



**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
(NASA)**

NASA Headquarters Science Mission Directorate

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**Topical Workshops, Symposiums, and Conferences
(TWSC-24) in Space and Earth Sciences and Technology**

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

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1. Introduction and Funding Opportunity Description

Through the “*Topical Workshops, Symposiums, and Conferences (TWSC) in Space and Earth Science and Technology*” notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) invites proposals from eligible organizations for their events, including asynchronous and virtual workshops, etc. TWSC’s goal is to contribute to SMD's science, technology, and exploration research goals and related activities, such as but not limited to the NASA [2022 Strategic Plan](#). TWSC may fund large and small meetings, retreats, seminars, symposiums, workshops or other events that have as one purpose 1) to disseminate technical information beyond NASA and SMD; or 2) to facilitate research networks and/or research administration capabilities at entities not previously funded by NASA.

Per NASA’s 2022 plan, TWSC aligns to this Goal Statement: “NASA’s enduring purpose is scientific discovery and exploration for the benefit of the United States and all of humanity. NASA seeks to discover the secrets of the universe, search for life elsewhere, and protect and improve life on Earth and in space. Finding answers to these profound science questions requires support for national priorities in science and exploration, enhancing new opportunities for cross-disciplinary science, and expanding the societal benefits of our science programs. It also requires continued progress on the scientific priorities, including those identified by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine through their decadal surveys.”

For more than a decade prior to the release of this multi-year NOFO, SMD solicited (and revised) TWSC annually as a program element within SMD’s omnibus NASA Research Announcement entitled: *Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES)*. An aim of this stand-alone, three-year NOFO is to reduce burden on the applicants.¹ [For prior burden details see “i” in Appendix A: Endnotes]

TWSC primarily has been directed at, and limited to, scientific and technical events of interest to SMD. Historic examples of TWSC-selections via ROSES, including organization name, PI name, proposal title and abstract, for [TWSC-19](#), [TWSC-20](#), and [TWSC-21](#) are available for download on the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES).

This NOFO broadens TWSC’s historic scope beyond a research dissemination event to bring together existing, future, or potential members of scientific communities relevant to NASA. An event’s participants and speakers may include individuals who are not full-time practicing scientists, engineers, or technologists. Events may have a purpose of cultivating relationships between science and society. Events may have a purpose of developing research relationships across the boundaries of the sciences and the humanities.

Events may propose to provide an introduction to NASA research or a networking opportunity at a single or group of 1) minority serving institutions that are recognized at time of proposal submission by the Department of Education Lists of Postsecondary Institutions enrolling populations with significant percentages of Undergraduate Minority Students at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>; or of 2) one or more emerging research institutions (ERIs) as defined by the CHIPS and Science Act *as an institution of higher education with an established undergraduate or graduate program that has less than*

\$50,000,000 in Federal research expenditure. While the CHIPS (Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors) and Science Act does not specify the timeframe for the Federal research expenditure, this NOFO asks proposers to use the most recent data at proposal submission from the “Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions” published by the National Science Foundation (NSF). If you are unsure if your organization is an ERI, talk to your sponsored research office or an equivalent, such as the chief financial officer, or visit [nsf.gov](https://www.nsf.gov) to find the most recent survey. Non-MSIs and non-ERIs also may propose such introductory events.

An event’s goal, objective, or allowable focus may enable science that addresses the following non-exhaustive list of allowable topics, or enabling activities, and may include, for example, items A through E:

- A. Encourage and facilitate the use of SMD mission data.
- B. Provide scientific/technical training for current investigators.
- C. Nurture or create investigator networks through the open exchange of ideas.
- D. Introduce current or future or potential investigators, regardless of degree-status, to new subject areas or research techniques.
- E. Coordinate, communicate, and engage with i) minority serving institutions (MSI) such as those listed at <https://msiexchange.nasa.gov/>; ii) community-based organizations; and iii) civil rights organizations that advance racial equity and support underserved communities, including individuals who belong to these communities, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty, inequality, or systemic barriers to science engagement, education, and/or careers.

A TWSC proposal may focus 1) on one or more of the enabling activities specified by letters A through E; 2) on other types of science or technical enabling approaches not listed, or 3) a combination of both. A proposal optionally may have a goal of developing a public output that is a prerequisite to achieving SMD roadmaps, decadal surveys, etc.ⁱⁱ TWSC proposals may not propose an “output” or “input” for delivery to NASA for something NASA needs to conduct its operations.

TWSC is authorized by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, P.L. 111-314 and National Space Program 42 U.S.C. §§ 2451-2484 (1976) P.L. 85-568.

Events that are proposed in response to this NOFO must have a public purpose and/or benefit, i.e., the event is primarily for the proposer’s own purposes and NASA is supporting only with financial assistance. Thus, NASA may not direct an assistance recipient in arranging the event nor may the assistance recipient provide services to NASA. The proposed event must be run by the recipient, not by NASA. Projects that would satisfy a NASA requirement or provide a crucial deliverable to NASA through an event may not be supported through this NOFO.

Events sponsored or initiated by NASA primarily to meet a specific NASA need or obtain information for the direct benefit of NASA must be supported by means of a contract and may not be proposed in response to this NOFO. Proposers who want to provide event support services to NASA, should not propose to TWSC. Such proposers are encouraged to register in the

NASA's Vendor Database (NVDB) This database is open to all vendors, both large and small, who wish to do business with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. For more information, please visit <https://www.nasa.gov/nasa-vendor-database/>. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you registered in the NVDB prior to July 2023, then you need to re-register.

Proposal submission requires designation of at least one reviewing division, office or program/initiative. Proposals that are relevant to more than one division also are welcome. TWSC awards primarily grants made under the authority of 2 CFR 200. If necessary, as described in Section 3.1.2 of the Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual ([GCAM](#)) "Determining Whether to Issue a Grant or Cooperative Agreement", NASA may choose to issue cooperative agreements. TWSC proposals align to [2 CFR § 200.432](#) *Conferences*.

TWSC has no dedicated funding, so before submitting to this NOFO proposers first contact a NASA division, office, or program that may have funding. For more details about these funders see Section 7.1. SMD funders may choose 1) to discourage a potential proposer or 2) reject as non-compliant or decline a full submission, even one that is aligned to the TWSC NOFO's broad scope, e.g., listed topics, purposes or examples. Therefore, it is important to email the funder before preparing a full proposal to find out if the planned topics are of interest to the particular SMD funder.

1.1 Scope of TWSC

The TWSC NOFO primarily invites non-federal proposals for topical workshops, symposiums, conferences, and other scientific or technical meetings, referred to as "events". Typically, TWSC events 1) are sponsored by a non-federal award recipient; and 2) advance or align to the goals and objectives of one or more SMD funding Division or Office. Proposals that contribute to SMD's cross-divisional science, technology, and exploration goals also are invited.

When NASA and other federal civil servants or employees of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) propose to TWSC, the event that they proposed may be subject to limitations described in Sections 4.14 "Within NASA, Inter-Agency and NASA-as Primary Sponsor Awards" and 2.6.1 "*Non-Assistance Proposals and Awards and Assistance Awards that Propose Work or Activities by NASA or JPL or Other Federal Entities*"

Proposals are not limited to traditional, e.g., in-person, meetings. Multi-faceted events 1) focused on or related to the application of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) or 2) that are culturally relevant to or focused on specific populations, such as women, ethnic minorities, rural populations, persons with disabilities, etc., may be eligible when the proposal documents a specific relationship to SMD's goals or missions. For SMD's past STEAM activities visit: <https://science.nasa.gov/engage/art-and-science/>.

STEAM, technical or scientific events that are open to the general public are permissible, but such events may not be a funding priority. Proposals for multiple related events, e.g., a seminar series, should be well justified.

Proposals to support special events, e.g., landmark anniversaries in a society/professional association, are welcome. Proposers also may request support for events designed to increase the efficiency of investigators through advanced scientific/technical training that coincide with or extend an annual or other meeting of a professional association, scientific society, etc. Proposers may request funding for publication or dissemination activities when such costs are for the

scheduled event's a) formal written proceedings or b) other media, such as but not limited to social media and podcasts designed to recruit participants.

TWSC-eligible events may in whole or in part explore actual or potential contributions to NASA's Inclusion core value described in the NASA [2022 Strategic Plan](#) or other aspects related to the state or health of the diverse professions relevant to SMD.

Events that focus on code development, data compression algorithms, higher order data products, model intercomparisons, the enhancement and/or application of new equipment to make pertinent measurements, etc. are welcome.

TWSC does not support scholarships or fellowships defined and designed to fund an individual student or cohort of students to obtain an associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree. Please note that paying registration costs, travel or logistical support, etc., for students or citizen scientists or others to participate in the proposed event is not a scholarship or fellowship and may be included and budgeted in proposals.

A TWSC funding request, whether a small grant to subsidize student or citizen scientist participation or full costs for a large symposium, must be in line with (a) NASA's interest in the subject, (b) the importance of the event to SMD in attaining its goals and objectives, and (c) NASA's responsibility to manage federal, i.e., taxpayer, funds and expectations.

1.2 How to Determine and Describe Relevance to SMD's Goals and Objectives

This section presents the most basic or minimal relevance claims to the more complex. Complex claims of relevance may have an advantage over basic relevance.

