

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: FY2011 Small Grants for Marine Archaeological Exploration

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-OER-2011-2002641

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.011, Ocean Exploration

Dates: Completed pre-proposals are required for all categories must be received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on Applications must be received by 5:00 pm, Eastern Time on August 16, 2010 to be considered for funding.

Full proposal submissions must be received by 5:00 pm October 12, 2010.

Applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) is seeking pre-proposals and full proposals to support its mission, consistent with NOAA's Strategic Plan (<http://www.nrc.noaa.gov>), to discovery significant or potentially significant maritime heritage sites. Small Grants for Marine Archaeological Exploration is a new type of funding program from OER. The program will provide a researcher with the opportunity to assess the feasibility of a potentially larger marine archaeology exploration project. Proposals should examine new ideas or new opportunities with potential to make significant discoveries of maritime cultural resources. OER anticipates a total of approximately \$100,000 will be available through this announcement for small grants (\$25K or less).

Applicants are encouraged to visit the Ocean Explorer Web site (<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>) to familiarize themselves with past and present OER-funded activities. Background on how to apply and the required Pre-Proposal Application Form and required Proposal Cover Sheet are accessible through the OER Office Web site at <http://explore.noaa.gov>.

The office priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management.

Pre-proposal submissions must be by e-mail (send to OAR.OE.FAQ@noaa.gov) or by hard-copy. Please put your last name in the subject heading along with the words OER Pre-proposal,

e.g., "Smith OER Pre-proposal." Adobe PDF format is preferred. No facsimile pre-proposals will be accepted.

Full proposal submissions must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicants without internet access may submit hard-copies to: ATTN: Dr. Nicolas Alvarado, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research, SSMC III, 10th Floor, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. No e-mail or facsimile full proposal submissions will be accepted.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

Ocean exploration was defined by the 2000 president's panel as "discovery through disciplined diverse observations and the recording of the finding." NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) seeks to catalyze ocean discovery and understanding at our ocean and Great Lakes frontiers through bold and innovative explorations. These explorations should revolutionize our knowledge baselines by exploring, characterizing and mapping, at new and/or higher scales, the ocean's living and nonliving resources and its physical, chemical and biological characteristics. Data and observations resulting from OER expeditions will result in new discoveries, new insight, new knowledge and new frontiers and will likely lead to the revision of existing paradigms or the formulation of new paradigms in the ocean's poorly known and unknown regions.

B. Program Priorities

Through discovery and the systematic exploration of unknown ocean areas and phenomena, OER serves to ensure NOAA can meet its goal to, "Protect, Restore, and Manage the Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources Through an Ecosystem Approach to Management" (New Priorities for the 21st Century, NOAA's Strategic Vision).

Marine Archaeology is a thematic priority within OER and is consistent with the 2000 President's panel on Ocean Exploration (http://explore.noaa.gov/media/http/pubs/pres_panel_rpt.pdf); NOAA's 5-Year Research Plan (http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/plans_docs/5yrp_2008_2012_final.pdf); the NOAA Education Strategic Plan at: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/council/Ed%20Strategic%20Plan/09NOAA%20EducationStrategicPlan.pdf>; eight regional NOAA-hosted ocean exploration workshops <http://explore.noaa.gov/ancillary-information>; the 2003 National Academy Report "Exploration of the Seas: Voyage into the Unknown"; the 2004 Report of the US Commission on Ocean Policy (2004); and the President's Ocean Action Plan. Public Law 111-11 directs NOAA to conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences.

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) is initiating an additional type of funding program: Small Grants for Marine Archaeological Exploration. Through a small grant not exceeding \$25,000, the program will provide a researcher with the opportunity to

assess the feasibility of a potentially larger marine archaeology exploration project. Results from this initial work may be used to target future exploration efforts. Prospective projects should examine new ideas or new opportunities with potential to make discoveries of significant marine cultural resources. Subjects should be compelling and may include for example: archival work essential to exploration activities; new approaches, new methods or new research areas; testing a new technology; work that has urgency. Some proposals may only be of short duration, for example testing a new technology or limited site characterization. A key component for all proposals is describing the payoff of assessing a new idea or opportunity. All proposals must have a marine archaeology exploration theme, be completed in 1 year and be limited to the early stages of archaeological research. Later phases such as intensive site excavation and major conservation projects will be declined.

