

multidisciplinary peer review as well as Federal review of scientific validity for use in operations. Funding for non-U.S. institutions is not available under this announcement.

### Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria and weighting of the criteria are as follows:

(1) *Operational Applicability (30 percent)*: What is the likelihood of the proposed science activities to improve operational hydrometeorological services? Are proposed research activities transferrable to forecast operations in a reasonable time frame?

(2) *Scientific Merit (25 percent)*: What is the intrinsic scientific value and maturity of the subject and the study proposed as they relate to the specific science priorities?

(3) *Technology Transfer and Methodology (25 percent)*: What is the degree of collaboration with multiple operational units throughout the project? What is the level of planning by researchers to integrate results into operations successfully and efficiently? Were focused scientific objectives and strategies, including data management considerations, project milestones, and timeliness, used?

(4) *Capability of researchers (10 percent)*: Do PIs clearly document past scientific collaborations with operational meteorologists? Have past interactions been successful? Are researchers likely to maintain effective and consistent interactions with operational forecasts throughout the course of the proposed research program? Have researchers demonstrated the ability to conduct successful research?

(5) *Cost Effectiveness (10 percent)*: Do researchers demonstrate the ability to leverage other resources? Is there a high ratio of operationally useful results versus proposed costs?

### Selection Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated and individually ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by an independent peer panel review. Three to seven NWS experts representing NWS Regions and Centers may be used in this process. Their recommendations and evaluations will be considered, along with the program policy factors discussed below, by the selecting official who will select the proposals to be funded and determine the amount of funds available for each proposal. Unsatisfactory performance by a recipient under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Because the selecting official

will take into account program policy factors, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest scored proposals.

### Program Policy Factors

The selecting official may take into account the need to spread awards geographically and among priorities and universities. While a university may submit more than one application, the selecting official may limit the awards to only one per university. Finally, the amount of funds available and whether an application substantially duplicates other projects currently approved for funding or funded by NOAA or other Federal agencies may be considered by the selecting official.

### Proposal Submission

Proposals must adhere to the five provisions under "Proposals" and the seven requirements under "Required Elements" by the deadline of February 21, 2003. Failure to follow these restrictions will result in proposals being returned to the submitter without review. In addition, applicants should note those provisions under "Other Requirements/Information" that must be complied with before an award can be made.

### Proposals

(1) Proposals submitted to the NOAA NWS CSTAR Program must include the original and two unbound copies of the proposal.

(2) Investigators are not required to submit more than three copies of the proposal. Investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient proposal copies for the full review process if they wish all reviewers to receive color, unusually sized (not 8.5 x 11), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only an original version of the federally required forms and two copies are needed.

(3) Proposals should be no more than 30 pages (numbered) in length, including budget, investigators vitae, and all appendices and should be limited to funding requests for 1- to 3-year duration. Appended information should be counted within the 30-page total. Federally mandated forms are not included within the page count.

(4) Proposals should be sent to the NWS (see **ADDRESSES**).

(5) Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of full proposals will not be accepted.

### Required Elements

All proposals should include the following elements:

(1) *Signed title page*. The title page should be signed by the PIs and the

institutional representative and should clearly indicate which project area is being addressed. The PIs and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number, and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) *Abstract*: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction of the problem, rationale, and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear on a separate page, headed with the proposal title, institution's investigators, total proposed cost, and budget period.

(3) *Results from prior research*. The results of related projects supported by NOAA and other agencies should be described, including their relation to the currently proposed work. Reference to each prior research award should include the title, agency, award number, PIs, period of award, and total award. The section should be a brief summary and should not exceed two pages total.

(4) *Project description*. The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem; scientific objectives; proposed methodology; relevance to the priorities of the NWS Region or NCEP service center; operational applicability; scientific merit; proposed technology transfer; past collaborations with operational hydrometeorologists; cost effectiveness of research; and the program priorities listed above. Benefits of the proposed project to the general public and the scientific community should be discussed. A year-by-year summary of proposed work must be included. The project description, including references but excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 15 pages of text. In general, proposals from three or more investigators may include a project description containing up to 15 pages of overall project description plus up to 5 additional pages for individual project descriptions.

(5) *Budget*. Applicants must submit a Standard Form 424 "Application for Federal Assistance," including a detailed budget using the Standard Form 424a, "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs." The form is included in the standard NOAA application kit. The proposal must include total and annual budgets corresponding with the descriptions provided in the project description. Additional text to justify expenses should be included as necessary.

(6) *Vitae*. Abbreviated curriculum vitae are sought with each proposal. Reference lists should be limited to all