Each TWSC proposal must describe how the requested event is relevant to SMD. This means the proposed event must be directly relevant to at least one of the five science divisions of NASA's Science Mission Directorate: Heliophysics, Earth Science, Planetary Science, Biological and Physical Sciences, or Astrophysics; or the Exploration Science Strategy Integration Office (ESSIO); or another part of SMD such as the Science Engagement and Partnerships Division. For more information about the SMD organization see <https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/org-chart/>.

To demonstrate relevance, proposals should first cite how the event is aligned to at least one SMD Division/Office TWSC invites these broad NASA science topics:

- a. Astrophysics and Space Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/>
- b. Planetary Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/planetary-science/>
- c. The Sun and Heliophysics: <https://science.nasa.gov/heliophysics>
- d. Earth Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/earth-science>
- e. Biological and Physical Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/>
- f. Lunar Exploration and Discovery and: <https://science.nasa.gov/lunar-science/>
- g. Science Activation: <https://science.nasa.gov/learn>

h. Science-enabling Technology: <https://science.nasa.gov/technology>. Note: Each SMD science division develops new technologies, often in division-sponsored technology development or mission programs.

An event also may claim to be relevant to an SMD Space Flight Mission in addition to a particular science topic. Each of SMD's large space flight missions, such as the James Webb Space Telescope, has a website. The following landing page links to past, present, and future SMD flight missions: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-missions/>.

1.2.1 SMD High-Level Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

When the proposed event's scientific/technical area(s) will advance high-level SMD goals and objectives, and specific outcomes identified in a) roadmaps, b) other program documents, such as the findings in decadal surveys, or c) the reports of NASA advisory bodies or other groups relevant to NASA, then please cite the source document in the proposal. Find the SMD Science Plan as of the issue date of this NOFO entitled "Science 2020-2024: A Vision for Scientific Excellence - FY 21-22 Update" and other strategy documents, at <https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/>.

1.2.2 SMD's Decadal Surveys

When the proposer is going to propose an event to advance a particular SMD Division(s) specific strategic goals found in the most recent decadal surveys, then the proposal must cite which goal(s) and which decadal survey(s). It is not required that every TWSC proposal cite a decadal survey unless the event is claiming relevance based on one or more of the following or a forthcoming decadal that is not listed:

- a. Astrophysics: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26141/pathwaystodiscovery-in-astronomy-and-astrophysics-for-the-2020s>
- b. Biological and Physical Sciences: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/decadal-survey-on-life-and-physical-sciences-research-in-space-2023-2032>ⁱⁱⁱ
- c. Earth Science: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/decadal-survey-for-earth-science-and-applications-from-space>
- d. Heliophysics: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25668/progress-toward-implementation-of-the-2013-decadal-survey-for-solar-and-spacephysics>^{iv}
- e. Planetary Science: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26522/origins-worlds-and-life-a-decadal-strategy-for-planetary-science>

1.2.3 Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) Relevance

Proposers who choose to demonstrate relevance to one or more ROSES program elements are not limited to the elements solicited in the most current ROSES. Some ROSES elements do not appear annually, but research in that area continues and TWSC proposals may still be possible. For more information about ROSES visit <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/faqs/>

1.2.4 Finding SMD Relevance in Agency Documents

Proposers may choose to address relevance by reference to 1) SMD-relevant aspect(s) of the [NASA 2022 Strategic Plan](#) initially issued March 28, 2022^v, or 2) SMD aspect(s) in the most

recent “NASA Equity Action Plan”(NEAP), [direct URL to the 2022 NEAP](#), available from landing page <https://www.nasa.gov/mission-equity/>, or both.

1.2.5 Open Source Science Initiative (OSSI)

The Open Source Science Initiative (OSSI) welcomes proposals relevant to its goals to expand open science at URL <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/open-science>.

This includes events that support the vision of enabling transformational open science through the continuous evolution of science data and computing as outlined in [SMD's Strategy for Data Management and Computing for Groundbreaking Science 2019-2024](#). The goals of the OSSI include development and implementation of capabilities to enable open science, continuous evolution of data and computer systems, and harnessing the scientific community and strategic partnerships for innovation. Events designed to expand the open science capabilities of the SMD scientific community are welcome including:

- Events focused on SMD data, software, or open science practices
- Hackathons, un-conferences, and challenges that build open science skills
- Training in open science

Proposals that include training should align to and address the Transform to Open Science (TOPS) initiative at URL <https://nasa.github.io/Transform-to-Open-Science/>.

2. Federal Award Information

2.1 Availability of Funding

TWSC has no dedicated budget and primarily serves as a joint notice of funding opportunity for one or more SMD divisions, branches or offices. For example, SMD’s Exploration Science Strategy and Integration Office (ESSIO), which manages the Lunar Discovery and Exploration Program (LDEP) and the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiatives, also may participate.

Selected proposals will be funded by the NASA Division, office, or initiative that managed the proposal’s review and selection. The number of proposals awarded depends on the number and quality of proposals submitted and on the availability of funds in the reviewing organization.

NASA may elect to support some TWSC proposals through the use of non-SMD funds if such funds are available from other NASA programs or federal sources.

2.2 Projected Number of Awards and Award Size

The number of proposals selected depends on the number and quality of proposals submitted and on the availability of funds from the relevant funding program. Award size will vary from amounts in the low thousands of dollars—for example to cover travel and registration to a third-party’s event — to \$750,000 or more for a large event.

2.3 Anticipated Period of Performance

Most TWSC awards have a performance period of 12 months. If properly justified, it is permissible to propose multiple events or large events that span across a longer performance period. For example, a pair of meetings before and after fieldwork, a meeting that includes field training, or a larger project, e.g., recurring, even annual, meetings that may or may not change topics or themes, that make sense to plan and propose together. Otherwise, proposers should plan on a single event.

2.4 Project Period of Performance Start Date(s)

Period of performance start dates will vary but are typically no earlier than 6 months after the proposal submission date. Proposals submitted fewer than 90 days prior to the requested start date for the period of performance, i.e., when NASA funds will be needed to support the event, may be returned as noncompliant unless authorized prior to submission by the reviewing program(s).

2.5 Project Period of Performance End Date(s)

Period of performance end dates will also vary but are typically 12 months after the start date. The maximum performance period request is 60 months or 5 years.

2.6 Funding Instrument Types

Depending on the proposing institution's relationship to NASA, this NOFO will award either:

Federal Financial Assistance Awards: Grant and Cooperative Agreement

or

Non-Assistance Awards: 1) Intra-agency transfer, i.e., from Headquarters to a NASA Center or Facility; 2) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) contract funding; and 3) Inter-agency transfer funding from NASA to another federal agency.

2.6.1 Non-Assistance Proposals and Assistance Awards that Propose Work or Activities by NASA or JPL or Other Federal Entities

This NOFO invites NASA civil servants and JPL employees 1) to request funding without including any non-NASA entity; 2) to propose a NASA- or JPL-submitted proposal to work with one or more non-Federal entities; and 3) to be included in a proposal submitted by a non-federal entity as a NASA-funded resource. NASA civil servants and JPL employees who do funded work with a non-Federal entity related to an awarded TWSC grant or cooperative agreement will receive their funding via the Agency's separate financial processes. An Assistance recipient may not fund NASA or JPL as a subaward or subcontractor or request indirect costs on the NASA portion of the budget.

When a JPL-submitted proposal includes a subaward to a non-federal entity, then JPL is responsible for making the subaward, i.e., a contract. JPL may not issue Assistance awards. If JPL wants to lead the joint activity, e.g., receive deliverables from a non-federal entity, then a JPL-issued subaward is mandatory.

Should a JPL-submitted proposal result in 1) an award to the JPL prime contract and 2) an Assistance Award to a non-federal entity, JPL may not direct or manage the Assistance Award as a proxy for a JPL-issued award. Such an assistance award likely will be a cooperative agreement with the JPL activities provided to the non-federal entity as a NASA contribution.

When a NASA-submitted proposal results in funding 1) to a NASA Center/Facility and 2) an assistance award to a non-federal entity, then the NASA recipient may not direct the assistance award activities. Assistance awardees are not “contractors” or “subcontractors” to NASA. A civil servant PI at a NASA Center may serve as the technical officer for an Assistance Award made via this NOFO, but that PI must monitor the assistance award in accordance with the GCAM and 2 CFR 200. Unlike under the FAR, there is no cancelling an assistance award for convenience.

Work by JPL or a NASA Center must be treated as a separate, i.e., independent contribution to an Assistance Award. See the details in 2.7 “NASA’s Other Contributions – Applicable to Cooperative Agreements Only”

It is possible for other federal entities to propose directly to this NOFO. However, the transfer of funding will be complex and time-consuming, likely taking longer than 6 months. In some cases additional paperwork, such as and not limited to a memorandum of agreement, will be required. It is possible for JPL, a NASA center, or an Assistance-eligible entity to propose with another federal entity. However, the transfer of NASA funds will not be tied to the award of the Assistance funding or to the transfer of funds to a NASA Center or JPL. A federal entity that receives funding from NASA may not use the NASA funding to make an assistance award to a non-federal entity. A federal entity may use NASA funding to fund FAR-based awards or their own personnel.

