Before non-NOAA Federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of their appropriation. The only exception to this is governmental research facilities for awards issued under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 44720(b). Funding for contractual arrangements for services or products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this notice. Because this announcement is not proposing to procure goods or services from applicants, the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis.

3. Eligibility Information

A. **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non profits, commercial organizations, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments and Federal agencies. Applications from non-Federal and Federal applicants will be competed against each other. Joint proposals involving Federal and external investigators are encouraged. **PLEASE NOTE:** Before non-NOAA Federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of their appropriation. The only exception to this is governmental research facilities for awards issued under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 44720(b). Because this announcement is not proposing to procure goods or services from applicants, the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis.

B. **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement**

No cost sharing nor matching is required under this program

C. **Other**

Not applicable

4. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available at:

<http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/appkit.html>

If for some reason the applicant has difficulty downloading the required forms, he or she should contact kathy.lefevre@noaa.gov telephone: 301-763-8127.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Letters of Intent (LOI) Instructions

The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to the JCSDA and the likelihood of it being funded in advance of preparing a full proposal. Full proposals will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant. Therefore, while not a requirement, it is in the best interest of the applicants and their Institutions to submit an LOI. The LOI is to provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to the targeted priority project area. The LOI must include the components listed below. If these components are not included, the LOI risks a delayed response and may not be considered by the program reviewers.

1. Investigators must identify the priority project area **that is being targeted in the LOI**;
2. Investigators must specify a tentative project title in the LOI;
3. LOIs must include the name and institution of all principal investigator(s), and must specify which individual is the Lead principal investigator;
4. LOIs must be no more than two pages in length and must include a statement of the problem, brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, and approximate cost of the project. Facsimile and electronic mail are acceptable for LOIs (but not for full proposals).
5. LOIs must be received by NOAA/NESDIS no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time August 2, 2004.

A panel of JCSDA Technical Liaisons will review each LOI to determine whether the LOI is responsive to the program goals as advertised in this notice. An LOI response (e-mail or letter) will be sent back to the investigator encouraging or discouraging a full proposal. The final decision to submit a full proposal will be made by the investigator.

2. Full Proposal Format

Full proposals submitted to NOAA/NESDIS JCSDA must include the original and two unbound copies of the proposal and must be received by October 1, 2004. Investigators are required to submit an original plus two copies of the proposal; however, the normal NOAA review process requires a total of 10 copies. For an optimal review, investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient copies, especially color or unusually sized (not 8.5" x 11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submissions will not be accepted. Non-Federal applicants, including Co-Principal Investigators on proposals submitted by NOAA employees, must submit a complete NOAA grant application package including an original signed copy of the following forms:

SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance (Rev. 7/037/97). Multi-year applications must list the complete project period (Block 13) and the Total Estimated Funding (Block 15) for the entire multi-year period.

SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs. Multi-year applications must include each year of the project period and a summary of the entire multi-year period.

SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs

CD-511 - Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters: Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying

SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (submit only if engaged in lobbying activities).

These forms and additional information are available on the NOAA Grants Homepage: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~grants/index.html>. Applicants are encouraged to read the Budget Guidelines section which provides information on the required level of detail.

3. **Required Elements**

The proposals must include the required elements identified below and total no more than **10 pages in double-spaced, 12-point font format**. The signed title page, detailed budget, investigator(s) vitae, any appendices, and grant application forms listed above are not included in the 10-page limit. Multi-year proposals up to a maximum of 3 years will be considered; however, funding beyond the first year will be dependent upon satisfactory performance and the availability of funds. June 1, 2005 is to be used as the proposed start date on proposals unless otherwise directed by the NOAA Program Officer.

1. **Signed Title Page**. This page shall provide the project title, the name (s) of the lead Principal Investigator (PI), Co-investigator name(s) if any, the respective affiliations, complete addresses, telephone, fax, and email

information. The title page is to present the total amount of Federal funds requested for each budget period. The title page shall also identify the specific research area of interest (the one most relevant area from those listed in the Program Priorities in this announcement) and clearly identify that the proposal is in response to this announcement. The title page must be signed by the PI(s) and the Institutional representative of the PI's organization.

2. **Abstract Page:** An abstract must be included and must contain an introduction to the problem, rational behind the proposal, and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract must appear on a separate page, headed with the proposal title, Institution(s), investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period.
3. **Results from Prior Research.** The results of related projects supported by NOAA and other agencies is to be described, including their relation to the currently proposed work. Reference to each prior research award is to include the title, agency, award number, PIs, period of award and total award. The section is to be a brief summary and must not exceed two pages total.
4. **Project Description.** The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, scientific objectives, proposed methodology, and relevance to the program priorities given earlier in this announcement. Multi-year applications must include a program description for each year of the proposed activity.
5. **Budget and Proposed Budget Justification.** The proposal must include total and annual budgets (for multi-year applications) corresponding with the descriptions provided in the project description. A detailed budget must be included in an appendix to the proposal including a narrative providing the basis and justification of the proposed budget. Joint proposals must include detailed budgets for each institution/agency. For proposals that include co-PI's from subawards to non-Federal entities, the Federal portion of the funding is to be outlined on the proposal budget page and not listed on the SF-424 and SF-424A.
6. **Vitae.** Abbreviated curriculum vitae are to be included with each proposal. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last 3 years with up to five other relevant papers.
7. **Current and Pending Support.** For each investigator, submit a list which includes: project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator

months, dollar value, and duration. Requested values are to be listed for pending support.

