

information from this project will be delivered to those users.

3. Goal(s) and Objective(s). Describe in the narrative the specific project goals and objectives to be achieved. Describe how these project goals support the broader goals of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

4. Project Description/Methodology. Provide a general work plan that identifies specific tasks to be accomplished, explains the technical approach (including quality control protocols) needed to accomplish the tasks, identifies the roles of partners and cooperators, and identifies potential obstacles to successful completion of the goals and objectives. Describe how potential users are involved in the planning and design process.

5. Milestone Schedule. Display time lines for major tasks, target milestones for important intermediate and final products, and key project outcomes. The time period (period of performance) for the award may be 1–3 years, but funding is assured for only the first year.

6. Project Budget. Provide a detailed budget description that follows the categories and formats in the NOAA grants package and a brief narrative justification of the budget.

7. Resumes. Provide resumes of the Principal Investigator for the project and for other key personnel critical to the success of the project. Ensure that resumes address qualifications relevant to conducting the proposed work. Please limit to two pages for each.

#### **Evaluation Criteria (with Weights) and Selection Process**

A review panel, composed of two NOAA and two non-NOAA reviewers, will be established to evaluate the proposals on the basis of the evaluation criteria listed below. The panelists will provide individual evaluations of proposals, thus there will be no consensus recommendation. All proposals reviewed will be ranked according to the average score and the selecting official (the Center's Director) will use those rankings as the basis for the final funding decisions. The selecting official may also consider the following program policy factors: geographic and institutional balance. Thus proposals with the highest scores may not necessarily be selected for award. Reviewers of the proposal will be asked to judge the merits of the proposal with respect to the following criteria:

##### **1. Significance (25%):**

How well does the proposal demonstrate that the project will directly or indirectly address critical

national, regional, state or local management needs? Are the goals and objectives clearly articulated and relevant to the stated management or science need?

##### **2. Approach (20%):**

Is the technical approach appropriate for the stated goals and objectives? Are the goals and objectives achievable within the proposed timeframe? Does the proposed approach follow a logical work plan with clearly defined and measurable milestones? Do the proposed approaches incorporate innovative or state of the art methodologies? Does the proposal explicitly address data management practices that meet or exceed FGDC standards and promote interoperability with other components of a national ocean observing system?

##### **3. Project Management (10%):**

Does the proposal demonstrate institutional support for the project? Are the principal investigators and the organizational framework and personnel qualified to conduct a project of the nature and scope proposed?

##### **4. Partnerships (15%):**

Does the proposed project engage external partners to make effective use of complimentary capabilities and competencies beneficial to this project? Is the user community clearly identified and are members of the identified user community engaged in the design and execution of the project or its products? Is duplication of effort reduced through strategic partnerships?

##### **5. Application of Results (20%):**

Does the proposal demonstrate that it will significantly address relevant science and management issues? Does the proposal demonstrate that information generated by the project will reach its target audience and have a positive impact on the users ability to perform their responsibilities? Does the proposal include outreach and education components that will ensure the results are effectively applied to address the identified issues?

##### **6. Cost Efficiency (10%):**

Does the proposal demonstrate that the budget is commensurate with project needs?

#### **Selection Schedule**

Proposals will be reviewed once during the year. The following schedule lists the dates for the project selection and award process for grants: Proposal Deadline (with completed grant package) May 30, 2003. The review

process will take up to three months, and applicants will not be notified of the status of their application until the review process is completed. Earliest Approximate Grant Start Date 1 October 2003. Note: All deadlines are for receipt by close of business (5 p.m. Eastern time) on the dates identified. Receipt of proposal and grant package (with original signatures) will be time stamped. Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed by the Program Manager and not returned to the applicant.

#### **Funding Availability**

Total funding available for the Coastal Observing System Projects with the Director's Office is anticipated to be no more than \$750,000 and funding will be distributed among multiple Projects. The Coastal Services Center desires to fund two types of projects to benefit the development of regional coastal ocean observing systems: (1) projects that facilitate building partnerships and regional organizational structures for regional observing systems (estimated funding for this type of project is anticipated to be between \$200,000 to \$350,000 with two to five grants being awarded ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000), and (2) regional pilot projects (estimated funding for this type of project is anticipated to be between \$250,000 to \$500,000 with only one or two grants being awarded). Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to fund any specific grant or to award all or any parts of the available funds.

#### **Cost Sharing**

There is no requirement for cost sharing in response to this program announcement.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profit and for-profit organizations, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Organizations are encouraged to collaborate in development of multi-institutional proposals, however, funding for such a proposal must be awarded to a single (lead) entity that then has responsibility for administration and execution of any subawards. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement, but may be project partners. Note: Federal agencies or institutions who are project partners must demonstrate that they have legal