2.7 NASA’s Additional Contributions –Basis for Cooperative Agreements

When NASA will be providing something in addition to money, the NASA responsibilities in a cooperative agreement may include and are not limited to:

- a) SMD communications support i.e., the creation and maintenance of a NASA.gov generic mailbox; content for <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/>, etc.
- b) Providing physical access to NASA facilities to support and facilitate a community-driven or public event.
- c) Access to NASA Information Technology for the PI or other key project personnel when appropriate.
- d) The Science Mission Directorate’s (SMD) Deputy Associate Administrator for Research (DAAR) may provide the use of the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System and NASA Research (NSPIRES) and Education Support Service Contract access to collect notices of intent (NOI) from potential participants in a recipient’s events.
- e) Provide services, i.e., reviewer, speaker, etc. before, during, and after the TWSC event.
- f) Pay time and any travel for SMD civil servants and contractors, including from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), who participate in the recipient’s activities, such as the services listed in e. NOTE: General attendance by NASA personnel at a recipient’s event is not a significant contribution.

3. Eligibility Information

This section describes TWSC's proposal constraints.

Existing TWSC awards are eligible to compete for a renewal, i.e., a follow-on award that will have a new award number; or to request a funded change in scope or period of performance or both, i.e., an augmentation.

3.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible entities for Assistance funding include the following:

Government Organizations

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized)

Education Organizations

- Independent school districts
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Public Housing Organizations

- Public housing authorities
- Indian housing authorities

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses

Small Businesses

- Small business grants may be awarded to companies meeting the size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for most industries in the economy.

Further information defining the individual types of organizations are available on Grants.gov and 2 CFR Part 200.1.

Organizations that do not meet the 2 CFR 200 terms will not be eligible to receive a grant or cooperative agreement.

3.1.1 NASA's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

NASA recognizes and supports the benefits of having diverse and inclusive scientific, engineering, and technology communities and fully expects the reflection of such values in the composition of all panels and teams, including peer review panels, proposal teams, science definition teams, and mission and instrument teams. Per Federal statutes and NASA policy, no eligible applicant shall experience exclusion from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NASA on the grounds of their race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, or disability. NASA welcomes proposals from all qualified and eligible sources, and strongly encourages proposals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), small, disadvantaged businesses (SDBs), veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), HUBZone small businesses, and women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), as eligibility requirements apply.

3.2 Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing and matching are not required. If optional cost sharing is offered, proposals must specify whether what is offered includes 1) any in-kind contributions and 2) the source of any contribution when outside the applicant organization.

NASA may accept cost sharing from any type of organization if it is voluntarily offered. Reference 2 CFR §200.306 (cost sharing or matching). Cost sharing is not part of the peer-review evaluation criteria. However, the Selection Official may take cost sharing into account as a programmatic factor in selections.

3.3. Other Eligibility Criteria

SMD reminds proposers that as a condition of receipt of NASA funding, the award recipient acknowledges and agrees to comply (and require any subgrantees, contractors, successors, transferees, and assignees to comply) with applicable provisions of national laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. TWSC event organizers share these Federal civil rights obligations. For more information visit: <https://missionstem.nasa.gov/compliance-requirements-nasa-grantees.html>.

No TWSC-event participant or project team member shall be denied access on the grounds of race, color, age, ethnicity, national origin, religion, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or U.S. Veteran status.

Proposals involving bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis, shall be ineligible for award.

3.3.1 Limitations on Personnel, Participants and Events Conducted Within and Outside the United States

Because conditions can change rapidly in any country at any time for a variety of reasons and disrupt the proposed or awarded TWSC support, proposals for events planned outside the U.S. must, at a minimum, demonstrate consultation of the State Department Travel Advisories [website](#).

If the subject of the proposed event falls under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) or the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), then only a U.S. person^{vi} may be proposed as the PI. During the event, the responsibility for adhering to the ITAR^{vii} and EAR is shared between the TWSC principal investigator and the awarded institution. Proposers should consult with the export control and other experts in their sponsored research office before finalizing such a proposal and during the conduct of the event itself.

NASA will consider events that include participants from only U.S. and People's Republic of China organizations to be bilateral activities and thus ineligible for funding from NASA because of legal prohibitions.

Proposals for events outside the United States in "Designated Countries" that also are "State Sponsors of Terrorism" will be subject to additional levels of review by the Office of International and Interagency Relations (OIIR) that may result in a proposal being declined. NASA's "Designated Country (DC) List" is hosted on the NASA Export Control website at <https://www.nasa.gov/oiiir/export-control/>. The relevant part of the list is Column II, i.e., Countries determined by the Department of State to support Terrorism. The DC list is updated regularly; therefore, proposers should consult the website to ensure use of the most up-to-date list before submitting their proposal.

Costs for non-U.S. persons, including travel and short-term visa costs, only may be proposed as a direct cost when such costs qualify as "Recruiting costs" per 2 CFR [200.463](#). Short-term travel and visa costs (as opposed to longer-term, immigration visas) are generally allowable expenses that may be proposed as a direct cost.

Since short-term visas are issued for a specific period and purpose, they may be identified as directly connected to participation on a TWSC award. For these costs to be directly charged to a TWSC award; however, the budget narrative must demonstrate that a non-U.S. person(s):

- (1) Is critical and necessary for the conduct of the TWSC event;
- (2) Is allowable under the applicable cost principles;
- (3) Is consistent with the non-Federal entity's cost accounting practices and non-Federal entity policy; and
- (4) Meets the definition of "direct cost" as described in the applicable cost principles. For additional information see Subpart E - [Cost Principles](#) in 2 CFR 200.

The proposal narrative should provide sufficient explanation for how any non-U.S. key personnel and participants are critical and necessary for the conduct of the TWSC event, particularly when requesting general attendance and not a specific consulting contribution. Per 2 CFR § 1800.3(c), NASA normally does not fund foreign travel for individuals who are outside the U.S. to present at conferences.

3.3.2 Non-U.S. and U.S. Sources

Subject to Section 3.3.1, the direct purchase of supplies and/or services that do not constitute research, e.g., keynote speakers, facilitators, software licenses, from non-U.S. and U.S. sources, including associated travel and related support, as a subaward by the U.S. award recipients is permitted. For information on the required documentation for consultants, see [2 CFR § 200.459](#) Professional service costs.

3.3.3 Pass-Through Awards and Media Platforms

TWSC does not allow the recipient to award pass-through funds, e.g., mini-grants or prizes, to any individuals or organizations *for past accomplishments*. Criteria-based or competitively based travel awards and recognition awards associated with a TWSC event, e.g., best student poster/paper, are permitted, when justified in the proposal and budget as a type of purchase per Section 3.3.1 or as a type of participant support cost.

TWSC is not a source of single or multi-year infrastructure funding used to sustain operations for content platforms, or to produce recurring broadcast, internet, computer, etc. programs or series. To request such infrastructure support, contact [the appropriate program manager in SMD](#) at NASA Headquarters to inquire about the availability of other opportunities, such as invitation-only proposals. Support for the production of media to be used at an event or to record an event in full or in part for real time or later, on-demand dissemination may be permitted when explained and justified in the proposal and budget.

3.3.4 Technology, Data and Open Science

Proposals that involve hackathons in order to plan to develop new or emerging technologies/research agendas or that feature existing SMD data and technologies/research are welcome. If technology, data, etc. are required to support the event(s), then the purchase and/or modification of existing products is permissible.

With the exception of hackathons and similar innovative or nontraditional meetings, the acquisition, creation, or maintenance of new technologies, data, etc., may not be the main purpose of the proposal. TWSC proposals normally do not have open science and data management plans nor propose to create new or enhanced technologies. Proposals that need a data management plan and/or would generate a patent are probably research or development projects and likely may not be TWSC events. Please contact a program officer regarding creating technology or data development concerns prior to submitting a proposal.

When applicable, a proposal's narrative should describe how it will comply with Science Policy Directive-41a Section "VIII. Additional Policies for SMD-funded Science Events". Applicable details should be described in the "Open Science and Data Management Plan" see Section 4.3 for more details.

3.3.5 Constraints on Logistics

The logistics of the event must be described well enough for SMD to ensure it will achieve the stated purpose(s). This includes and is not limited to the size, location, duration, scheduling, and cost of the event for both sponsor(s) and attendees. No venue shall be proposed that discriminates on the grounds of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, pregnancy, sexual

orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. See section 4.13 for the link to NASA's policy statement for workplaces.

A TWSC proposal must describe any travel, logistics, accessibility, and health and safety considerations, including the security of proposed technologies, funded in whole or in part by NASA. If the proposing organization is the host of a TWSC event, then the proposal shall describe the results of consultations within the proposing organization regarding safety policies, including accommodations for event participants and key personnel who may be nursing^{viii}, and risk mitigation procedures in the case of a local or national public health or other type of emergency. When a PI's institution is not the primary host organizing the event, then the proposal shall describe the results of any consultations with the organizers regarding any safety policies/procedures, travel flexibilities, alternate dates, plans for virtual participation, etc.

3.3.6 Geographic Location

Proposers are encouraged but not required to choose a U.S. location, e.g., one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory. The proposal should explain why a non-U.S. location is justified. For instance, when a meeting sponsor has funding from multiple nations, include in the proposal or the budget narrative a description of the choice of location and its impact on potential participation. The narrative also should indicate whether the event is totally in-person, virtual or hybrid. NASA strongly encourages hybrid events when possible or practical.

