

## Partnerships

Strong linkages or collaborations with NOAA programs, laboratories and facilities are required. Innovative approaches to training students are sought that take maximum advantage of the synergies and partnerships with other universities, community colleges, research institutions, industry, government and nongovernmental agencies, and other organizations (public, nonprofit, or private). Partnerships should engage students in applied research projects, internships, entrepreneurial and hands-on training experiences, mentored by academic and industry professionals, that will facilitate the entry of MSI students into careers, advanced study and environmental entrepreneurship directly related to NOAA's mission. There is no requirement for a MSI or partner to provide matching funds. NOAA retains the right to allocate funds differently than indicated above if the number of proposals received is not balanced across these two categories, or the proposal quality does not warrant the stated allocation. In such cases, funds may be shifted between the two funding categories.

## Proposals

*Preliminary Proposals* must not exceed five pages and must clearly articulate how the MSI and partners will foster student careers, entrepreneurship opportunities and advanced academic study directly related to NOAA sciences.

*Full Proposals* must be submitted by an eligible MSI (see Section III. Eligibility) and must submit a rigorous work plan, a strong rationale, and clearly identified and achievable goals. Proposals must identify strong linkages or collaborations with NOAA programs, laboratories and facilities. Proposals should emphasize innovative approaches to encouraging, preparing, and graduating MSI students for environmental entrepreneurial careers and opportunities. Direct student support must be at least twenty-five percent [25%] of the total budget. Projects must contain multiple-year participation by students and include effective use of role models and mentors from academia and partner organizations. A plan for evaluating the outcome of the project must be included. Proposals must identify the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s) who will be significantly involved in carrying out the proposal. At least one Co-Principal Investigator must be identified who is experienced enough to assume the responsibility of

carrying out the proposal in the absence of the Principal Investigator.

## III. Eligibility

Minority Serving Institutions eligible to submit proposals include institutions of higher education identified by the Department of Education as:

- (i) Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
- (ii) Hispanic-Serving Institutions,
- (iii) Tribal Colleges and Universities,
- (iv) Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

on the most recent "2002 United States Department of Education Accredited Post-Secondary Minority Institutions" list: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/minorityinst.html>

## IV. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted under the NOAA EPP/MSI Environmental Entrepreneurship Program are weighted as follows:

(1) *Technical and Educational Merit (40 percent)*: The degree to which the activity will advance or transfer knowledge and understanding of environmental fields, education, or professional fields directly related to NOAA's mission; the qualifications and capability of the MSI (including sufficient time for the Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator and other pertinent individuals and partners) to conduct the project, the ability to involve a significant number of individuals from the MSI's student population successfully in the project (including at least 25% in direct student support), and multi-year participation by students that includes the effective use of role models and mentors from academia and partner organizations; the degree to which the activity explores creative and original concepts; the overall design and organizations of the planned activity; the strength of proposed partnerships between the MSI, NOAA and the public-private sector to help meet the goals of the project (including sufficient travel funds directed for the Principal Investigator to participate in the NOAA Educational Partnership Program annual meeting).

(2) *Impact of Proposed Project (60 percent)*: The contributions the project will make to enhancing the capability of the MSI to bring education, applied research or hands-on training opportunities to its student and faculty populations in the environmental fields directly related to NOAA's mission; the benefit accruing to the institution from participation in the NOAA EPP/MSI: Environmental Entrepreneurship Program; the degree to which the

proposed activity develops mechanisms that will broaden and sustain the capacity of MSIs to prepare students for careers, advanced academic study and entrepreneurship opportunities in environmental fields directly related to NOAA's mission; the extent to which the proposed activity will enhance and improve outreach, education, training, and applied research at MSIs; and the adequacy of the plan for evaluating the outcome of the project. For environmental demonstration projects, the degree to which the project is expected to prevent, control, and reduce environmental degradation to communities.

## V. Selection Procedures

Preliminary proposals will be reviewed by NOAA. NOAA will conduct a review to assess which preliminary proposals best meet the program goals and objectives and eligibility criteria (stated in Section IV). NOAA will make a determination of the preliminary proposals and recommend which preliminary proposals should be fully developed for evaluation. On the basis of these recommendations, the Director of the EPP/MSI program will advise proposers whether or not the submission of full proposal is recommended for consideration. Invitation to submit a full proposal does not constitute an indication that proposal will be funded. Preliminary proposals are required and must be submitted by the deadline prior to full proposal. A full proposal cannot be submitted if a preliminary proposal has not been submitted. Interested parties who submitted preliminary proposals in accordance with the procedure described in this notice may, if they wish, submit full proposals even if the Director of the EPP/MSI program does not encourage full proposal submission.

Full proposals submitted by April 17, 2003 will be reviewed by an independent peer review panel comprised of a broad representation of government, industry and academic experts. The panel members will rank proposals in accordance with the above evaluation criteria (Section IV). The panel members will provide individual evaluations on proposals, but there will be no consensus recommendation. The panel rankings and evaluations will be considered by NOAA in the final selection of proposals to be funded. NOAA may also consider programmatic or geographic balance and budget availability in the final selection of proposals, hence, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored proposal.