

2003, and may be submitted by e-mail to IslanderEast.comments@noaa.gov. Comments may also be sent by mail to the Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Comments will be made available to the Appellant and the State; they will also be posted on a Department of Commerce website identified below.

III. Appeal Documents

The Secretary has required that Islander East file its initial brief and supplementary information on February 10, 2003, and that the State of Connecticut file its initial brief and supplementary material on March 24, 2003. NOAA intends to provide the public with access to all materials and related documents comprising the appeal record via the internet at www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm, except that certain materials or documents or portions thereof may be withheld if they contain confidential materials, critical energy infrastructure information, national security information or other types of information that would be inappropriate for public release. In addition, technical constraints may limit the internet availability of certain documents, such as oversized maps or exceedingly lengthy publications. All public materials and documents will be available during business hours at the NOAA Office of the General Counsel for Ocean Service. In addition, the State of Connecticut will make copies of public filings by the parties available for review during business hours at the office of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Assistance)

Dated: January 21, 2003.

James R. Walpole,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-1634 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 020814191-2191-01]

Establishment of a Joint or Cooperative Institute Within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Joint and Cooperative Institute Program

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Request for Letters of Intent and Guidelines for Submission of Full Proposals.

SUMMARY: NOAA invites interested institutions to submit Letters of Intent (LOI) indicating interest in establishing a Joint or Cooperative Institute within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Joint and Cooperative Institute Program. The proposed name of the Joint Institute will be the Cooperative Institute for Climate Applications and Research. The OAR Joint and Cooperative Institute Program is listed in the CFDA under number 11.432, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Joint and Cooperative Institutes.

The Institutes represent a close link between OAR laboratories, other branches of NOAA and the external research community. NOAA collaborates on cooperative research activities and provides financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived from these research activities. The Institutes are established based on their geographical proximity to a NOAA facility, and/or their expertise in areas related to the mission of the NOAA/OAR research laboratories.

DATES: Letters of Intent should be submitted no later than February 24, 2003. Response letters will be issued from NOAA approximately 45 days after the date of the **Federal Register** Announcement. Institutions will be informed of the submittal date for full proposals in the response letter.

ADDRESSES: Letters of Intent and proposals should be submitted to: Dr. Ants Leetmaa; NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory; Forrestrail Campus Rt. 1; P.O. Box 308; Princeton, NJ 08452-0308.

An Application Kit can be obtained from: Mr. Michael Nelson; NOAA Grants Management Division; Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg. 2, Room 9348; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ants Leetmaa; NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory; Forrestrail Campus Rt. 1; P.O. Box 308; Princeton, NJ 08452-0308.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 44720; 33 U.S.C. 883d; 15 U.S.C. 2907; 15 U.S.C. 2931.

II. Program Description

Funding: The base funding for the Institute is expected to be \$100,000 per year. However, funding is contingent upon availability of funds and is at the sole discretion of NOAA.

The funding instrument will be a Cooperative Agreement based on the envisioned substantial involvement of NOAA scientists in projects undertaken by the Institute. NOAA collaborates on cooperative research activities and provides financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived from these research activities. NOAA envisions a sharing of expertise between GFDL and the proposed Institute in the areas of: earth system modeling, modern and paleoclimatic observations, and climate variability and change applications research. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this announcement. The award will have an initial base term of five years. An OAR-sponsored, independent panel will conduct a review of the Institute during the fourth year of the five year term. The Panel's findings and recommendations will serve as the basis for renewal of the Institute for an additional five years.

Program Priorities: The Institute will be affiliated with the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) located in Princeton, New Jersey. The Institute will align itself with the following GFDL research priorities:

a. *Earth System modeling:* Including, but not limited to, the development of dynamical models of the global climate system, and the production of forecasts of the long-term variability of the climate.

b. *Modern and paleoclimatic observations:* including but not limited to standard hydrographic observations and the construction and analysis of new proxies (e.g. geochemical and isotopic tracers in deep-sea sediments, aquifers, tree rings and ice cores) for studies of climate variability and change, including abrupt climate changes.

c. *Climate variability and change applications research:* including but not limited to the study of communication between forecasters and users of forecasts; the application of climate variability and change information to decision making in fields such as water resources, agriculture, human health, and policy making; and institutional mechanisms for responding to climate variability and change information.

The Institute is meant to be an integral component in a coordinated