3.3.7 Facilities

NASA encourages using facilities that are appropriate to the proposed event, e.g., an academic facility, a public or private conference center, a retreat facility. NASA discourages the use of entertainment, recreation, sporting, or luxury venues. Proposals should explain any such unusual facilities choice. Facilities or venues shall provide equal and integrated access for individuals with disabilities. When access is not apparent, events may have to identify or add signage that enables participants with disabilities to navigate the accessible routes to a venue's restrooms, meeting rooms, etc.

3.3.8 Videoconferencing, Access Innovations and Similar Purchases

Proposers may request funds to purchase and distribute the necessary equipment and/or contract with a service provider for videoconferencing, augmented reality, telepresence robots, real-time sign-language interpretation, live captioning, communications software/licenses, etc. to replace or reduce participant travel to events and to produce agendas and proceedings. Proposals should explain the importance of these purchases/services and how they relate to the success, accessibility and safety considerations for the event. For these types of requests, in addition to explaining the role in the event, proposal budgets must note whether the total cost is over \$5,000 in the budget. When such costs are over \$5,000, proposals must provide a short, clear budget justification, e.g., a lease versus purchase analysis. For example, document non-availability of a lease option by naming at least three leasing sources contacted with dates.

Communications and other technology often provide access innovations; however, some internet, media and technology choices create access challenges for participants who need language,

audio, visual or other supports. The following federal guidance applies to NASA centers and when it is incorporated into federal contracts, including NASA’s contract with JPL. TWSC provides these references to benefit all proposer types (federal and non-federal):

- On January 22, 2018, the [U.S. Access Board](#) published a correction to the [final rule](#) updating accessibility requirements for information and communication technology (ICT) covered by [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act](#) and Section 255 of the Communications Act.
- The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Government-wide Policy (OGP) is tasked under law to provide technical assistance to help Federal agencies comply with these requirements, and ensure that covered ICT is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. Visit <https://www.section508.gov/>.
- Universal Design and Accessibility is a concept in which environments or products are designed to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Learn more at <https://www.section508.gov/develop/universal-design/>

3.3.9 Competition and Criteria for Selecting Event Participants

Although SMD may provide only a fraction of the total funds required for an event, SMD expects event participants to be identified through competition; exceptions require reasonable justification. When funds are requested for the costs of participants to attend an event, then SMD expects the selection of participants will be based on an open call for abstracts or other type of application subject to an appropriate, criteria-based review process that the proposal's narrative describes. There may be reasons to select some or all participants without competition in order to attain the stated scientific or technical or other aim of the event. In such cases, a thorough justification for invitational versus competitive participant selection must be provided in the proposal.

A proposal’s narrative should describe what, if any, recruitment strategies and review criteria may be used to ensure an open, collaborative, diverse, and inclusive NASA science culture. SMD acknowledges the appropriateness of considering other factors beyond the scientific or technical merit or an abstract or application, such as but not limited to, geographic, institutional and/or career-stage types of diversity.

4: Application and Submission Information

4.1 Address to Request Application Package

This NOFO constitutes the application package. Materials or information needed for application to this opportunity are included within this announcement. Both Grants.gov and NSPIRES provide forms, such as a proposal’s cover page, program specific data template, etc.

4.2 Content and Form of Application Submission

Before submitting a proposal, potential proposers must contact by email, called an “Inquiry Email” in Section 4.2.1, and receive an email response from an SMD Program Officer(s), TWSC point of contact, or Division Director.

Until at least one authorized NASA Headquarters SMD Program Officer (PO) confirms relevancy and the likelihood of the availability of funds, please do not prepare or submit a proposal. Not every person working at NASA Headquarters, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) or a NASA Center is a SMD program officer. Contact information for SMD POs is available at <http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/program-officers-list/>.

4.2.1 Minimum Content for Inquiry Email

For security reasons, please don't send an initial email inquiry with an attachment. In the body of the email provide:

- 1) General Summary Information. The name, location, estimated attendance size and the event's estimated start date in terms of month and calendar year that you are proposing. If you are looking for support to attend or to facilitate others' attendance at an event that is not your own, specify the name, location, estimated attendance size, etc.
- 2) General Relevance Summary. Briefly explain how your proposed activity a) may contribute to SMD's science, technology and exploration research goals and related activities, b) the types of individuals without specific names, i.e., graduate students, professors, who will benefit from the NASA funding, and c) If you also are requesting assistance from a NASA employee or contractor in the activity, then provide the name, and copy them on your email inquiry. There is no requirement for any NASA employees or contractors to be involved in TWSC. Requesting support from NASA personnel may require the use of a cooperative agreement.
- 3) Rough estimate of the total amount you may request from NASA using the following three sizes: "Small" less than \$50,000. "Medium" between \$50,000 and \$249,999. "Large" \$250,000 or greater.

If after five-working days no reply is received, then please resend the email and include a copy to the listed TWSC coordinator(s). If your first email was acknowledged with an automatic out-of-office notice that states an expected return date, then please mark your calendar to resend the inquiry approximately two days after the PO's expected return-to-work date.

4.2.2 Full TWSC Proposals

Following NASA's confirmation in response to an Inquiry email, you may proceed to proposal submission. A TWSC proposal follows the proposal specifications, font size, typeface, margins, paper size, etc. provided in NASA's most current [Proposer's Guide](#). Unlike ROSES proposals, there is no need for a separate "Total Budget" file.

The contents of the proposal must include the elements listed in Table 1 entitled "TWSC Proposal Elements" in the order listed.

Table 1: TWSC Proposal Elements

PROPOSAL ELEMENT	PAGE LIMIT ¹
A. Proposal Cover Page / Proposal Summary	Length is determined by the electronic submission system e.g., NSPIRES or Grants.gov. In order to route a proposal, proposers shall provide on the cover page, in response to program specific data questions, the name of an authorizing point of contact and identify the reviewing science division and/or program(s). Note: If selected, the Proposal Summary will be made public.
B. Title Page & Table of Contents	Up to 2
C. Executive Summary that is Publishable—Note: Please don't include graphics or charts in this section (Optional)	Up to 2: This optional section may choose, but is not required, to repeat the proposal summary provided on the NSPIRES cover page.
D. Scientific/Technical/Management Plan	Up to 15
E. Open Science and Data Management Plan	Up to 2. If not applicable, explain why.
F. References and Citations	As needed when applicable
G. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vitae (CV) for the Principal Investigator	2
H. CV for Each Co-I or other Key Personnel who appear on the Cover page	Up to 1 per person
I. Current and Pending Support Statements for PI and Co-Is	1 or more as needed, if no C&P state no C&P
J. Letters of Affirmation or Endorsement (Optional) Note: NASA does not normally seek or review such letters, but if the project involves other Federal, International or Private funding Agencies, such letters may be included	1 per letter
K. Proposal Budget—both the budget narrative and budget details	As many pages as needed. Note: Do not redact this budget nor provide a total budget as ROSES directs. Reminder: The proposal's cover page budget numbers should be repeated in this section and explained, e.g., source of cost estimates for purchases.
L. Facilities and Equipment	As many as needed, if applicable

¹ Including any illustrations, tables, and figures.

M. Table of Personnel and Work Effort	As many as needed
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4.3 Open Science and Data Management Plan (OSDMP), formerly called Data Management Plan

Unless no scientific information will result from the event, then the proposer must include an “Open Science and Data Management Plan”(OSDMP), in accordance with the [SPD-41A, SMD's Scientific Information Policy](#). See “[ROSES Open Science and Data Management Plans](#)” page for more information on OSDMPs.

The purpose behind this requirement is to share publicly relevant scientific information as quickly as practical. The OSDMP should include how TWSC-funded publications, data, software, and physical materials are managed to ensure their longer-term accessibility beyond the TWSC event(s) and to enable reproducibility. When an OSDMP is provided, it will be evaluated as part of the proposal’s intrinsic merit and thus will have a bearing on whether the proposal is selected. The OSDMP section in the proposal PDF immediately precedes the references and citations section and does not count against the page limit for the Science/Technical/Management (S/T/M Section).

If SMD is the primary sponsor of activity being proposed here, then the recipient must make the scientific publications produced publicly accessible or explain in the OSDMP why the information will not be shared openly. This includes publications, presentations, media, or other materials produced as part of the event. This does not include restricted information, laboratory notebooks, preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers or preprints, plans for future research, peer review reports, or communications with colleagues. The details of how the information will be made publicly available and archived in a long-term repository, following the guidance and definitions available in the [SMD OpenSource Science Guidance](#), must be including in the OSDMP.

TWSC proposals that completely lack any NASA-funded research or data producing components, for example, travel-only budgets or requests to speak or attend a third party’s conference, shall include in the OSDMP section stating why an OSDMP is not applicable. If NASA disagrees with the proposer’s position that an OSDMP is not applicable, should the proposal be selectable, the proposer will be asked to revise the proposal prior to selection or accept that the proposal will be declined as non-compliant with TWSC.

Regardless of whether a OSDMP is or is not submitted or requested by SMD, TWSC awardees are expected to make public scientific information including data, underlying figures, maps, tables, etc.

