Request for Proposals

Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program

Seed Research Initiation (SRI) Grant

NASA in Kansas

Proposal Due: Noon, Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Anticipated Grant End Date: May 31, 2027

With support from NASA and the Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program (KNEP) anticipates awarding two Seed Research Initiation (SRI) grants under the KNEP Research Infrastructure Development (RID) program. SRI grants are designed to assist investigators in starting research projects having a high probability for sustained growth and value to NASA and Kansas.

A successful SRI grant leads to productive collaborations, joint publications, and additional grant awards. A direct impact on state economic development is also extremely desirable. Ultimately, the goal is to form long-term self-sustaining nationally competitive capabilities that meet both NASA and Kansas' research infrastructure development goals.

Award Criteria

SRI Awards are competitive, with a strong emphasis on:

- Addressing NASA and Kansas interests (required)
- Developing new, meaningful, and sustained collaborations (in Kansas and with NASA)
- Involving U.S. students, undergraduate and graduate, in research (required)
- Strengthening collaboration among industry, government agencies, and academia
- Exploring new and unique R&D opportunities
- Generating publications and future EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR grant submissions
- Contributing to Kansas' economic development

Additional information on NASA and Kansas strategic objectives and other resources can be found in the appendices of this document.

Proposals must detail other important infrastructure development-related components, including:

- Investigator experience and long-term research plans
- Investigator-specific goals, objectives, and priorities
- Measurable, award-related deliverables or metrics
- Information on the proper coordination and management of proposed multi-investigator teams
- Detailed budget information; including all costs, matching funds, and any indirect cost waivers

The KNEP SRI program cannot support proposals augmenting existing funded or well-established research projects. NASA specifically states: "*EPSCoR RID elements should not augment existing funded research projects. RID activities should target unique activities that increase jurisdiction competitiveness.*" New and unique activities increasing Kansas' research infrastructure and competitiveness are essential and required.

Funding, Required Match, and Restrictions

KNEP expects to make two awards. Each award will contain two funding sources: NASA and KBOR. NASA funds will account for **$84,401** with IDC recovery allowed. KBOR will account for **$47,114** with no IDC recovery allowed.

- WSU proposers should plan their NASA portion of the budget for **$84,401** and use a reduced indirect cost rate of 8.5%. The budget for the KBOR portion should be **$47,114** with no IDC recovery. Total budget should not exceed **$131,515**.

- Proposers outside of WSU should plan their NASA budget for **$82,276**, which accounts for WSU indirect cost recovery on the first $25,000 of the subaward. The budget for the KBOR portion should be **$47,114** with no IDC recovery. Total budget should not exceed **$129,390**.
- Proposers should separate the NASA and KBOR funding sources when presenting the budget.

Budget Category	NASA Funding	KBOR Funding	Total Funding

The following KNEP SRI program restrictions apply:

- Proposers are required to provide at least **$2,800 in matching funds** (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources
- Funds cannot be used for equipment (items under $5,000 are "supplies")
- Funds cannot be used for foreign travel
- Funds cannot be used for civil-service personnel labor or travel
- Proposals augmenting existing funded or well-established research projects cannot be supported; new and unique activities are essential and required (as noted in a previous section)
- Awarded funds must be expended within the award period (no-cost extensions are highly unlikely)

Grant Reporting

Grant recipients must submit progress and final reports addressing KNEP Research Infrastructure Development (RID) program objectives. Reports will include the following:

- Grant-related publications, presentations, and theses and dissertations
- Additional proposals, submitted or accepted, owing directly to the KNEP award
- Additional funding secured from industry or other sources
- Detailed information on the faculty and students supported (e.g., number of people involved, demographics, funding amounts, activities, performance, student plans, etc.)
- New collaborations formed with NASA and industry
- Impact on Kansas' economic development
- Other quantifiable items, as defined by individual investigators (in the original proposal)
- An update on short- and long-term research plans
- Patent applications, awards, or technical transfer activities
- Other products (courses developed, websites, software and hardware, models, etc.)

Some specific KNEP SRI target outcomes, per award, include:

- Two or more publications per year, with NASA or relevant industry co-authors
- Two or more successful EPSCoR or non-EPSCoR grant awards, as a product of the KNEP SRI award
- Significant project involvement by five or more students per year

Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research

In keeping with the NASA Plan for Increasing Access to Results of Scientific Research, new terms and conditions consistent with the Rights in Data clause in the award which make manuscripts and data publicly accessible may be attached to NASA EPSCoR Research awards. All proposals will be required to provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) or an explanation of why one is not necessary given the nature of the work proposed. See Appendix VI for additional information.

Additionally, researchers submitting NASA-funded articles in peer-reviewed journals or papers from conferences now shall make their work accessible to the public through NASA's PubSpace.

PubSpace provides free access to NASA-funded and archived scientific publications. Research papers will be available within one year of publication to download and read.

