

**Outreach & Education.** All funded applicants and collaborators will be required to cooperate with OE in facilitating education and outreach activities. This may entail participation in the development of lesson plans, professional development for teachers, accommodation of a teacher/educator-at-sea, and at-sea media participation.

**Data Management.** In accepting full or partial OE sponsorship, each applicant is obligated to meet certain data management requirements including:

1. Applicants will provide metadata, *e.g.*, number and type of data, and description of the data collected immediately upon completion of a project cruise. Other data or data products may also be required at the discretion of the OE Director.

2. Applicants will provide OE and the public access to acquired data sets collected as soon as practical and, in no case, later than one year following the date of collection, unless an extension is specifically granted by OE.

Proposals should include a description and justification of data funding needs and explain how data will be made accessible or available to the public.

3. NOAA's Ocean Explorer Web site (<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>) is the principal vehicle for chronicling and documenting all missions supported by NOAA and OE. Applicants and mission participants will be required to provide material (*i.e.*, throughout the mission) for this site such as cruise tracks, preliminary bathymetry, characterization of data collected, photographic or other images from the mission, and participants interviews, essays, or written materials. Funded applicants will be required to cooperate with the NOAA Ocean Explorer website team which may include accommodation of a NOAA web team member. (See Ancillary Information at: <http://explore.noaa.gov>).

#### D. Funding Considerations

OE will give priority to the following factors when making funding decisions: (1) Proposals that are interdisciplinary in approach; (2) Proposals which have substantial collaborations with multiple institutions, government, academia, or industry; (3) Proposals whose costs are leveraged with available OE funds; (4) The propriety of the level of investment for OE; (5) Applicants which express a willingness to facilitate and participate in outreach and education activities that OE supports; and (6) The heightened level of risk.

#### IV. Funding Availability

FY2004 funding for this program has not yet been appropriated. Not all available FY2004 program funds will be awarded through this announcement. Publication of this Notice does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate all or any part of the available funds.

Proposals are encouraged for collaborations and explorations ranging from the tens of thousands of dollars to funds appropriate for up to two months of expeditionary exploration work. Multi-year proposals may be accepted, although the present principal focus of the OE program will be on one-year projects and expeditions. Out-year funding will be contingent upon factors including successful accomplishment of prior-year objectives as well as availability of program funding and other relevant resources.

#### V. Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, federal, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Proposals from non-Federal and Federal applicants will be competed against each other. Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this notice. Proposals selected for funding from NOAA scientists shall be effected by an intra-agency fund transfer. Proposals selected for funding from a non-NOAA Federal agency will be funded through an inter-agency transfer. *Please note:* Before non-NOAA Federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of their appropriation. Because this announcement is not proposing to procure goods or services from applicants, the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis.

There is no limit to the number of pre-proposals and proposals an applicant may submit. Applicants that fail to meet eligibility requirements and guidelines for submission will not be funded (*see* section V. and VI.)

#### Cost Sharing

Cost sharing or matching is not required by this program (However, *see* section II.D. Funding Considerations (3)).

#### VI. Guidelines for Submission

There will be a two-stage competition with pre-proposals utilized for an initial selection process. Full proposals will be

solicited from investigators who submit successful pre-proposals. An approved pre-proposal is a prerequisite for submission of a full proposal. Pre-proposals will be judged in terms of their consistency with OE's program mission and themes. Available program funds will also be taken into consideration (*See DATES* for submission deadlines and *ADDRESSES* for hard copy submission address).

#### A. Preliminary Proposals

A pre-proposal should include a summary of the proposed research, project priorities, a statement of objectives, and a description of how the proposed project relates with OE's mission. The area of proposed operations must be clearly defined (*e.g.*, including latitude, longitude, and depth). Required platforms or other critical assets should be identified. The pre-proposal should make clear any time or other operational constraints, especially with regard to field operations. Any auxiliary funding sources for the proposed project should be identified. Pre-proposals must identify all collaborators and include a summary budget. Pre-proposals must not exceed two typewritten single-sided pages and must use 12-point font. Additionally, pre-proposals must include a completed pre-proposal cover sheet (available electronically at <http://explore.noaa.gov>) (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT* to request a hard copy version). The applicant's last name must be typed in the bottom right-hand corner of each page. Three hard copies of the complete pre-proposal must be postmarked or received by September 3, 2003. *See ADDRESSES* for hard copy submission address.

#### B. Proposals

All proposals must include the following, packaged in the order listed here:

- (a) completed proposal cover sheet (available electronically at <http://explore.noaa.gov>);

- (b) maximum half-page executive summary;

- (c) maximum 15-page description of the entire project (including work plan, schedule, and collaborations);

- (d) summary of relevant current funding support;

- (e) brief resumes for each investigator, including recent relevant publication references,

- (f) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (Rev July 1997) (available electronically at <http://explore.noaa.gov>);

- (g) detailed budget (including all ship and equipment costs) and