Proposals are encouraged to include appropriate NOAA, Federal, and state resource management partners, when possible, to demonstrate that the long-term protection of the resources is being considered. OER supports standards for conducting marine archaeological projects and expeditions such as those enumerated in the Annex Rules of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

1. Ship and Submersible Assets

For Marine Archaeology projects, OER has not pre-paid or reserved any ship-time. If the proposed work requires funding for ship time or submersible assets, these costs should be included in the proposed budget. If you have already acquired ship time, please be sure to note this in your proposal.

2. Geographic Areas of Particular Interest

All States, Territories, Commonwealths, and Possessions of the United States of America

C. Program Authority

33 USC 3403(a)(4)

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

In anticipation of the FY11 President's Budget, OER anticipates a total of approximately \$100,000 will be available through this announcement for Small Grants for Marine Archaeological Exploration. OER anticipates supporting four awards through this solicitation, not to exceed \$25,000.

The OER Director may hold-over select proposals submitted for 2011 funding for

consideration in 2012.

The amount of funding available through this announcement is subject to the final FY11 appropriation for Ocean Exploration and Research. Publication of this announcement does not obligate NOAA to fund any specific project or to obligate all or any part of available funds. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to initiate or continue research activities where funding has been recommended by OER. The exact amount of funds that OER may recommend be granted will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Future opportunities for submitting proposals may be available and will depend on OER funding levels.

B. Project/Award Period

Small Grants for Marine Archaeological Exploration are for one year projects. Applications must include a scope of work and a budget for one year.

For Marine Archaeology proposals, the earliest date for receipt of awards will be approximately 120-150 days after the annual NOAA funding appropriation from Congress. Applicants should consider this selection and processing time in proposing research activities.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Proposals selected for funding from applicants will be funded through a grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this notice. For applications funded through cooperative agreements, substantial involvement of the Federal government may include, but is not limited to, activities such as specifying direction or redirection of the scope of work due to inter-relationships with other projects or stipulating that the recipient must meet or adhere to specific procedural requirements before subsequent stages of a project may continue. Detailed information about expectations for sample collection, education and outreach, data management and Web site requirements is contained in Section VIII, Other Information of this document.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Cost-sharing is not required.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

1. Funding Requirements

Not Applicable.

2. Potential Partners

As evidenced by the success of funded research under the auspices of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), the Office of Ocean Exploration and Research encourages partnerships between academia, government and industry. While not a requirement, proposals demonstrating partnerships with at least two of the above sectors are encouraged. OER also encourages investigators to seek complementary funding for their proposed projects through linked proposals to other agencies, both internal and external to NOAA. Applicants are also encouraged to seek federal partners where appropriate.

3. Permits and Approvals

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary International, Federal, State and Local Government permits and approvals where necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. Applicants are expected to design their proposals so that they minimize potential adverse environmental impact. If applicable, documentation of requests for or approvals of cultural resource or environmental permits must be included in the proposal package. Applications will be reviewed to ensure they have sufficient environmental documentation to allow program staff to determine the environmental impact of a proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

There is a one-page Pre-Proposal Application Form required for a complete pre-proposal submission (Section IV. B. 1.), in addition to the required Proposal Cover Sheet. Both can be obtained through the OER Office web site at: <http://www.explore.noaa.gov/research-funding-opportunities>. For applicants without internet access, hard copies of the Pre-Proposal Application Form and Proposal Cover Sheet can be obtained via mail at NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC 3, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or requested by phone at (301) 734-1015.

Full proposal application packages are available at <http://www.grants.gov/>. In addition, a Proposal Cover Sheet (available at the OER Office web site as stated above) which is not in Grants.gov, must be submitted. For applicants without internet access, a hard copy of the

Proposal Cover Sheet and the application package can be obtained via mail at NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC 3, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or requested by phone at (301) 734-1015 as well.

B. Content and Form of Application

Pre-proposal Contents

A pre-proposal should be compelling, concise and clear. It should:

- ? Identify the principal investigator and their affiliation
- ? Describe project priorities and objectives
- ? Describe how the proposed project relates to OER's mission and themes (as described in Section 1. A & B above),
- ? Include a budget summarizing the major categories of effort.

The one-page Pre-proposal Application Form and the two-page Proposal Cover Sheet are required for all pre-proposal submissions. Both are accessible through the OER Office Web site at <http://www.explore.noaa.gov>. As appropriate, additional information should be supplied regarding 1) any vessels, platforms or other critical assets required to technically achieve the goals and their costs; 2) any auxiliary funding sources for the proposed project; 3) time or operational constraints, especially with regard to field operations; 4) anticipated potential discoveries. Incomplete pre-proposals will not be considered.

