



**POP:** May 23, 2019 – April 22, 2020  
**Proposals due:** COB May 17, 2019

## NDSGC RESEARCH FOCUS AREA (RFA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The North Dakota Space Grant Consortium (NDSGC) is soliciting applications for Research Focus Area (RFA) funding which will be evaluated using the following criteria. Please review this information prior to submitting your application.

The RFA program is designed to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota in the following areas:

- Astronomical/planetary science
- Small satellite development
- Earth Sciences
- Materials science
- Planetary space suit research
- Other NASA-relevant research areas

### **Eligibility:**

- Faculty and any funded students must be U.S. Nationals, which is defined as a U.S. Citizen or a native resident of the United States.
- Faculty PI must be from an [NDSGC affiliate institution](#).
  - UND and NDSU faculty **cannot** serve as PI (can be co-PI).
- Faculty Co-PI can be from UND, NDSU or any NDSGC affiliate institution.
- Research must be in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) or STEM Education field, and have significant NASA-relevance.

### **Funding:**

- ~~Your request for funding requires you to include 1:1 match from your institution. (Match funding is no longer a requirement.)~~
- The amount awarded, as well as any required match, will be governed by NASA federal guidelines.
- Proposal budgets can include funding for faculty salary and benefits, undergraduate and graduate student research assistantships, research supplies/materials, and domestic faculty and student travel for field research, collaborations, presentations, etc. Major equipment cannot be funded.
- Funds must be spent between May 16, 2019 and April 22, 2020.

<http://ndspacegrant.und.edu/>

**Jim Casler, Director**  
(701) 777-3462  
[casler@space.edu](mailto:casler@space.edu)

**Caitlin Nolby, Deputy Director**  
(701) 777-4856  
[cnolby@space.edu](mailto:cnolby@space.edu)

**Marissa Saad, Coordinator**  
(701) 777-4161  
[msaad@space.edu](mailto:msaad@space.edu)



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**Proposal Checklist:**

- CV of PI and Co-PIs
- Research Narrative, Budget, and Budget Justification
- Proposals must be reviewed and approved by your institution's **Sponsored Project/Research Division** prior to it being submitted to the NDSGC.
- All materials must be uploaded as **fully searchable pdf** documents.
- All materials must be submitted by the **deadline: COB May 10, 2019**

**Apply online here:**

<http://ndspacegrant.und.edu/applications/faculty-application-form.aspx>

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## Proposal Guidance:

### 1. CV of PI (and Co-PIs)

- a. Relevant Teaching and Research Experience

### 2. Research Narrative *(Use the following headings in no more than 10 pages total for sections a – h. Page limit does not apply to references and any letters of commitment.)*

#### a. Introduction

- Overview of the scope of work, including mention of the NASA-relevance

#### b. Background

- Bigger picture of how the proposed work fits into your overall research plans and the field of study at large

#### c. Research Objectives

- Clear identification of all science and technical objectives

#### d. NASA Relevance

- Identification of current and potential applications/relevance to NASA

#### e. Implementation Strategy

- Expected deliverables: when, and by whom outlined in timetable of milestone completion

#### f. Management Plan

- Hierarchy of individuals/institutions working on the project, recruitment plan for team members not yet identified, methods for tracking and reporting progress throughout the project

#### g. Anticipated Outcomes

- Expected research outcomes, plans for publications, conference attendance, funding opportunities, future studies and collaborations

#### h. Budget

- Clear alignment between budget justification and budget items

#### i. References *(not included in page count)*

#### j. Letters of Commitment *(if applicable, not included in page count)*

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## **Proposal Evaluation:**

Collaboration across institutions, industry, and NASA centers, and interdisciplinary teams is highly encouraged. Preference will be given to PIs who have not received NDSGC RFA funding in the last fiscal year. Equipment cannot be funded through the NDSGC. Awards are anticipated to be in the \$15K - \$25K range.

It is a national priority to increase diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. This diversity consideration is included in each of the NDSGC SMART objectives. Traditionally, minority groups and women have been underrepresented in the STEM disciplines as students and faculty as well as in the workplace after graduation. All proposers are encouraged to help recruit diverse participants to their proposed projects.

Proposers are highly encouraged to reference the following documents for NASA-relevant research alignment:

- NASA 2015 [Technology Roadmap](#)
- NASA 2017 [Strategic Technology Investment Plan](#)
- NASA 2018 [Strategic Plan](#)

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit (30%)
- NASA-relevance (30%)
- Demonstrated competency of the proposed team to complete the scope of work (20%)
- Evidence of collaboration (10%)
- Budget reasonableness (10%)

All awards require: 1) a final report is due 30 days after your award ends, and 2) presentation of results at the annual NDSGC affiliates meeting.

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