4.4 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant organization for NASA funding (unless the applicant is an individual or is excluded per 2 CFR 25.110) is required to:

- Be registered in SAM before submitting an application
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information, including information on a recipient’s immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a Federal contract or grant within the last three

years, if applicable, for all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by NASA; and

- Provide its UEI in each application or plan it submits to NASA^{ix}. UEIs may be obtained by registering in SAM.gov

NASA may not issue an award or financial modification to an existing award to an applicant or recipient entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid UEI and maintain an active SAM registration with current information. At the time of issuing an award, if the intended recipient has not complied with the UEI or SAM requirements, NASA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Note: PIs and other key personnel normally do not register in SAM.gov. This requirement applies to the institution that is applying, not to individuals who are named in the proposal.

4.5 Submission Method, Dates and Times

Only electronic proposals may be submitted by one of the officials at the PI's organization who is authorized to make such a submission. Electronic submission of the proposal by the authorized organization representative (AOR) serves as the required original signature by an authorized official of the proposing organization. AORs and all key persons on a TWSC proposal must be registered members of the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES).

Proposers may opt to submit via either of two different electronic proposal submission systems: 1) the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) at <http://nspires.nasaprs.com>. The NSPIRES Help Desk is available at: (202) 479-9376, or by email at nspires-help@nasaprs.com or 2) Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov>. The Grants.gov Help Desk is available at (800) 518-4726, or by email at support@grants.gov. For proposers who will submit their proposals via Grants.gov, please see the FAQ specific to Grants.gov [here](#). Early registration is advised regardless of the system used.

Regardless of submission method, the submitting organization must be registered in NSPIRES. When Grants.gov is used to submit the proposal the AOR, the submitting organization, and all parties named on the proposal's cover page must be registered in NSPIRES as well so that the proposal may be transcribed for NASA review. A grants.gov proposer who fails to register with NSPIRES may have the proposal returned as non-compliant.

4.6 Application Submission Deadlines (Estimated and Subject to Change)

Applications to this NOFO normally are due and reviewed on a rolling or proposal-by-proposal basis.

Occasionally, NASA may request that multiple proposals compete for a particular event(s). In such cases, this NOFO will be amended to add an appendix to provide specific details with a specific target due date.

For a historic example, visit TWSC-20 at <https://go.nasa.gov/3qWJkdx> and find the file entitled “Planetary Science Division invitation for Analysis Group proposals (email sent January 26, 2021;.PDF)”. Direct link to the PDF file is:

https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/viewrepositorydocument/cmdocumentid=802002/solicitationId=%7B8B0CEB4B-589D-C3E6-055E-3D5DD840126E%7D/viewSolicitationDocument=1/AG_support_request.pdf

Application Materials	Due Date and Time
Email inquiry in lieu of a formal notice or letter of intent	Any time and no later than October 30, 2026.
Proposal	Any time but no later than 11:59 PM Eastern, November 30, 2026

NASA may review applications that are received after the deadline and may consider these late applications for funding. NASA may, however, consider an extension to the application deadline at the request of any applicant who can demonstrate that good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant’s control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline, other exigent or emergency circumstances, or statutory requirements for NASA to make an award.

Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify NASA as soon as possible and before the application deadline. Failure to timely notify NASA of the issue that prevented the timely filing of the application may preclude consideration of the award.

4.7 Intergovernmental Review

Typically, TWSC federal financial assistance awards do not require an Intergovernmental Review per [Executive Order 12372](#) *Intergovernmental review of Federal programs*. When an applicant believes that intergovernmental review will be required, then the applicant must contact their state’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state’s process under Executive Order 12372. Names and addresses of SPOCs are located on the OMB website. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf>.

4.8 Funding Restrictions

All costs charged to awards covered by this NOFO must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements in 2 CFR 200 and 1800, unless otherwise indicated in the NOFO, the terms and conditions of the award, and the most recent “*Grants and Cooperative Agreement Manual*” ([GCAM](#)):

- All proposed costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Funds may only be used for the project. All activities charged under indirect cost must be allowed under 2 CFR 200 cost principles.
- Unless otherwise directed in 2 CFR 200, for changes to the negotiated indirect cost rate that occur throughout the project period, the recipient institution must apply the rate negotiated for

that year, whether higher or lower than at the time the budget and application was awarded.

- Any funds used for match or cost sharing must be allowable under 2 CFR 200.
- The non-Federal entity must use one of the methods of procurement as prescribed in 2 CFR 200.320, Methods of procurement to be followed.
- Grants and cooperative agreements shall not provide for the payment of fee or profit to the recipient institution.
- Proposals must not include bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis.

4.8.1 Direct Cost Limitations

Requesting support for ground transportation, meals, food or other sustenance. e.g. non-alcoholic beverages, may be allowable only when 1) reasonable and necessary to complete or deliver the event and 2) justified with evidence, e.g., meets an accessibility or a safety need. As needed, the costs of identifying, but not providing, locally available dependent-care resources are allowable.

4.9 Discussions with NASA Program Staff Regarding Allowable Costs

Only a NASA Grant Officer (GO) may determine what is an allowable cost at time of award. No costing or expenditure authorization should be taken based on communications with non-GOs at NASA during proposal preparation or post award. What makes costs allowable is a combination of the most current 2 CFR 200 Cost Principles and the proposing institution's written policies. This NOFO cannot change what is allowable under 2 CFR 200. This NOFO cannot predict whether a proposing organization will agree to request or administer grant funding. PIs first must consult their sponsored research or equivalent offices to determine the appropriate allocation in each budget category and allowable costs. Just because 2 CFR 200 makes something allowable does not mean a recipient organization will agree the costs are allowable.

4.10 Indirect and Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs

Proposals must identify indirect/F&A cost rate(s) and base(s) as approved by the cognizant Federal agency, including the effective period of the rate. Proposals must provide the name, address, and telephone number of the Federal agency official having cognizance. Unapproved indirect cost rates are not allowable. Applicants without an approved indirect cost rate may either charge costs directly or, if eligible, use the 10% de minimis rate described at 2 CFR 200.414(f).

4.11 Other Submission Requirements

No hard copy submissions will be accepted.

4.12 Collection of Demographic Information

NASA collects demographic data from applicants for the purpose of analyzing demographic differences associated with its award processes. Information collected includes name, gender, race, ethnicity, and disability status. Submission of the information is voluntary and is not a

precondition of award. Demographic information is anonymized before analyses are performed and public reports follow strict data-censoring guidelines to protect the anonymity of proposers.

4.13 Antidiscrimination, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

TWSC complies with NASA's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) within our workforce and throughout our workplaces as explained in the most recent [NASA Policy Statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility for NASA's Workforce and Workplaces](#). As of the issuance date of this NOFO, the DEIA policy statement dated June 16, 2023 provides important information on NASA-wide definitions for these terms, etc. When there is a more recent NASA DEIA policy statement, then it will prevail and take precedence. Many NASA DEIA policies are located at <https://www.nasa.gov/odeo/policy-publications/>

An event's diversity and inclusion policies and practices should make clear that everyone is welcome within NASA Science and strive to create an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. Organizers of events must have a specific policy, code of conduct, or meeting ground rules provided in advance and available during the event for all participants.

Proposals in the S/T/M shall include a brief overview of the meeting conduct principles or policies and identify one or more individuals responsible for addressing violations of them. Selected examples of such meeting rules include:

- American Meteorological Society (AMS) Statement on Professional and Respectful Conduct at AMS Meetings at <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/meetings-events/attendees/professional-and-respectful-conduct-at-ams-meetings/>
- Geological Society of America Events Code of Conduct at <https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/EventConductCode/GSA/Events/Conduct.aspx>
- American Astronomical Society (AAS) Anti-Harassment Policy for AAS and Division Meetings and Activities at <https://aas.org/policies/anti-harassment-policy-aas-division-meetings-activities>
- Ecological Society of America's Code of Conduct for ESA Events at <https://www.esa.org/events/code-of-conduct-for-esa-events/>
- The General Services Administration's (GSA) Technology Transformation Services (TTS) seeks to improve the public's experience with government by helping agencies make their services more accessible, efficient, and effective. TTS's Code of Conduct summarizes federal anti-harassment law and GSA's plain language policy meant to promote a culture of inclusion and respect. <https://handbook.tts.gsa.gov/code-of-conduct/>.

Additionally, proposers should consult and collaborate with an Accessibility Resource Center or equivalent organization prior to proposal submission to help ensure awareness of disability as a facet of diversity to advance access for the event and in recruiting. If not covered in the code of conduct or event principles, the proposal should identify where to address feedback or concerns related to accessibility. TWSC encourages all proposers to explain briefly in the proposal equal

access and any universal design plans. If the TWSC proposal is a contribution to a third party's event, the proposal should explain how the third-party addresses accessibility.

See also the U.S. Access Board website for research, guidelines and standards resources at <https://www.access-board.gov/>.

4.14 Within NASA, Inter-Agency, and NASA-as-Primary-Sponsor Awards

For event proposals submitted by NASA civil servants, there are two NASA Procedural Requirements documents (NPRs) that will be important when planning an event involving a NASA Center or Facility. Such proposers must review [NPR 9770.1](#) Subject: *NASA Conference Approval and Reporting* and [NPR 9710.1](#) Subject: *General Travel Requirements* regarding the financial management requirements for conference planning, approval, attendance, and reporting for NASA. These NPRs specify in section P.2 *Applicability* that these NPRs are applicable to recipients of grants and cooperative agreements only to the extent specified or referenced in the award. Therefore, these NPRs while applicable to intra-NASA funding transfers, normally will not apply to most TWSC grants, cooperative agreements, and inter-agency transfer agreements.

