

of NCEP. Work should be concluded within a two year period.

High priority areas of work associated with NWP advancements for tropical cyclone forecasting are:

(EMC 1) General model improvements to advance track and intensity forecasts.

(EMC 2) Improved boundary layer representation for coupled air/sea/land models by, for example, exploiting results from field projects such as C-BLAST (for improved parameterization of surface fluxes in high wind regimes, and effects of sea spray on transfer coefficients).

(EMC 3) Improved targeting strategies for hurricane surveillance missions to improve model track forecasts.

(EMC 4) Model validation techniques suitable for 3D high resolution verification for storms in the process of extratropical transition or storms at landfall.

(EMC 5) Diagnostic techniques to further increase the utility of global models (e.g., NCEP, UKMO, NOGAPS) in forecasting tropical cyclone genesis.

IV. Funding Availability

The estimate for total JHT funding that will be available in FY 2003 is \$1,500,000. Funding of any JHT proposals is contingent upon availability of these funds. NOAA issues this notice subject to appropriations made available under the current continuing resolution (CR), H.J. Res. 111, "Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes," Public Law 107-229, as amended by H.J. Res. 112, Public Law 107-235, H.J. Res. 122, Public Law 107-240, H.J. Res. 123, Public Law 107-224, and H.J. Res. 124, Public Law 107-294. NOAA anticipates making awards under this program provided that funding for the USWRP is continued beyond January 11, 2003, the expiration of the current continuing resolution. Issuance of awards, however, is subject to the future availability of fiscal year 2003 funds. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is canceled because of other agency priorities.

V. Funding Instrument

The funding instrument will be a Cooperative Agreement based on the envisioned substantial involvement of NOAA scientists in projects funded by this notice. NOAA collaborates on cooperative research activities and provides financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived from these research activities. NOAA envisions that JHT project testing and

evaluation will involve close collaboration, facilitated by the JHT staff, between JHT-funded researchers and operational center forecasters and point(s) of contact.

VI. Eligibility

Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, other non-profit, and commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Funding for contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this notice.

VII. Award Period

The period of awards is from one up to two years. All funded PIs are required to submit written semiannual reports during the project to describe the progress made toward the goals and deliverables established in the original proposal and agreed-upon time line. A final report must also be submitted at the conclusion of the project. The due dates for these reports will be coordinated with the JHT Director upon project initiation. Two-year projects will be reviewed by the JHT Steering Committee, and/or other designated reviewers, and the JHT and TPC/NHC Directors near the end of the first year for suitability for continuation into the second year. PIs are required to submit a renewal proposal along with the second semiannual report for this review. The renewal proposal must provide updates to the project work plan, deliverables, time line. IT requirements, budget, documentation and training plans, etc. This review is also based upon the semiannual reports and upon feedback received from the TPC/NHC point(s) of contact. The criteria upon which the renewal review is based are: (1) The progress toward milestones in the original time line, (2) the potential for completing the testing and evaluation process and providing the stated deliverables by the end of the second year, and (3) appropriateness and reasonableness of the budget with respect to available JHT funds. Given a favorable review, each project may be funded for a second year.

A JHT project reaches its completion in one of two ways. A two-year project may end at any time, particularly after appropriately one year if the TPC/NHC and JHT Directors and the JHT Steering Committee (and/or other designated reviewers) decide, as described above, that insufficient progress has been made to justify continuation of the project into year two. A JHT project ends more conventionally with the submission of a final report at the conclusion of the original agreed-upon project duration,

with the subsequent action being the decision by the TPC/NHC Director on whether or not operational implementation of the project deliverables will occur.

VIII. Submission Requirements

The guidelines for preparation of preapplications and full proposals provided below are mandatory (except where otherwise noted). Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in preapplications and/or full proposals being returned without review. See the "Dates" and "Addresses" sections following the "Summary" earlier in this notice for submission deadlines and addresses.

A. Preapplications (PA)

(1) Prior to submitting a full proposal, PIs are strongly encouraged to submit a PA for each planned proposal. However, PIs who do not submit a PA will not be precluded from submitting a full proposal.

(2) The PA must be no more than two pages in length, using a 12-point font and one inch margins, and it must include the name(s) of the PI(s) and their home institution(s).

(3) The PA must contain a brief description of the intended project.

(4) The PA must include a brief budget which summarizes how resources will be allocated [e.g., salaries, computing and communications, equipment (provide justification), indirect charges, and travel]. Note that funding for secretarial support and IT improvements at the PI's home institution is not generally available.

(5) Each PA will be reviewed, following the criteria specified below in Section IX of this notice, by members of the JHT Steering Committee and/or other designated reviewers, who will make their recommendations to the JHT Director and TPC/NHC Director.

(6) PIs will not be encouraged to submit a full proposal for any PA deemed to be unresponsive to this notice. However, they will not be precluded from submitting a full proposal for any such PA.

B. Full Proposals

(1) The proposal must include a title page signed by the PI(s) and the appropriate representatives(s) of their home institution(s). Each PI and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number, mailing address, and e-mail address.

(2) A one page abstract must be included and must contain a brief summary of the work to be completed. The abstract must appear on a separate