

the United States Weather Research Program (USWRP), established under section 108 of the NOAA Authorization Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 313 note), as governed by the USWRP Joint Hurricane Testbed (JHT). The JHT is operated by NOAA in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Navy. This notice also provides guidelines for the submission of full proposals. This notice describes opportunities and application procedures for the transfer of relevant research and technology advances into tropical cyclone analysis and forecast operations. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, other non-profit, and commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. This notice calls for researchers to submit proposals to test and evaluate, and modify if necessary, in a quasi-operational environment, their own scientific and technological research applications. Projects satisfying metrics for success and operational constraints may be selected for operational implementation after the completion of the JHT-funded work. The period of the award is from one up to two years.

DATES: Preapplications submitted by Principal Investigators (PIs) must be received at the Tropical Prediction Center in Miami, Florida (address provided below) no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on February 3, 2003. Response letters will be sent from NOAA no later than 5 p.m. EST on March 4, 2003.

PIs will be informed of the submittal deadline for full proposals in the response letter.

ADDRESSES: Preapplication and full proposals must be submitted, in accordance with the requirements described in Section VIII of this notice, to: Dr. Jiann-Gwo Jiing, Director, Joint Hurricane Testbed, Tropical Prediction Center, 11691 SW. 17th Street, Miami, FL 33165. Full proposals must be submitted as printed hard copies to the above address. Preapplications may be sent as printed hard copies to the above address, or they may be submitted electronically by sending in portable document format (PDF) via e-mail to: Jiann-Gwo.Jiing@noaa.gov.

The standard NOAA Grants and Cooperative Agreement Application Package, which contains required forms to be submitted with a full proposal (but not with a preapplication), and other important supplemental information to this notice (an overview of the JHT and operational Tropical Prediction Center IT environments), can be obtained by contacting Karen King, DOC/NOAA,

Office of Weather & Air Quality Research, Routing Code R/WA, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11216, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone (301) 713-0460 ext. 202, e-mail Karen.King@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen King, DOC/NOAA, Office of Weather & Air Quality Research, Routing Code R/WA, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11216, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone (301) 713-0460 ext. 202, e-mail Karen.King@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2904(c)(3).

II. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

11.431—Climate and Atmospheric Research

III. Program Description

The USWRP, via the JHT, seeks to accelerate the rate at which promising research and technology benefit operational tropical cyclone analysis and forecasting. The goal of this notice is to identify such promising research and technology, and to support the testing and evaluation, in a quasi-operational environment, of techniques and applications developed and provided by PIs to responding to this notice. Federal assistance is provided to PIs allow them to tailor their techniques for the operational environment. Depending upon the nature of the proposed research and technology, PIs are asked to provide documentation and instructions to facilitate the testing and evaluation of their techniques by operational center staff. Projects satisfying metrics for success and operational constraints may be selected for operational implementation after the completion of the JHT-funded work.

JHT Projects: Whereas the operational forecast center where JHT projects will be tested and evaluated could be the NOAA Tropical Prediction Center/ National Hurricane Center (TPC/NHC), the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) operated by the United States Navy and Air Force, or the NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), TPC/NHC will be specified in this document, both for brevity and to acknowledge the current focus of the JHT on that operational center. Use of other facilities is possible depending on requirements, workload, and opportunity.

The JHT mission is to facilitate the rapid and smooth transfer of new technology, research results, and observational advances of the USWRP,

its sponsoring agencies, the academic community, and other groups into improved tropical cyclone analysis and prediction at operational centers. This mission will be accomplished by funded PIs and their support staffs, in collaboration with operational center forecasters and other staff, and facilitated by JHT staff, via the following JHT project activities (as relevant to each project):

(1) Utilizing a quasi-operational environment to facilitate the testing and evaluation by operational center forecasters and support staff of research products and techniques provided by the PIs, subject to metrics that mandate good scientific performance while meeting forecaster ease-of-use needs and time constraints.

(2) Preparation for funded researchers of scientific and technical documentation that is sufficient to facilitate the testing and evaluation of the new product or technique.

(3) Utilizing advanced statistical and numerical model output and stimulating model improvement in tropical cyclone analysis and forecast applications.

(4) Completing tests of codes provided by the PIs that preferably follow established and open programming standards for ease of portability.

(5) Facilitating the transfer of tested and evaluated forecast guidance products, research codes, and observations into the computer, communication, and display systems of the operational forecast center, while incorporating adjustments necessary to generate forecast guidance products that are forecaster-friendly and time-efficient.

Upon acceptance of a proposal, JHT staff will provide project administration and facilitation. The JHT Director will coordinate with each project PI, prior to initiation, a time line and well-defined operational metric(s) for success in terms of scientific performance, ease of use, and time constraints. The time line and progress toward success will be monitored and updated during the project. Additionally, the TPC/NHC Director will designate for the project the forecaster and/or technical point(s) of contact from the TPC/NHC staff.

The JHT will provide to the funded projects access to the JHT IT infrastructure (computer hardware, software, and data) to facilitate the testing and evaluation in an environment that closely matches that of the operational center. An overview of the JHT and TPC/NHC operational IT environments can be obtained along with the standard NOAA Grants and Cooperative Agreement Application Package, as described previously in the