If the proposer anticipates that the resulting award will not be a grant or cooperative agreement (i.e., if the proposing institution is a Government laboratory, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory or a Federal Agency) or the result of the award is that NASA will be the primary sponsor of a conference, then the proposal must clearly state this fact, because NASA must provide detailed reports to other Government stakeholders on NASA-sponsored conferences. In addition, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy memoranda, statute and federal regulations may limit options for NASA-sponsored conferences.

5. Application Review Information

This section explains how TWSC reviews are conducted. Note: TWSC does not participate in SMD's dual anonymous peer review processes described at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/dual-anonymous-peer-review/>. Proposals should not be anonymized.

5.1 Application Evaluation Criteria

At minimum, the following three criteria will apply to proposals that are compliant with this NOFO:

- I. The relevance of the proposal to this NOFO's goal(s) or other applicable NASA's objectives or purposes.
- II. Intrinsic Merit, e.g., the proposal presents 1) the event's scientific, engineering, and/or technology aspect(s); 2) the expected significance and/or impact of the proposed event and associated activities, i.e., pre-event planning (if applicable), etc.; 3) the qualifications, capabilities, and related expertise of the key personnel proposed, 4) how the proposed facilities, instruments, equipment, and other resources or support

systems affect the likelihood of achieving the event’s objectives; and/or 5) the overall technical quality of the proposed event, including, but not limited to, the quality of the Open Science and Data Management Plan (when applicable), proposal timeline, and the event’s health and safety strategies.

- III. Cost/Budget, e.g., the proposal’s requested costs appear sufficient to implement the event or a particular aspect(s) of the event(s). Sometimes, should there be unique requests, external reviewers may be asked to comment on the costs. A comparison of the proposed cost to available funds and compliance with 2 CFR 200 will be performed by NASA program and grant officer personnel.

This NOFO sets no percentage or point value per criterion. Adjectival ratings are used as indicated in “Table 2: NASA’s Adjectival Rating Scale”. If a proposal’s relevance is not highly rated, high evaluations for Intrinsic Merit and/or Cost are unlikely to result in the selection of the proposal.

5.2 Review and Selection Process

Depending on the size of the requested award, proposals may be evaluated by peer reviewers external to NASA who have been screened for conflicts of interest or the proposal may be reviewed internally. Conflicts of interest and biases for reviewers will be identified and handled based on the guidelines described in [SPD-01A: Science Mission Directorate \(SMD\) Policy on Handling Conflicts-of-Interest for Peer Reviews](#).

Small budget proposals that request less than \$50,000 typically may be reviewed only by 1) the funding program’s scientist, executive or officer and 2) the Selecting Official at NASA Headquarters (HQ).

Proposals that request between \$50,000 but less than \$250,000, the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT) as of the issue date of this NOFO, will require at least one reviewer external to NASA HQ, but not necessarily external to NASA.

Large budget proposals, i.e., \$250,000 (regardless of the most current SAT) or greater include reviewers who are external to NASA.

Note: NASA may choose to use external reviewers regardless of the level of funding requested.

To help ensure uniformity of the reviews, NASA asks its reviewers to document their findings using clear, cogent language that is understandable to the non-specialist. NASA asks reviewers to organize their comments into major and minor strengths and weaknesses. A strength is a finding that increases a proposal’s suitability for funding for a given criterion. A major strength significantly increases a proposal’s suitability, and a minor strength increases, but not significantly, a proposal’s suitability. A reviewer may conclude, however, that multiple minor strengths together are equivalent to a major strength.

A minor weakness is a comment of value to the Selecting Official and/or the proposers that is noteworthy, but often correctable if addressed early in the period of performance. A major weakness is considered a serious flaw that could: a) effectively prevent, in whole or in part, the proposed objectives from being accomplished, and/or, b) may render the proposal unsuitable for

consideration for funding, e.g., the proposal fails address the NOFO’s objective(s).

All applicants will receive notification regarding the review of their proposal and whether it is recommended for funding or not recommended. Those recommended to the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) for award review will receive an intent to award notice (ITAN) that is also known as a “selection letter.”

The number and significance of strengths and weaknesses for a proposal determines its final summary evaluation based upon the following adjectival scale in Table 2.

Table 2: NASA’s Adjectival Rating Scale

Excellent	A thorough and compelling proposal of exceptional merit that fully responds to the objectives of the NOFO as documented by numerous or significant strengths and with no major weaknesses
Very Good	A competent proposal of high merit that fully responds to the objectives of the NOFO, with strengths fully outweighing any weaknesses, and none of those weaknesses constitute fatal flaws
Good	A competent proposal representing a credible response to the NOFO, with strengths and weaknesses essentially balancing each other
Fair	A proposal that provides a nominal response to the NOFO but with weaknesses outweighing any strengths.
Poor	A seriously flawed proposal, having one or more major weaknesses that constitute fatal flaws.

SMD may use intermediate scores such as "Excellent/Very Good", etc.

Adjectival grades will be a major factor in selection, but proposers should note that issues of programmatic factors also are important arbiters for a selection. This includes factors such as but not limited to 1) overall cost of the proposal to NASA, 2) the funding program’s programmatic balance, i.e., balancing selection based upon considerations with respect to the objectives of the overall funding program and aspects of the event, e.g., geographic location, institution size, institution type, 3) any non-required, voluntary cost share proposed as noted in Section 3.2, etc.

The NASA Headquarters Selecting Officials for this NOFO are the Division/Office Directors or equivalents or their designees.

5.2.1 Risk Analysis

NASA Grant Officers will conduct a pre-award review of risk associated with the proposer as required by 2 CFR 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants. For all proposals selected for award, the Grant Officer will review the submitting organization’s information available through multiple government-wide repositories such as the System for

Award Management (SAM.gov), the Contractor Performance and Assessment Reporting System (CPARS), the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC), USAspending.gov, and GrantSolutions Recipient Insight.

5.2.2 Risk Review

For any Federal award, if NASA anticipates that the total Federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000) over the period of performance:

- i. Prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, NASA is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (see 41 U.S.C. §2313);
- ii. An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM;
- iii. NASA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

5.2.3 Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

NASA is committed to a timely response to proposals submitted to this NOFO. For planning purposes, the anticipated maximum timeline for response:

Open Application Period:	Through November 2026
Time-to-Decision following Proposal Receipt:	Four Months
Intent to Award Notice Date (Estimated):	Four Months
Federal Award Date (Estimated):	Six Months After Proposal Receipt

6. Federal Award Administration Information

6.1 Notice of Award

NASA will notify successful grant recipients of funding via a Notice of Award (NASA Form 1687) signed by the Grant Officer. This Notice of Award is the authorizing document and will be sent to the recipient institution's business office via electronic delivery. All expenses incurred on grant activities prior to the period of performance start date listed on the Notice of Award are at the risk of the non-Federal entity until the Notice of Award is received and period of performance commences.

6.1.1 Pre-Award Costs

Per 2 CFR §1800.210, NASA waives the requirement for applicants to obtain prior approval for pre-award costs incurred 90 days or less before an award's period of performance start date. Pre-award costs in excess of 90 days before an award's period of performance start date are allowable under this NOFO, with prior approval from the NASA Grant Officer at the NASA Shared Services Center. Any costs that the applicant incurs in anticipation of a grant or cooperative agreement award is at the risk of the applicant and will be subject to the rules described in 2 CFR §1800.210, Pre-award costs and the "Pre-award Costs" section of the GCAM, currently section 5.14.1.

6.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

In addition to the requirements in this section and in this NOFO, NASA may place specific terms and conditions on individual awards in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Recipients of NASA grant funding shall adhere to requirements set forth in 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1800, 2 CFR 170, 2 CFR 175, 2 CFR 182, and 2 CFR 183.

6.3 Research Terms and Conditions

Awards from this funding announcement that are issued under 2 CFR 1800 are subject to the Federal Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) located at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>. In addition to the RTC and NASA-specific guidance, three companion resources can also be found on the website: Appendix A—Prior Approval Matrix, Appendix B—Subaward Requirements Matrix, and Appendix C—National Policy Requirements Matrix.

6.4 Environmental Statement^x

Awards of proposals related to this NOFO must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); thus, proposers are encouraged to plan and budget for any anticipated environmental impacts. While most research awards will not trigger action specific NEPA review, some activities (including international actions) will.

The majority of grant-related activities are categorically excluded as research and development (R&D) projects that do not pose any adverse environmental impact. A blanket NASA Grants Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) provides NEPA coverage for these anticipated activities. The NSPIRES award application cover page includes questions to determine whether a specific proposal falls within the Grants REC and must be completed as part of the proposal submission process. Activities outside of the bounding conditions of the Grants REC will require additional NEPA analysis. Examples of actions that will likely require NEPA analysis include but are not limited to suborbital-class flights not conducted by a NASA Program Office, activities involving ground-breaking construction/fieldwork, and certain payload activities such as the use of dropsondes.

