

A high-resolution image of Earth and the Moon from space. The Earth is on the left, showing the Americas with city lights at night. The Moon is on the right, showing its cratered surface. A bright blue line representing the horizon of Earth separates the two celestial bodies.

OCFO

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Federal Demonstration Partnership - Agency Update September 20, 2021

Updated Since the May 2021: Primary Policy & Program Contacts for FDP

Antanese Crank, Chief, Grants Policy & Compliance Branch

antanese.n.crank@nasa.gov

202-358-4683

Mary F. Sladek, Research Program Manager, Science Mission Directorate

mary.f.sladek@nasa.gov

202-358-0861



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Grants Policy and Compliance Updates



NASA Implementation of OMB Memo M-21-20

On March 19, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released memorandum ([M-21-20](#)) entitled “*Promoting Public Trust in the Federal Government Through Effective Implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources*”

- The Memorandum provides agencies with guidance on how to effectively implement programs funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as well as provides administrative relief for recipient and applicants impacted by COVID-19
- In response to this memorandum, NASA released guidance in June 2021, that adopted most of the flexibilities outlined in Appendix 3 of M-21-20
 - The flexibilities are applicable to all NASA proposers and award recipients (both recipients with COVID-19 – related awards and those with other types of awards) impacted by the COVID-19 Crisis
 - The flexibilities also apply to subawards, but NOT subcontracts issued under NASA Prime awards
 - A copy of the guidance as well as related frequently asked questions can be found on the OCFO Grants Policy and Compliance webpage. <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc>

Under Development: Policies & Related Procedures for Visitors to NASA Facilities During COVID-19

- Consistent with guidance from Executive Orders, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the White House Safer Federal Workforce Task Force, NASA continues to adjust safety protocols for individuals who seek to visit or conduct research at NASA facilities. See: <https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/coronavirus/>
- Just like any other NASA researcher, Grant and Cooperative Agreement award recipients who seek to enter a NASA Facility should expect 1) to complete a Certification of Vaccination status or 2) to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of a visit. See: [https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19 Certification and Testing FAQ.pdf](https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19%20Certification%20and%20Testing%20FAQ.pdf)
- Next update to these NASA Visitor policies and procedures September 20, 2021 (estimate)
- NASA OCFO Grant Policy & Compliance Branch is monitoring these policies and will update <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc> to provide details relevant to grant recipients as soon as practical and pending guidance from the Office of Management and Budget

Implementation of New Term & Condition

- On December 30, 2020, Congress enacted the “[One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act](#)” Pub. L. 116-275) that directs NASA to continue developing best practices to respect the principle of due regard and limit harmful interference with historic Apollo lunar landing site artifacts
- To ensure compliance with this Act, NASA implemented a new term and condition titled “***Protecting and Preserving the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts***”
- The term and condition; which became effective on June 15th, 2021, requires for-profit entities with awards or cooperative agreements pertaining to lunar activities to follow the recommendations outlined in “[NASA’s Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of the U.S Government Lunar Artifacts](#)” issued by NASA on July 20, 2011 and updated on October 28, 2011

NASA RFI – (EO) 13985

- On January 25, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, outlining a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and affected by poverty and inequality. The EO also instructs agencies to assess policies, programs, regulations and work to redress inequities in these policies and program that ere as barriers to equal opportunity.
- Examples of NASA EO related actions include:
 - [Request for Information](#) issued on June 15, 2021 (Comment Period ended on August 31, 2021)
 - Hosted on July 13, 2021 a virtual public meeting with five topical breakout groups to support the RFI, i.e., *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities in NASA Programs, Contracts and Grants*. Recordings on the [NASA Mission Equity page](#) at <https://www.nasa.gov/mission-equity>
 - Revised NASA's Assistance Listings and Notice of Funding Opportunities to include language that explicitly expresses NASA's commitment to Nondiscrimination and encourages applications from applicants in underserved communities. (Note: This language was previously only found within NASA's Proposers' Guidebook and copy of text is in the Back up Charts)