Special Note:

Investigators must ensure the proposed work is accurately planned and completed by the noted KNEP grant end date. Requests for no-cost extensions (NCEs) will be reviewed with increased scrutiny.

Proposal Submission:

There is a 12-page limit for all SRI proposal content, with the exception of the biographical sketches and current and pending support documents. Biographical sketches and current and pending support documents should be included for all investigators, and these sections may exceed the 12-page limit. Use one-inch margins, a 12-pt times new roman font, and single-spaced text. A specific proposal format or style (e.g., NSF) is not expected or required. Proposers simply need to effectively address the expectations outlined in this RFP.

The proposal budget must identify the distribution of available KNEP and matching funds.

Proposals must include the signature of the submitting Organization's Authorizing Official.

Submit a single proposal document in PDF format (less than 2-MB in size) to Linda Kliment, Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu, and NASA in Kansas, NASAinKansas@wichita.edu, by noon on the noted date which is included in the header on page 1.

Contact Linda Kliment (Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu or 316-978-6354) with any RFP-related questions.

Availability of Funds and Period of Performance:

KNEP's ability to make awards is contingent upon the availability of NASA and Kansas Board of Regents appropriated funds from which payment can be made. The award period of performance is approximately 12 months.

Restrictions:

There are special restrictions on NASA regarding the People's Republic of China. In accordance with section 526 of Public Law 117-103 and all subsequent appropriations acts, NASA is prohibited from funding any work that involves the bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity, at the prime recipient level or at any subrecipient level, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis. Accordingly, proposals shall not include bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity, whether funded or performed under a no exchange-of-funds basis. Proposals involving bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company, whether funded or performed under a no exchange-of-funds basis, will be ineligible for award.

Appendices

SRI awards are designed to help researchers establish sustainable research of significant interest to NASA Mission Directorates and Field Centers, and possibly industry, as appropriate. The efforts must also address areas of Kansas interest.

The following material outlines Kansas and NASA strategic interests. Additional NASA specific resources and contact information are also included.

Appendix I

Kansas Strategic Interests

State science and technology strategic interests are outlined in a strategic planning document entitled *Kansas Science and Technology Plan*.

An approach to meeting Kansas' strategic objectives is outlined in this document using the goals listed as follows:

- *"Elevate the role of science and technology in improving the lives of Kansans and their communities."*
- *"Stimulate discovery and innovation through education, partnerships, and infrastructure investments that build on current areas of strength and nurture emerging areas of opportunity."*
- *"Grow the economy by applying new technologies and expanding access to information technology, resulting in vibrant economic development that brings tangible benefits to the citizens of Kansas and attracts new business to the state"*
- *"Translate research results to address societal challenges by encouraging the fabrication of patentable technologies through support from entrepreneurial incentives and university-entrepreneur-stakeholder communication and knowledge-sharing networks that encourage better-informed partnerships and policies."*

Kansas' relevant areas of strength and focus include:

- One Health: Intersection of human, animal, and environmental health
- Aviation and transportation
- Agriculture and bioscience
- Advanced manufacturing and polymer science
- Energy and environment
- Security

The creation of new multidisciplinary groups, industrial collaborations, partnerships, and an appropriately educated workforce leading to new products, jobs, and industry in Kansas is highly desirable.

Appendix II

NASA Strategic Goals

KNEP focuses its program and project elements on NASA's interests. From the Kansas perspective, as outlined in previous sections, the following specific "NASA Strategic Plan" goals and objectives are significant:

- Strategic Goal 1 - "*Expand human knowledge through new scientific discoveries.*"
  - Objective 1.1: *"Understand the Earth system and its climate."*
  - Objective 1.2: *"Understand the Sun, solar system, and universe."*
  - Objective 1.3: *"Ensure NASA's science data are accessible to all and produce practical benefits to society."*
- Strategic Goal 2 - "*Extend human presence to the Moon and on towards Mars sustainable long-term exploration, development, and utilization.*"
  - Objective 2.1: *"Explore the surface of the Moon and deep space."*
  - Objective 2.2: *"Develop a human spaceflight economy enabled by a commercial market."*
  - Objective 2.3: *"Develop capabilities and perform research to safeguard explorers."*
  - Objective 2.4: *"Enhance space access and services."*
- Strategic Goal 3 - "*Catalyze economic growth and drive innovation to address national challenges.*"
  - Objective 3.1: *"Innovate and advance transformational space technologies."*
  - Objective 3.2: *"Drive efficient and sustainable aviation."*
- Strategic Goal 4 - "*Enhance capabilities and operations to catalyze current and future mission success.*"
  - Objective 4.1: *"Attract and develop a talented workforce."*
  - Objective 4.2: *"Transform mission support capabilities for the next era of aerospace."*
  - Objective 4.3: *"Build the next generation of explorers."*

Specific state interests intersect strongly with those of NASA. Logically, it is within these common areas that Kansas is positioned to do well. KNEP is eager to grow research infrastructure to assist NASA and Kansas in meeting its goals.