2. Full Proposal Contents

Full proposals must include the following, in the order listed. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in application not being reviewed. Excluding the coversheet, please number each page and label it with the Principal Investigator's last name in the bottom right-hand corner (highly recommended for tracking purposes only). As appropriate, all full proposal text should be written on 8.5 x 11 inch paper, in at least 12 pt font, with 1-inch margins. See Section IV.C for submission due dates and IV.F. for submission procedures and addresses. Proposals submitted after the due dates will not be considered. No appendices are permitted.

- a. Completed 2-page Proposal Coversheet: Principal and Co-Principal investigators should be identified.
- b. Maximum One-Page Executive Summary: Include 1) Title, 2) List of names, contact details and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project, 3) Total funding requested, and 4) A concise statement of the essential elements of the project, its compelling objectives and benefits, and the rationale for the work proposed;
- c. Project Description: The project description shall not exceed 7-pages including all text

and any tables and visual materials (e.g., charts, graphs, maps, photographs). Successful proposals will include bold, innovative ideas, and explain how it fulfills OER's mission and themes (as described in Section I. A & B). The 7-page limit does not include the Coversheet, Executive Summary, Budget and Budget Justification, Literature Citation, Current and Pending Support, Curriculum Vitae, Letters of Commitment, and required forms.

i) Include a clear statement to explain why this is a new idea or opportunity and the benefit of assessing its potential, its archaeological significance, and how it fits into the realm of exploration.

ii) Describe the goals and objectives of the project, the rationale for approach, the methods you propose to use and your justification for the proposed effort. Please be sure to address the cultural, historical, scientific, or technical significance and merit.

iii) Provide a brief discussion of the personnel chosen for the overall effort,

iv) Any auxiliary funding sources for the proposed project,

v) Time or operational constraints, especially with regard to field operations, and

vi) Anticipated outputs (e.g. potential discoveries, knowledge and impact, published papers, reports, meetings, and/or education and outreach material). Proposals should also include a description how data will be made accessible or available to the public.

d. Summary of Relevant Current Funding Support: Applicants must provide information on all their current and pending Federal support for ongoing projects and proposals, including potential subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. The proposed project and all other projects or activities using Federal assistance or that requires a portion of time of the principal investigator or other senior personnel should be included. The relationship between the proposed project and these other projects should be described, and the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated.

f. Brief Resumes for each investigator: two pages maximum for all Principal and Co-Principal Investigator(s) involved in carrying out the proposal including relevant recent publications and references,

g. Detailed Tabular Budget: Separate budgets within the single proposal must be provided if more than one funding action is anticipated (e.g., if funds are to be allocated to more than one institution or agency through subcontracts).

h. Budget Justification: including justification for how labor hours and travel costs were determined, justification for non-standard items as well as cost share/in-kind contribution. This includes day rates/costs for equipment, ship time and supplies along with vendor information.

i. NEPA questions or a statement: There are none.

j. Forms: Applicants must submit a complete NOAA grant application package provided from Grants.gov.

See Section IV.C for submission dates and times and IV.F. and IV.G. for submission

procedures and addresses.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Completed pre-proposals are required and must be received by 5:00 pm (EDT) on August 16, 2010. Before 5:00 pm (EDT), an auto-reply message will notify applicants that their email with pre-proposal material was received. After 5:00 pm (EDT), an auto-reply message will notify applicant that their email with pre-proposal material submission is late and will not be considered. A complete pre-proposal is a prerequisite for submission of a full proposal. Applicants will receive an email encouraging or discouraging a full proposal submission by August 25, 2010. If you have not received a reply by September 1, 2010 contact OER (OAR.OE.FAQ@noaa.gov) as soon as possible.

Full proposals must be received by 5:00 pm (EDT) on October 12, 2010. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy, proposals will be date and time stamped when they are received in the Program Office. For applicants without internet access, hard copies of the Proposal Cover Sheet and the application package can be obtained via mail at NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC 3, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or requested by phone at (301) 734-1015 as well. Pre-proposals and Full-Proposals submitted after their respective cutoff date and time will not be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants may have to register or renew their central contractor registration prior to submitting to Grants.gov. Grants.gov will not accept submissions if the applicant has not been authorized or if credentials are incorrect. Authorizations and credential corrections can take several days to establish. Please plan your time accordingly to avoid late submissions. For further information please visit the Central Contractor Registration website (<http://www.ccr.gov/>).

Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about and comply with the State's process under EO 12372. The names and addresses of the SPOC's are listed in the Office of Management

and Budget's Web site:<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

E. Funding Restrictions

No special restrictions apply.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Pre-proposal submissions can be either by e-mail (preferred, send to OAR.OE.FAQ@noaa.gov) or by hard-copy (send one copy to the mailing address below). If by e-mail, please put your last name in the subject heading along with the words OER Pre-proposal, e.g., "Smith OER Pre-proposal." Adobe PDF format is preferred. No facsimile pre-proposals will be accepted.

Full proposal submissions must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicants without internet access may submit hard-copies to the address below.

Please refer to important information in submission dates and times above to help ensure your application is received on time.

No e-mail or facsimile full proposal submissions will be accepted.

Address for Hard-Copy Submissions: ATTN: Dr. Nicolas Alvarado, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research, SSMC III, 10th Floor, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Hard copy applications should be binder-clipped together (not bound or stapled) and printed on one-side only. One signed, hard copy original is required (use blue/black ink). Since reviewers will require access to an electronic copy, applicants submitting hard copies are highly encouraged to also submit a digital version in one Adobe PDF file on CD-ROM.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Pre-proposal Evaluation Criteria

The OER Director, in consultation with the program staff, will make the decision to encourage or discourage full proposal submissions based on one or more of the following factors: (1) Importance, Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals and thematic priorities (see Section I.A. Program & Notice Objectives and Section I.B. Program

Priorities & Guidance); (2) Scientific and Technical Merit, (3) Overall qualifications of applicants, (4) Project Costs, (5) Logistical feasibility (e.g., ship availability), given OER resource availability and (6) Consistency with the format of this announcement. The final decision to submit a full proposal is up to the applicant.

2. Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Full proposals will be evaluated and rated individually by three internal merit reviewers. The following criteria will be used to review proposals using the corresponding weight value:

a. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals (40 points):

This criterion ascertains whether

- i) Is there intrinsic value in the proposed work and relevance to appropriate NOAA, Federal, regional, state, or local activities?
- ii) Does the proposal address assessing a new idea or opportunity with potential to make discoveries of significant marine cultural resources?
- iii) If the aims of the study are achieved, can the results form the basis for future targeted exploration?
- vi) Does the proposal consider cultural resources management and protection?

b. Scientific and Technical Merit (40 points):

- i) Is the approach technically sound and/or innovative appropriate?
- ii) Are the methods appropriate?
- ii) Does the proposal have clear project goals and objectives?
- iii) Can the proposal be completed in 1 year?

c. Overall qualifications of applicants (10 points):

- i) Does the applicant possess the necessary education, experience, and training?
- ii) Are appropriate facilities and administrative resources available to accomplish the project?

d. Project Costs (10 points):

- i) How realistic is the budget and is it commensurate with the project needs and time-frame?

e. Outreach and education (no points):

- i) This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. This criterion is not used in this competition.

B. Review and Selection Process

Once a full proposal is received by NOAA, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application.

Proposals determined to be in compliance and complete will be subjected to internal merit review. Merit reviewers shall rate the individual proposals using the evaluation criteria and weights provided above. Merits reviewers will not be asked to reach a consensus on individual proposals. Based on the individual reviewer scores and comments, and as appropriate the overall average scores, the OER Senior Scientist, in consultation with appropriate OER staff, will make funding recommendations to the OER Director. In making the final selections, the OER Director will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors in section V.C.

C. Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on the following factors.

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically (This includes ship availability)
 - b. By type of institutions
 - c. By type of partners
 - d. By research areas
 - e. By project types
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors (as in Section I.B).
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships and/or participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

OER will notify all applicants of the results of the internal merit review and the final recommendation to award or decline funding of a proposal in writing, by postal mail or email approximately 180 days after receipt of a full proposal. Successful applicants will receive notification from the NOAA Grants Management Division that the application has been funded. Official notification of funding, signed by a NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows OER funding of the project to begin. Notifications will be issued through electronic mail to the proposal's Authorizing Official.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of an award. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the collaboration duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement in the activities of each partnership will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and OER. Project activities should not be initiated in the expectation of grant funding until a notice of award document is received from the NOAA Grants Management Division.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Department of Commerce Requirements.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696) is applicable to this solicitation.

Limitation of Liability.

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal or project preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities identified prior to final award of a grant. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project.