Questions concerning environmental compliance may be addressed to the NASA NEPA Manager via the NASA program official listed in this NOFO (Section 7).

6.5 Reporting

In accordance with any award terms and conditions provided by the NSSC at the time of award, there will be several types of reporting.

6.5.1 Federal Financial Reporting

Recipients of NASA funding must submit quarterly financial reports. Financial reports must be submitted via the Payment Management System (PMS):

- Quarterly Federal Cash Transaction Reports (FCTR) are due no later than 30 days past the reporting period end date.
- Final Financial Status Reports/Final Federal Financial Report (FSR/FFR) are due no later than 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

6.5.2 Performance Reporting

NASA award recipients must submit annual and final performance reports. These reports must be submitted electronically. Awards that are in their final year or have a period of performance of a year or less are required to submit just the final performance reports. Descriptions of reporting requirements are below:

- A) Annual Performance Report – Used to describe an award’s scientific progress, identify significant changes, report on personnel, and describe plans for the subsequent reporting period.

Due: 60 days prior to the anniversary date of award

- B) Final Performance Report – Used as part of the award closeout process to submit project outcomes in addition to the information submitted on the annual Performance Report.

Due: within 120 days after the end of the award’s period of performance

For multiyear awards, funding after the first increment year normally will be provided only after the submission of an acceptable progress report.

For all NASA awards, recipients, including JPL, NASA Centers or other federal agencies, must utilize the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format. The RPPR is not a template or form but rather a set of standard data elements against which award recipients will report, and it is not available as a template or form from NASA. All performance reports must contain the mandatory data elements and reporting category required for RPPRs.

All reports shall include the following data elements in the listed order on the report’s cover page:

- 1) Federal agency (i.e., NASA) and program office to which the report is submitted.
- 2) Award number.
- 3) Project title
- 4) Principal Investigator name, title, and contact information (e-mail address and phone number).

- 5) Name of submitting official, title, and contact information (e-mail address and phone number), if other than PI.
- 6) Submission date.
- 7) Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number and EIN number.
- 8) Recipient organization name and address.
- 9) Recipient identifying number or account number, if any.
- 10) Period of performance start and end date.
- 11) Reporting period end date.
- 12) Report term or frequency (annual, semi-annual, quarterly, other).
- 13) Final Report? Indicate “Yes” or “No”
- 14) Signature of submitting official (either handwritten or electronic)

In addition to the data elements above, all NASA performance reports shall report on one mandatory reporting category, “accomplishments.”

Accomplishments data element includes:

1. What were the major goals and objectives of this project?
2. What was accomplished under these goals?
3. What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?
4. How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?
5. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

For further details on reporting project performance, please refer to the Post-Award Phase Section of the GCAM.

6.5.3 How and Where to send the Annual Report

Email an annual progress or interim report as PDF attachments to NSSC-GrantReport@mail.nasa.gov and the technical officer identified on NASA Form 1687, i.e., the cover page for the award.

If you did not receive a grant or cooperative agreement and you are JPL, a NASA Center or another Federal agency, then please email the annual report to the funding program officer and do not send it to the NSSC.

6.6 Access to Research

Awards issued under this NOFO at minimum must comply with the provisions set forth in the *NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research* at https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/nasa_data_plan.pdf including the responsibility for:

1. Submitting as-accepted peer-reviewed manuscripts and metadata to a designated repository.
2. Reporting publications with the annual and final performance reports.

6.7 Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

Awards under this solicitation that are \$500,000 or more may be subject to the post award reporting requirements reflected in [2 CFR 200 Appendix XII](#).

6.8 Federal Award Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Reporting Requirements

Per 2 CFR 170, Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, award recipients that issue first-tier subawards above \$30,000 shall report those subawards in the Federal Award Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward Reporting System (FSRS). 2 CFR 170 provides detailed guidance as to what information needs to be reported in these systems and the deadlines for submitting this information. Recipient information that is reported to FSRS is ultimately transferred to USAspending.gov for public display.

6.9 Suspension and Debarment Disclosure

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with NASA, the recipient must notify NASA if it knows if it or any of the recipient's principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 CFR Part 180.335:

- i. Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- ii. Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient's principals for one of those offenses within that time period;
- iii. Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
- iv. Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to NASA in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350.

6.10 Additional Reporting Requirements

NASA recipients must conform to all reporting requirements outlined in the Required Publications and Reports section of the GCAM, currently Appendix F, as of the original issue date of this NOFO.

7. NASA Contact and Other Resource Information

7.1 NOFO Coordinating Contacts and Funding Program Contacts

General questions on this NOFO may be addressed to:

Mary F. Sladek

TWSC Coordinator

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Email: mary.f.sladek@nasa.gov

SMD Division/Office TWSC Coordinating Contacts Email Addresses

NOTE: The following contacts do not have funds, but are available to assist with content-related questions and referrals.

Astrophysics -- stefan.m.immler@nasa.gov

Biological and Physical Science -- francis.p.chiaramonte@nasa.gov

Earth Science – kathleen.a.hibbard@nasa.gov and thomas.wagner@nasa.gov

Exploration Science Strategy and Integration Office -- debra.m.hurwitz@nasa.gov

Heliophysics -- simon.p.plunkett@nasa.gov

Open Science -- chelle.gentemann@nasa.gov (primary) steven.m.crawford@nasa.gov (alternate)

Planetary Science – lindsay.hays@nasa.gov

Science Engagement and Partnerships -- lin.h.chambers@nasa.gov

Locate the specific names and email addresses for the Funding Points of Contact, who later may be named by the NSSC as the technical officers if the proposal is successful at:

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/program-officers-list>

7.2 Systems Information

7.2.1 NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES)

NSPIRES is the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System. This web-based system supports the entire lifecycle of NASA research solicitation and selection, from the release of solicitation announcements through proposal submission, the peer review and the decision process. Applicants may search for and apply for funding opportunities available at NASA through NSPIRES. For technical assistance with NSPIRES, please contact the NSPIRES Help Desk at nspires-help@nasaprs.com or (202) 479-9376, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time.

7.2.2 Grants.gov

Grants.gov is the government-wide electronic grants portal and interested parties can search for grant opportunities on this site. For technical assistance with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), for example if submitting a proposal, call the customer support hotline 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (except federal holidays) at (800) 518-4726 or e-mail support@grants.gov. Reminder: Proposers who choose to submit via Grants.gov also must have NSPIRES accounts because NASA will transcribe such proposals to NSPIRES and communicate review results via NSPIRES.

7.3 Debrief Requests and/or Reconsideration Information

SMD has processes for requesting 1) a debrief and 2) a reconsideration of a declined proposal. A debrief request should be emailed to the POC listed in the notification of declination with a copy

to “The TWSC Coordinator” in Section 7.1.

After a debrief, a reconsideration may be requested when the PI believes that the proposal evaluation contained factual errors or was otherwise handled improperly. This process is described in the “SMD Policy on Reconsideration” ([SPD-09C](#)) available in the "Library and Useful Links" page on the website at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/library-and-useful-links/>.

Only contract awards are subject to bid protest, either at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) or with the Agency, as defined in FAR 33.101. This NOFO is limited to federal financial assistance; therefore, the NASA Procurement Ombudsman Program is NOT available as a procedure for addressing concerns and disagreements. Nevertheless, the generic mailbox address for the ombudsman is provided for information purposes only:

Email: agency-procurementombudsman@nasa.gov

The GCAM Version Effective Date: October 31, 2022, Section 5.9.5 entitled “*Appealing NASA’s Decision to Decline a Proposal for Financial Assistance*”, describes the types of appeals that NASA may make available to declined cooperative agreement proposals. GCAM Section 5.9.5 does not apply to any proposals that may returned without review by SMD due to the proposer’s failure to submit a proposal that is responsive to this NOFO or that contains insufficient detail.

8. Other Information

The Government’s obligation to make award(s) under this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriate funds from which payment can be made and the receipt of proposals that NASA determines are acceptable for award under this announcement.

8.1 Access to NASA Facilities/Systems

When applicable, recipients shall work with NASA project/program staff to ensure proper credentialing for any individuals who need access to NASA facilities and/or systems. Such individuals include U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (“green card” holders), and foreign nationals (those who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents). Most of this NOFO recipients will not need access to NASA facilities and/or behind-the-NASA-firewall information systems.

8.2 Limited Release of Proposers’ Confidential Business Information

- (a) For proposal evaluation and other administrative processing, NASA may find it necessary to release information submitted by the proposer to individuals not employed by NASA. Business information that would ordinarily be entitled to confidential treatment may be included in the information released to these individuals. Accordingly, by submission of this proposal the proposer hereby consents to a limited release of its confidential business information (CBI).
- (b) Except where otherwise provided by law, NASA will permit the limited release of CBI only pursuant to non-disclosure agreements signed by the assisting contractor or

subcontractor, and their individual employees who may require access to the CBI to perform the assisting contract.

8.3 Grant or Cooperative Agreement Awardees as Sponsors

The recipient of a TWSC grant or cooperative agreement is an event's sponsor, not NASA or SMD. The awardee shall place this disclaimer statement immediately below or immediately to the right of the "NASA Insignia Format for Grantees":

Disclaimer Statement:

"This event is based upon work supported by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) grant <insert number> to <insert name of the institutional recipient.> Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the organizers and do not necessarily reflect the views of NASA."

