

FY 2004 NCAR DIRECTOR'S STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FUND

ANTICIPATED TOTAL FUNDING: \$2,000,000

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Letter of Intent: July 14, 2003
Full Proposal: October 1, 2003

SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO: NCAR Budget and Planning Director, ML520

DURATION: 1-3 Years

MAXIMUM ANNUAL FUNDING
REQUEST PER PROPOSAL: \$500,000/year

COSPONSORSHIP
REQUIREMENT: None

INTER-DIVISIONAL
COLLABORATION: None Required

GENERAL GUIDANCE:

The NCAR Director's Initiative Fund supports large research and development projects that provide a scientific or technical foundation for long-term innovative solutions to NCAR's strategic needs. Proposals should be in line with NCAR's Strategic Plan and authors are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with Division Directors and the NCAR Directorate before submission.

- Initial **one page** letters of intent are required. They should clearly state the project's goals and importance (including how it supports NCAR's Strategic Plan), and give an initial budget estimate. Letters will be reviewed by the NCAR Directorate to identify overlaps between proposals, to evaluate strategic relevance, and to suggest modifications. Based on this evaluation, proposers may or may not be invited to submit a full proposal. Invitations to submit proposals will be provided on August 4, 2003.
- Funding will be limited to new strategic research and facility development projects. Proposals for the support of new strategic infrastructure, including equipment and startup costs, are welcome.
- The proposed work should involve small to large group participation rather than just a single PI effort.
- On-going costs of existing projects are not eligible.
- Inter-divisional collaboration, though strongly encouraged, is not an eligibility requirement and will not be part of the review criteria.
- Proposals should be a maximum of **six pages** plus budget table(s).

- Participation from UOP and EO is encouraged but there must be a lead NCAR PI included in the proposal. Funding will remain in NCAR.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Authors who wish to participate should submit a summary proposal (no more than **six pages**) through their Division Directors to the NCAR Budget and Planning Director by October 1, 2003. Division Administrators should ensure that budget tables are correctly completed and the appropriate FY 2004 overhead rates are applied prior to submission. Once divisional review is complete, an electronic version of the proposal and associated budget table should be submitted to rena@ucar.edu to allow for more efficient processing and review.

The proposal should:

1. State the project goals and their relevance to NCAR's long-term needs.
2. Outline the proposed methodology.
3. If outside NCAR collaborators are participating in the proposal; include their name, institution, and their specific activities contributing to this project.
4. A detailed budget table should be attached. Please use the proposal template provided by the NCAR Budget and Planning Office. You can access the B&P template at: <http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/bnp/strategic/index.html>. The first year's budget should cover 9 months of FY 2004 beginning January 1, 2004. The second and third year budgets should cover 12 months on a fiscal year basis (Oct. through Sept.).

The main body of the proposal should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and should include objectives for the period of the proposed work and expected significance and relation to longer-term goals of the project. The statement should outline the general plan of work, including the broad design of activities to be undertaken, and an adequate description of experimental or theoretical methods and procedures. The statement of work should also indicate any broader impacts of the proposed activity by addressing the following, if relevant:

- Describe how the proposed activity supports the new NCAR Strategic Plan <http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/bnp/strategic/plan.pdf> - *required*;
- Indicate how the project will integrate research and education by advancing discovery and understanding while at the same time promoting teaching, training, and learning;
- Discuss any ways in which the proposed activity will broaden the participation of underrepresented groups;
- Discuss how the project will enhance the infrastructure for research and/or education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships;
- Indicate how the results of the project will be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding;
- Identify potential benefits of the proposed activity to society at large; and
- Describe the extent of any collaborations and university interactions.

REVIEW

A review panel made up of Division Directors will provide proposal review and ranking recommendations to the NCAR Director. The NCAR Director will make the final award decisions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria for all Initiative Fund proposals will be based on the NSF Merit Review Criteria and relevance to NCAR's Strategic Plan. Below is a more detailed explanation of the criteria followed by considerations that reviewers may employ in the evaluation. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While reviewers are expected to address these review criteria, each reviewer will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the specific proposal.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society? Does the research support NSF and NCAR's goals in fostering integration of research and education?

What is the strategic value to NCAR?

Does the proposed activity align with the [NCAR Strategic Plan](#)? Does the activity fit NCAR's mission and objectives? Is the activity unique and aligned with NCAR's strengths and capabilities? Is it timely? Does it address long-term scientific needs of the (broadly defined) atmospheric research community? Is it significant to national and international scientific initiatives? Does it address societal needs? Does it address a particular research opportunity identified by NSF or another sponsor? Is the activity likely to evolve into a component of NCAR's basic research? Does it support NCAR's role as an integrator of geosciences? Does the activity have a clear education and outreach dimension? Does it further diversity of the NCAR community?

SCHEDULE

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| June 6: | Request letters of intent from NCAR staff. |
| July 14: | Submission due date for letters of intent. |
| August 4: | Guidance provided to PI's. |
| Oct. 1: | Submission due date for proposals through Divisions. |
| Oct. 1- Nov. 4: | Review of proposals. |
| Nov. 11: | Panel recommendations provided to NCAR Director. |
| Nov. 20: | NCAR Director's award proposal made to Directors' Committee. |
| Dec. 1: | Awards communicated to PI's and NCAR Divisions; Budget and Planning Office allocates funds. |