

order to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, email address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Tuesday, May 6, 2003, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Peter's e-mail address is carolyn.peters@nist.gov and her phone number is 301/975-5607.

DATES: The meeting will convene May 8, 2003 at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on May 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Employees' Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. Please note admittance instructions under the **SUMMARY** paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Hines, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-3360.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on March 11, 2003, that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of proposed funding of the MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because that portion will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of the staffing of positions in MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in that portion of the meeting is likely to reveal information of a personal nature, where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: April 14, 2003.

Karen H. Brown,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 03-9867 Filed 4-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030411083-3083-01]

RIN 0648-ZB40

Call for Proposals for Research in the Area of Climate and Weather Impacts on Society and the Environment

AGENCIES: National Climatic Data Center and Coastal Services Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA); Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Federal assistance.

SUMMARY: NOAA invites applications to establish a cooperative agreement with two of NOAA's centers, the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) and the Coastal Services Center (CSC). In general terms, the agreement will be established to provide a collaborative environment between the National Climatic Data Center, the Coastal Services Center, and the recipient, within which a broad-based research program will be conducted that links climate and weather processes, the formation of severe events, and the impacts of these events for the region of the South Atlantic Bight, including the coastal ocean to the mountain environment. This announcement provides guidelines for the proposed cooperative agreement, and includes details for the technical program, proposal development, evaluation criteria, and competitive selection procedures. NOAA will collaborate on cooperative research and development activities and provide financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived from the research results, including practical applications for the needs of coastal and inland communities. The selected applicant and NOAA will work together to engage the support of both the science and management communities, and ensure that a broad group of constituents will benefit from the products as well as contribute to their design and use. The agreement will be established based on ease and effectiveness of interaction and collaboration with the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center, and/or expertise in areas related to the missions of NOAA, particularly the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center. The selected applicant will also be expected to identify, and as appropriate, establish relationships with other NOAA program offices that may benefit from, or collaborate in, the work conducted under the cooperative agreement.

DATES: Complete applications must be received by the National Climatic Data Center no later than 4 p.m. May 22, 2003. Final selection is anticipated to be completed by approximately June 15, 2003. The anticipated start date is September 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Signed proposals, with two copies, should be submitted to: National Climatic Data Center; 151 Patton Avenue, Room 476, Asheville, NC 28801-5001. Proposals should cite this

Notice and be sent to the attention of Linda Statler.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Administrative questions, Linda Statler, (828) 271-4657, Linda.S.Statler@noaa.gov. Technical point of contact is Marc Plantico, (828) 271-4765, Marc.Plantico@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Funding Instrument:* The selected recipient will enter into a 4-year cooperative agreement to support the development of a cooperative research program with NOAA's National Climatic Data Center and Coastal Services Center in the area of climate and weather impacts on society and the environment (including severe climate weather impacts in North and South Carolina).

Authority: Statutory authority for these programs is provided under 49 U.S.C. 44720; 33 U.S.C. 883d; 15 U.S.C. 2907; 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; the Global Change Research Act, 15 U.S.C. 2921-2961; and the National Climate Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901-2908.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under the Number 11.440, Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.

Funding Availability: Funding for the first year (FY 2003) is anticipated to be approximately \$375,000. Each additional year is anticipated to be approximately \$400,000 per year thereafter for the term of the agreement. However, funding is contingent upon availability of appropriations and is at the sole discretion of NOAA. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this announcement.

Cost Sharing: Applicant will be required to contribute at least 5 percent (from non-Federal funds) of the total amount contributed by NOAA each year if the application is approved. This should be shown in the budget.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations are limited to U.S. institutions. Eligible organizations are universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes. Multiple organizations may collaborate in submitting a single proposal, but the award will be made to a single organization with the primary responsibility for administration and execution of the agreement.

Program Description

The primary purpose of establishing a cooperative agreement is to bring together the resources of a research-