For more details on this condition and for the Insignia's image file available for use by TWSC awards, download a copy of "[NASA Insignia Guidelines for NASA Grantees](https://www.nasa.gov/nasa-shared-services-center/grants/)" from the landing page: <https://www.nasa.gov/nasa-shared-services-center/grants/>.

8.4. Items or Questions to Address in the Scientific, Technical, or Management (S/T/M) Plan

The following two-part list of questions or "checklist" is not required to be submitted as part of the proposal. This checklist is designed to help proposers 1) prepare a proposal that complies with the TWSC NOFO and 2) ensure the proposal discloses and addresses risks, if any, that could prevent review or selection.

Part 1: S/T/M Alignment Considerations

1. Is the proposal event-focused, e.g., topical workshops, symposia, conferences, other scientific/technical meetings or similar activity, whether in-person or virtual? Are there specific event dates or an estimate provided for when the event(s) will occur? Note: Events may be a hybrid of virtual and non-virtual. See Section 3.3.4 "Technology and Data" and Section 3.3.8 "Videoconferencing, Access Innovations and Similar Purchases".
2. Does the proposal explain how the proposed event(s) advance(s) the goals/objectives of the SMD funding Division(s), Office, Initiative or Program? Does the proposal cite the source of its relevance to SMD? For example, does the proposal 1) advance high-level SMD goals/objectives and/or 2) address specific, existing, or anticipated, outcomes identified in NASA's most current Strategic Plan, a ROSES program element(s), or other SMD documents, e.g., roadmaps, decadal survey findings, reports of NASA advisory bodies or other groups relevant to NASA?
3. Does the proposal briefly describe open recruitment of participants, e.g., identify review members or types of review processes or review criteria and provide a recruitment URL if available? If the proposal is for an invitational event, is participant selection, justified or explained? See Section 3.3.9 "Competition and Criteria for Selecting Event Participants".
4. Does the proposal include a brief overview of the event's conduct principles/policies and does it identify a responsible person(s), i.e., makes clear that the proposed event's environment is safe, accessible, inclusive, diverse, and free of harassment and discrimination? See Section 4.13 "Antidiscrimination, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity". Organizers of events must have a specific policy, code of conduct or meeting ground rules

- provided in advance and available during the event for all participants. Does the proposal describe any travel flexibilities, venue accessibility challenges, and any applicable participant health and safety strategies?
5. Will the event occur at a NASA Center or Facility? If so, does the proposal reference/acknowledge the NASA Procedural Requirements documents or NPRs? NPR 9770.1 Subject: *NASA Conference Approval and Reporting* and NPR 9710.1 Subject: *General Travel Requirements* provide the financial management requirements for conference planning, approval, attendance, and reporting for NASA. See Section 4.14 "Within NASA, Inter-Agency and NASA-as Primary Sponsor Awards." NOTE: These NPRs normally are applicable only to intra-NASA funding transfers and not to grants/cooperative agreements.
 6. Is there explanation of how the proposed event(s) has a public purpose and/or benefit, i.e., the event is primarily for the proposer's own purposes? What are the expected public benefits?
 7. Is there a request to NASA for a contribution(s) of something other than money? See Section 2.7 NASA's Additional Contributions. If the proposer wants NASA to provide individuals or services to support the event, describe that request in the S/T/M and also provide details in the budget narrative.

Part 2: Proposal Risk Considerations

1. Does the event include only participants from the U.S. and the People's Republic of China or occur in China? If yes, does the proposal discuss the details?
2. Does the proposal request funds for events organized by or held in a "Designated Country" (DC)? Check the "Designated Country List" on the NASA Export Control [website](#). See 3.3.1 "Limitations on Participants and Events Conducted in Designated Countries".
3. Is the proposed event hosted at an entertainment, recreation, sporting or luxury venue? Ensure the proposal explains the rationale for any unusual venue/facility.
4. Does the proposed event(s) 1) occur in a non-U.S. location, e.g., not one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory; *and* 2) does not occur in China or a DC? If so, ensure the proposal explains why it is non-U.S., i.e., the nature of the science is multi-national; it is not the U.S.'s turn, etc.
5. Does the proposal propose to create new technology and/or likely will generate a patent? See Section 3.3.4 "Technology, Data and Open Science". Does the proposal include an Open Science and Data Management plan if necessary? If SMD is the primary sponsor for the event, then is the plan/schedule for the scientific products from the event to made publicly accessible described?
6. Is the proposal a request for multi-year infrastructure funding for sustaining content platforms, and/or for continuing or one-time only fellowships?

Please note, that compliance with this TWSC checklist does not mean that a proposal will be selected or awarded.

9. Summary of Key Information

Expected annual program budget for new awards	No TWSC-dedicated budget exists. Selected proposals will be funded by the relevant program.
Number of new awards pending adequate proposals of merit	The number of proposals selected will be dependent on the number and quality of proposals submitted and on the availability of funds from the relevant SMD program.
Maximum duration of awards	5 years. Most awards are 1 to 3 years.
Due date for Notice of Intent to propose (NOI)	No NOIs are requested. Instead proposers send an email inquiry as described in Section 4.2.1.
Due date for proposals	Proposals may be submitted at any time until 11:59 PM (Eastern time) on November 30, 2026.
Planning date for start of investigation	Typically, no earlier than 6 months after the proposal submission date.
Page limit for the central Science/Technical/Management section of proposal	Up to 15 (if needed) pp; see also NASA's Proposer's Guide .
Detailed instructions for the submission of proposals	See NSPIRES Online Help and the most current Proposer's Guide
Submission medium	Electronic proposal submission is required; no hard copy is required or permitted.
Web site for submission of proposal via NSPIRES	http://nspires.nasaprs.com/ (help desk available at nspires-help@nasaprs.com or (202) 479-9376)
Web site for submission of proposal via Grants.gov	http://grants.gov (help desk available at support@grants.gov or (800) 518-4726)
Funding opportunity number for downloading an application package from Grants.gov	NNH24ZDA002N

Appendix A: Endnotes

ⁱ Because this NOFO will be open for multiple years instead of being revised and reissued annually, the burden on repeat applicants should be less. This single document should be easier to navigate than in the past TWSCs that required opening and reading multiple files; e.g., a “Summary of Solicitation”; a ROSES proposal checklist; and the choice among six files that provided research overviews, in addition to a specific research program appendix funding opportunity.

ⁱⁱ TWSC event proposers may choose to select from NASA-relevant outputs, objectives, goals and measures in order a) to achieve the proposer’s public purpose(s) and b) to demonstrate relevance to NASA. For example, the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) creates “Decadal Surveys” every ten years that are reviewed every five years. NASEM reports summarize performance for both kinds of NASA award, i.e., assistance and contract. Decadal Surveys, research road maps, and similar documents inform the proposing public of 1) NASA’s strategic and 2) SMD science plans. Such documents help to enable TWSC proposers to evaluate whether their events are aligned to NASA-produced program goals and objectives and performance measures.

Awardees individually will select what they consider to be appropriate NASA-relevant project level objectives, goals and measures. SMD does not assign objectives, goals and measures.

ⁱⁱⁱ Shortly before this NOFO was issued, NASA received the new BPS decadal survey entitled “Thriving in Space – Ensuring the Future of Biological and Physical Sciences Research: A Decadal Survey for 2023-2032.”

^{iv} After this NOFO is issued, the listed HPD decadal will have a successor. When the new HPD decadal survey is released, it also may be a source of relevance.

^v Should NASA update the 2022 Strategic Plan, then those updates also may be a source.

^{vi} The International Traffic in Arms Regulations or ITAR is administered by the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) within the State Department to regulate export and import of defense products found on the United States Munitions List (USML). This NOFO uses the ITAR definition for U.S. person located in Section §120.15 of Title 22 Foreign Relations. U.S. person means a person (as defined in §120.14 of this part) who is a lawful permanent resident as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20) or who is a protected individual as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(3).

It also means any corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, or any other entity, organization or group that is incorporated to do business in the United States. It also

includes any governmental (federal, state or local) entity. It does not include any foreign person as defined in §120.16 of this part.

For individuals, including the categories in [8 U.S.C. 1324b\(a\)\(3\)](#), U.S. persons include:

1. US Citizens
2. Lawful permanent residents (i.e., Green Card holders)
3. Other narrow categories including some refugees and asylees.

For the full text of Title-22 visit: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22>

vii COURSE 12 INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS (ITAR) TUTORIAL 1 INTRODUCTION TO ITAR AND THE U.S. MUNITIONS LIST is provided for information purposes only <https://www.sbir.gov/tutorials/itar/tutorial-1>

viii The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023’s PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act (“PUMP Act”) extended nursing employees the right to receive break time to pump and a private place to pump at work. For details visit the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) pages on the Department of Labor’s <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pump-at-work> as of the time of the initial release of this NOFO.

ix Proposers do not input this information to each and every proposal. The UIE is requested when the organization first registers with NSPIRES. After registration is complete, NSPIRES automatically will associate the UEI with every proposal.

x Separately, but related-to-the-environmental-impact, proposers will be asked on the submission’s cover page whether this project, i.e., event, has the potential to affect historic, archeological, or traditional cultural sites (such as Native American burial or ceremonial grounds) or historic objects (such as an historic aircraft or spacecraft).