

NNC13-IIP-NPO (09-30-2013)
NOTICE OF PARTNERING OPPORTUNITY WITH GRC
FOR THE MARS 2020 INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM SOLICITATION

PREFACE

The NASA Glenn Research Center is developing multiple proposals in response to NASA proposal solicitations. The Technical areas in which GRC seeks partnership arrangements are those that contribute to exploration technology objectives described in solicitations to assess or exploit in-situ resources, identify related hazards, and characterize the environment.

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has issued a NASA Announcement of Opportunity (AO) NNH13ZDA0180, entitled, "Mars 2020 Investigations." The solicitation and related documents can be found posted on the internet at:

<http://soma.larc.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

Proposals to this AO are due via NSPIRES on December 23, 2013. Notices of Intent to Propose are due on October 15, 2013. The NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) intends to submit proposals to offer instruments and technology demonstrations for this and closely-related solicitations. This Notice is intended to allow interested non-Government entities to team with the GRC consistent with the instructions provided below.

2 PURPOSE OF NOTICE

NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) is issuing this Notice of Partnering Opportunity for the purpose of openly and competitively selecting prospective team members to assist it in the preparation of proposals to be submitted by GRC to NASA in response to this and closely related solicitations. This process is being conducted in accordance with NASA FAR Supplement 1872.308. By this Notice, GRC is seeking information from partners regarding their availability, cost, capabilities, and past performance that relates to the maturation, development, integration, and operation of spaceflight instruments or the underlying component or subsystem technologies. This Notice also authorizes NASA GRC to award grants, cooperative agreements and/or contracts to its selected partner(s) without further competition or justification, for execution of any GRC proposal that is selected by NASA.

3 OVERVIEW

This Notice is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a partnership. This Notice is subject to revision or cancellation at any time.

Based on the responses to this Notice, GRC anticipates selecting organizations with which GRC would then immediately work directly and individually to develop, complete and submit proposals in response to the above-mentioned solicitation. During the proposal development phase, specific roles and cost estimates for the selected partners will be developed. For any GRC proposal that is selected by NASA, GRC intends to negotiate, without further competition or justification, a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract with each proposal partner, consistent with their agreed upon role and this Notice. During these procurement negotiations, the

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specific statement of work, terms and conditions, and procurement value will be determined.

There will be no exchange of funds between GRC and the teaming partners during the preparation of proposals. NASA will not be responsible for any costs incurred by respondents in preparing a response to this Notice or by the selected partners in assisting GRC in the preparation of proposals.

4 DETAILS OF THE OPPORTUNITY

The Mars 2020 Investigation AO cited above includes specific opportunities to propose a variety of scientific instruments and a technology demonstration of components and subsystems enabling a capability on the surface of Mars to produce oxygen in support of future human exploration missions.

This notice solicits partners for the maturation, development, integration, flight preparation, and flight operation of an instrument payload consisting of components and subsystems related to the extraction and storage of propellant-grade oxygen from the Martian atmosphere. The flight payload must contend with the varying known and anticipated Mars environmental conditions, including both diurnal and seasonal variations.

Respondents should identify specific components or subsystems they could contribute as part of an atmosphere processing instrument at the production scale described in this opportunity, and the potential for scaling up to support future human missions. Respondents are also encouraged to identify specific technology maturation contributions to this effort consistent with the guidance in the AO. Respondents should also identify potential roles they offer to perform in the full range of maturation, development, integration, flight preparation, and flight operations activities addressed in the AO.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The NASA GRC will evaluate responses to this request based on the following criteria, listed in descending order of importance:

- (1) Relevance of technology or payload concepts to the solicitation and this notice.
- (2) Relevant experience, past performance, technical capability, and availability of key personnel. This criterion evaluates the respondent's relevant recent experience, past performance in similar development activities, technical capability to perform the development and key personnel available to support the development.
- (3) Cost and schedule control. This criterion evaluates the respondent's ability to control both cost and schedule.
- (4) Facilities. This criterion evaluates the respondent's facilities (development, testing, analysis, and operations) to conduct the development or demonstration of the proposed task.

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(5) Cost sharing. This criterion evaluates the extent and type of non-mandatory cost sharing proposed, if any, and the potential partner's commitment to do so.

GRC anticipates completing its evaluation and selection process by October 14, 2013. Selected partners will be contacted directly by GRC to develop proposals. At that time, GRC will ask for supplemental information. Non-selected organizations will be notified and provided the basis for the selection decisions as soon as possible after Center proposal submission to NASA.

All responses will be treated as proprietary information and controlled as such.

6 RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

Responses are limited to no more than 2 pages that address the evaluation criteria in not less than 10-point font and 1 inch margins.

Respondents should include the following for evaluation against the criteria above:

- (1) Proposed contributions relevant to the solicitation and the details of this opportunity described above including contributed components or subsystems, maturation activities, and project roles.
- (2) Evidence of successful participation in previous, similar development efforts.
- (3) Evidence of successful cost and schedule control in previous similar development programs and evidence of relevant management processes.
- (4) Descriptions of facility operational and analysis capability, availability, and access to meet the proposed component or subsystem, maturation, and project roles.
- (5) Any cost sharing that would be offered for a potential contract or cooperative agreement.

Responses are due to NASA GRC no later than 5 p.m. EDT on October 11, 2013. Any responses received after this time and date will be handled as late proposals in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 15.208.

Responses to this Notice must be submitted in the form of a Portable Data Format (PDF) file. Responses and technical questions should be submitted via e-mail to Mr. John J. Caruso (john.j.caruso@nasa.gov). Any procurement process related questions may be submitted via e-mail to Mr. Eric Hartman at Eric.T.Hartman@nasa.gov.

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASES

The Internet site, or URL, for the NASA/GRC Business Opportunities page is <http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/eps/bizops.cgi?gr=D&pin=22>

It is the responsibility of potential respondents to monitor the NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS), GRC Procurement site for any further information concerning this Notice.