National Environmental Policy Act

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216-6--TOC.pdf>, NEPA Questionnaire, <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/questionnaire.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations,

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

C. Reporting

Progress reports are due semi-annually and cover 6-month periods that begin with the start date of the project. Progress reports are due either electronically or by mail directly to the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research and are due no later than 30 days after each 6-month project period. A final report is due no later than 90 days after the expiration date of an award. Progress reports should detail collaborative activities that have occurred during the reporting period that correspond with the goals and objectives identified in the narrative, as well as provide specific, project-related information including financial reports.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information contact the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research at (301) 734-1015 or submit inquiries via email to the Frequently Asked Questions address: OAR.OE.FAQ@noaa.gov. Email inquiries should include the Principal Investigator's name in the subject heading. Inquiries can be mailed to

ATTN:

Dr. Nicolas Alvarado (Proposal Manager)

NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration

1315 East West Highway

SSMC3, 10th Floor,

Silver Spring, Maryland
20910

VIII. Other Information

By receiving funding from OER, all applicants agree to the following expectations for education and outreach, Web site requirements and data management.

A. Education & Outreach

All funded applicants and collaborators are strongly encouraged to cooperate with OER in facilitating education and outreach activities associated with their proposals. This may include participation in the development of lessons, accommodation of a teacher/educator-at-sea, participation in a media event or press conference to describe the expedition and its findings, and support for public/student tours of the research vessel and interaction with scientists. OER will assess and provide an appropriate education and/or outreach activity in collaboration with the applicant. NOAA's Ocean Explorer Website (<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>) is the principal vehicle for chronicling and documenting all missions supported by NOAA and OER. Mission participants are required to provide information for this site such as a mission plan and project summary; photographs and video clips from the mission; and be available to participate in interviews. A minimum of 15 digital, still images and 10 short video clips (one minute or less each) will be identified during the expedition by the PI, as appropriate, to illustrate the expedition on NOAA and/or other Web coverage, and for distribution to media. These materials will be appropriately credited and will, by agreement, be in the public domain.

B. Data Management Guidance

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration & Research (OER) is in accord with the 2000 President's Panel on Ocean Exploration call for a Federal program that promotes data management and dissemination to ensure that discoveries can have maximum impacts in the research, commercial, regulatory, and educational realms. OER advocates open scientific communication and expects significant findings from supported research to be promptly submitted for publication with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved. It expects PIs to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work. It also encourages grantees to share software and inventions, once appropriate protection for them has been secured, and otherwise act to make the innovations they embody widely useful and usable.

Each applicant should articulate his/her willingness to comply with these principles. The proposal Project Description should outline the plans for preservation, documentation, and

sharing of data, samples, and other related research products. Plans for handling of data and other products will be considered in the review process.

Grant recipients are responsible for archiving all acquired data sets and associated products in the appropriate NOAA archive (i.e., National Oceanographic Data Center, National Geophysical Data Center, National Coastal Data Development Center, National Climate Data Center, and the NOAA Central Library) as soon as practical and, in no case, later than two years following the completion of the expedition. Within 60 days of completion of the expedition/field work/etc, grant recipients should provide a collection level metadata record (e.g., number & type of data, and description of the data collected) to the OER Data Manager for submission to the National Data Clearinghouse. This record should be created in compliance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (FGDC-STD-001-1998) in accordance with Executive Order 12906, Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure dated April 1994 http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/executive_order. On archaeological investigations, only specific site information that is considered sensitive material under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) will not be required to be in compliance with these requirements.

The applicant is encouraged to consider budgeting appropriate resources for any anticipated costs to comply with these data management principles. This generally includes budgeting for the following types of activities: reports, reprints, page charges or other journal costs (except costs for prior or early publication); necessary illustrations; cleanup, documentation, storage and indexing of data and databases; and storage, preservation, documentation, indexing, etc., of physical samples or fabricated items.

The OER Data Manager, when not otherwise specifically designated in each Grant or Contract award, will be the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center's OER Liaison Officer (228-688-2936 or toll free 1-866-732-2382).

C. Proprietary or Privileged Information

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the proposer, should be included in proposals only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. Such information should be clearly marked in the proposal or included as a separate statement accompanying the proposal and should be appropriately labeled with a legend such as, "The following is (proprietary or confidential) information that (name of proposing organization) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation." While NOAA will make every effort to prevent unauthorized access to such material, it is not responsible or in any way liable for the release of such material.

D. Release of Grantee Proposal Information

A proposal that results in a NOAA award will be available to the public on request, except for privileged information or material that is personal, proprietary or otherwise exempt from disclosure under law. Appropriate labeling in the proposal aids identification of what may be specifically exempt. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, NOAA will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for merit review of the proposal or as otherwise authorized by law.