Appendix III

NASA Mission Directorates, Points Of Contact, and Recent Areas Of NASA Research Interest

The following websites provide additional useful information and links as you prepare your proposal.

NASA Mission Directorates:
https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/

NASA Research Focus Areas:
https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/established-program-to-stimulate-competitive-research/research-focus-areas/

Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program (KNEP) Information:
https://nasainkansas.org/index.php/kansas-nasa-epscor-program-knep/

Appendix IV

Other Useful Reference Web Sites (Cut and paste into URL bar if link is not operative)

NASA:
http://www.nasa.gov

NASA Office of STEM Engagement:
http://stem.nasa.gov

NASA Strategic Plan:
https://www.nasa.gov/ocfo/strategic-plan/

Title 2 CFR Part 1800, NASA Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards of grants and cooperative agreements:
https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=97cf3e395c43128cdbf6f3de586ff048&mc=true&node=pt2.1.1800&rgn=div5

NASA Regulations, Guidance, and Forms:
https://www.nasa.gov/grants-policy-and-compliance-team/#Regulations

NASA Proposer's Guide:
https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-nasa-proposers-guide-final.pdf?emrc=7b5d89

NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES):
http://nspires.nasaprs.com

NASA Plan for Increasing Access to Results of Scientific Research
https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/206985_2015_nasa_plan-for-web.pdf

*For non-NASA websites, NASA provides such information for reference only. NASA does not endorse or approve content on non-NASA websites.

Appendix V

Sub Appendix D: Definitions

- Center – The nine NASA Centers located throughout the United States, plus NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which is NASA's only Federally-Funded Research and Development Center. Only for the purposes of collaboration in NASA EPSCoR, JPL is in the same category as NASA Centers.
- Cooperative Agreement – A legal instrument similar to a grant in that the recipient carries out a public purpose with the exception that NASA and the recipient are each expected to have substantial technical interaction with each other for the performance of the project.NASA's cooperative agreements are managed pursuant to the policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1800, and the *NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual*. NASA awards both grants and cooperative agreements.
- Jurisdiction – States or Commonwealths eligible to submit proposals in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Mission Directorate – NASA is broken down into Mission Directorates.
- NASA Research Contact – The NASA Research Contact is the primary NASA point of contact during the proposal writing stage for the proposed research area. If the proposer has contacted and received permission from a NASA scientific or technical person, that individual may be listed in the proposal as the NASA Research Contact. Otherwise, the NASA Research Contact is the Chief Center Technologist at the Center, or the NASA Mission Directorate contact at NASA Headquarters.
- Partnership – A reciprocal and voluntary relationship between the project personnel and NASA, industry, or other entities, to cooperatively achieve the goals of the proposed research.
- Research Area – One of the areas of research interest for the NASA Mission Directorate(s).
- STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Appendix VI

Data Management Plan - Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research

In keeping with *NASA Public Access Plan; Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research*, new terms and conditions consistent with the Rights in Data clause in the award which make manuscripts and data publicly accessible may be attached to NASA EPSCoR Research awards. All proposals will be required to provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) or an explanation of why one is not necessary given the nature of the work proposed. *The DMP will be submitted by responding to the NSPIRES cover page question about the DMP (limited to 4000 characters)*. Any research project in which a DMP is not necessary shall provide an explanation in the DMP block. Example explanations:

- *This is a development effort for flight technology that will not generate any data that we can release, so a DMP is not applicable.*
- *The data that we will generate will be ITAR.*
- *Or, simply explain why the proposed project is not going to generate data.*

The type of proposal that requires a DMP is described in the *NASA Public Access Plan; Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research*. The DMP shall contain the following elements, as appropriate to the project:

- The types of data to be produced during the project.
- The standards to be used for data and metadata format and content.
- Policies for accessing and sharing the data, including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, and other rights or requirements.
- The policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives.
- Plans for providing access to the data used in any Federally funded scientific/research publication.
- Plans for archiving and preserving if the data, as appropriate (use of existing databases or public repositories will be strongly encouraged), including how long the data will be preserved.
- Plans for making publicly available appropriate metadata describing the data and data formats.
- Plans for ensuring that the DMP and metadata are in machine readable formats.

Proposers that include a plan to archive data shall allocate suitable time for this task. Unless otherwise stated, this requirement supersedes the data sharing plan mentioned in the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*. In addition, researchers submitting NASA-funded articles in peer-reviewed journals or papers from conferences now shall make their work accessible to the public through NASA's PubSpace. PubSpace provides free access to NASA-funded and archived scientific publications. Research papers will be available within one year of publication to download and read.