



**NCAR**

**National Center for  
Atmospheric Research**

**TIMOTHY L. KILLEEN**  
Director

P. O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307-3000 USA  
Phone: 303-497-1111 Fax: 303-497-1194  
killeen@ucar.edu www.ncar.ucar.edu

February 27, 2006

To: Division Directors  
Division Administrators

From: Tim Killeen

Subject: FY 2007 Opportunity Fund "Call for Proposals"

**Due Date for Proposals: Friday, April 7, 2006**

The NCAR Opportunity Fund provides support for seed funding for new ideas and for exciting exploratory science and facility development proposals submitted by NCAR staff. From an initial pool of \$1,000,000, we have \$589,644 available for FY 2007. The remaining balance is committed for the second year of the FY 2006 awarded projects. We will begin next year's competition immediately to allow for distribution of the funds at the beginning of the FY 2007 fiscal year.

A brief proposal of no more than five pages plus a detailed budget table should be prepared and submitted electronically to Amy Stephens through the lead Division and Institute Director. Directors of all participating divisions/institutes should review any cross-divisional proposals. Funding is limited to \$200,000 maximum per proposal. Requests can be for one or two year's support. Eligible proposals may include:

- Start-up costs for innovative ideas or exploratory science.
- Instrumentation development support but not equipment requests unless needed as part of the proposed research.
- New education or social science activities.
- Cosponsorship is not required and will not be part of the review criteria.
- Participation from UOP and EO is encouraged but there must be a lead NCAR PI included in the proposal. Funding would remain in NCAR.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research  
is operated by the

✳ University Corporation for Atmospheric Research  
under sponsorship of the  
National Science Foundation.

On-going costs for existing research are not eligible. Inter-divisional collaboration, though encouraged, is not required.

To ensure that the process is fair, reviews will be done through mail reviews and by a panel of NCAR/UCAR scientific/engineering staff convened by the NCAR Scientist Assembly Executive Committee that would meet to finalize award recommendations. Final disposition of the funds will be made by the NCAR Director based on panel recommendations and available funding to cover each award recommendation. The evaluation criteria will be the NSF Merit Review Criteria: 1) the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and 2) broader impacts of the proposed activity. For more detailed guidance on the Opportunity Fund, please refer to: <http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/bnp/opportunity/index.html>

We hope to allocate these funds as early into the fiscal year as feasible without conflicting with the transition from FY 2006 to FY 2007 fiscal years. If you have any questions related to the proposal or funding process, please contact Rena Brasher-Alleva.

cc: NSA Executive Committee  
Directorate Executive Staff  
Laboratory Associate Directors