8. **DUNS Number:** All applications must have a DUNS [Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System when applying for Federal grants on or after October 1, 2003]. No application is deemed complete without the DUNS number and only OMB may grant exceptions.

9. **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/> including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216-6-TOC.pdf> and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

4. **Submission Dates and Times**

LOIs must be received by 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time August 21, 2004. The deadline for receipt of proposals at the NOAA/NESDIS office is 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, October 1, 2004. Proposals received after the deadline will be returned to the sender without further consideration. NOAA/NESDIS determines whether an application has been submitted before the deadline by date/time stamping the applications as they are physically received in the NOAA/NESDIS office.

4. **Intergovernmental Review**

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

E. Funding Restrictions

Funding beyond the first year will be dependent upon satisfactory performance and the continued availability of funds.

F. Other Submission Requirements

All applicants are to submit hard copy full proposals only. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of proposals will not be accepted. The hard copies may be submitted by postal mail, commercial delivery service, or hand-delivery. Full proposals must be submitted to: NOAA/NESDIS; Attn: Kathy LeFevre, 5200 Auth Road, Room 701808; Camp Springs, MD 20746, 301-763-8127.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

1. **Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals (35 points):** This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local entities. For the Satellite Data Assimilation competition this includes:
 1. Will the proposed work advance the science of assimilating satellite data in NWP models?
 2. Will the proposed project make a significant contribution to the high priority research and technical areas listed above?
 3. Does the proposed work have the potential to significantly advance the use of satellite observations in numerical weather and short-term climate prediction models?
 4. Does the proposed work have the potential for long-term (lasting) value and widespread applicability?
 5. Does the proposed work include an effective mechanism by which the project's progress can be evaluated?

2. **Technical/scientific merit****Technical Merit (35 points):** This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For the Satellite Data Assimilation competition, this includes:
 1. Is the approach technically sound?
 2. Does the proposed project build on existing knowledge?
 3. Is the approach innovative?

3. **Overall Qualifications of Applicants** **(15 points):** This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For the Satellite Data Assimilation competition this includes:
 1. Are the proposers capable of conducting a project of the scope and scale proposed (i.e., scientific, professional, facility, and administrative resources/capabilities)?
 2. Are appropriate partnerships going to be employed to achieve the highest quality content and maximal efficiency?

4. **Project Costs** **(10 points):** This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the projects needs and time-frame. For the Satellite Data Assimilation competition this includes:
 1. Is the budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs?
 2. Does the budget narrative justify the proposed expenditures?

5. **Outreach and Education** **(5 points):** This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For the Satellite Data Assimilation competition this includes:
 1. How will the proposed research provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission in environmental prediction?

2. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review/screening is conducted to determine compliance with requirements/completeness. All proposals will be evaluated and individually ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by at least 3 independent peer reviewers. These reviewers may include both Federal and non-Federal individuals. The merit reviewers' ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one of the selection factors provided below. The Program Official and/or Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the NOAA Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds and execute the award.

C. Selection Factors

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on the following factors:

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based 2.b., 2.c. and 2d. of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance and distribution of funds
 1. Geographically: The selecting official may take into account the need to spread awards geographically, among research areas, and among institutions/organizations/agencies.
 2. By type of Institutions: While an institution/organization/agency may submit more than one application, the selecting official may limit the awards to only one per institution/organization/agency.
 3. By type of partners: Selecting official may take into account desirability of balance between government and external research support.
 4. By research areas
 5. By project type
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other federal agencies.

4. Program priorities and policy factors. The selecting official may take into account the need to distribute awards among the research areas given in the "Program Priorities" section of this Notice.
5. Applicant's prior award performance: Unsatisfactory performance may be a basis for not funding.
6. Partnerships and/or participation of targeted groups.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals will occur during the fall of 2004, and funding is expected to begin during June of 2005 for most approved projects. June 1, 2005, is to be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the NOAA Program Officer.

6. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Official notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the authorizing document and the only authorizing document that allows the project to begin. It is provided by postal mail to the appropriate business office of the recipient organization. Successful applicants will receive notification that when the application has been recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principle Investigator of the project. NOAA/NESDIS will notify unsuccessful applicants, in writing, by e-mail and/or postal mail. Proposal applications that are not selected for funding will be kept on file in the JCSDA Program Office for a period of 12 months from the date it was received, then destroyed.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the Federal Register notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109). You may obtain a copy of these by notices by contacting the agency contact(s) under Section VII, or by going to the website at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces140.html . Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish sufficient information to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project. The National

Environmental Policy Act is applicable to the Notice. See Section IV, B, 3, i (National Environmental Policy Act) above for the necessary information. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project.

3. Reporting

All financial and progress reports shall be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies). Financial reports are to be submitted to the NOAA Grants Officer and Performance (technical) reports are to be submitted to the NOAA NESDIS/JCSDA Program Officer (Dr. Fuzhong Weng). Financial and progress reports are semi-annual.

7. Agency Contact(s)

Administrative questions: Kathy.Lefevre, NOAA/NESDIS, 5200 Auth Road, Room 701, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, or by phone at 301-763-8127, fax: 301-763- 8108, or e-mail: kathy.lefevre@noaa.gov . **Technical questions:** Fuzhong Weng, JCSDA, 5200 Auth Road, Room 808, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, or by phone at 301-763-8172 ext.186, fax to 301-763-8149, or via email: fuzhong.weng@noaa.gov .