NASA RFI – (EO) 13985 (Cont'd)

- Feedback received from NASA RFI and a few Diversity, Equity and Inclusions federally sponsored listening sessions indicates the following as barriers that impact grant recipients and applicants from underserved communities:
 - Lack of Access to information
 - Lack of Awareness of the various NASA grant programs
 - Lack of Understanding of how to qualify as a successful NASA grantee
 - Challenges with completing NASA grant applications
- The following steps are being considered by NASA to address some of the barriers identified
 - Development of a new term and condition that would require grant recipients to obtain a quote from a small/minority or women owned businesses when the acquisition of goods or services exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000)
 - Broaden the dissemination of all Notice of Funding Opportunities beyond grants.gov and NSPIRES
 - Provide Outreach Support to increase awareness of NASA grant programs, improve external learning and promote engagement.

GCAM Updates

- NASA is currently revising the 2021 edition of the Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM) with an anticipated release date of November 20, 2021.
- High-level overview of the updates include:
 - NASA's post-award monitoring policies and procedures. This policy requires NASA Grant Officers to review a sample of each awards' expenditures to ensure that actual costs incurred are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. The expenditure review must be completed at least once per each awards' period of performance
 - Language has been added to reflect the upcoming transition from the Dun & Bradstreet-provided DUNS number to the sam.gov-generated unique entity identifier (UEI)
 - Removal of language in the terms and conditions that previously stated that "For-Profit award recipients must provide invoices prior to receiving payment"
 - Incorporated Grant Information Circulars released during the year



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Science Technology Mission Directorate



Upcoming Funding Opportunities in the Space Technology Research, Development, Demonstration, and Infusion – 2022 (SpaceTech-REDDI-2022)

- ***NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Opportunities (NSTGRO)*** – seeks proposals from graduate students who will conduct low TRL space technology research and development. Email: hq-nstgro-call@mail.nasa.gov
 - Solicitation Released – September 2, 2021, with proposals due on November 2, 2021 - <https://tinyurl.com/NSTGRO22>
- ***SpaceTech-REDDI-2022*** is expected to be released on 10/1/2021. Email: HQ-STMD-SpaceTech-REDDI@mail.nasa.gov
- ***NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Phase 2 and Phase 3*** Appendices – NIAC funds visionary, yet credible, advanced concepts that address national government and commercial aerospace goals; Phase 2 and Phase 3 opportunities are limited to current or former awardees. Email: hq-niac@mail.nasa.gov
 - NIAC Phase 2 Solicitation Release – October 2021 (anticipated)
 - NIAC Phase 3 Solicitation Release – December 2021 (anticipated)



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Science Mission Directorate



SMD Policies & Events, e.g., Open Source Science

Scientific Information policy for the Science Mission Directorate (August 4, 2021): SMD Policy Document SPD-41 describes how scientific information produced from SMD funding (for both assistance and acquisition awards) is shared. Scientific information includes publications, data, and software produced as part of scientific research activities. Publications include scientific or technical documents released through print, electronic, or other media. Find the full text of this and other key documents at: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/library-and-useful-links>. SMD's Science Data Officer's e-mail address: steven.m.crawford@nasa.gov *

Open Source Science for Data Processing and Archives (Virtual) Workshop, October 14, 2021 12:00pm - 3:00pm ET. The workshop is open to the public and a recording will be made. Please email questions to the coordinator: christian.g.reyes@nasa.gov. Registration link and more at: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/science-data/open-source-science-workshop>

Coming Soon! At least two Requests for Information (RFI) via <https://nspires.nasaprs.com>

- *RFI: Implementation and Changes to Science Policy Document (SPD)-41: Science Information Policy**
- *RFI: Adding Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Requirements to NASA Announcements of Opportunity*

Two NASA Announcements of Opportunity (AO) (Contracts) Mandatory Notices of Intent to either or both due by 11:59 pm Eastern time on October 14, 2021.

The Astrophysics Explorers Program conducts Principal Investigator (PI)-led space science investigations relevant to SMD's astrophysics programs that must address NASA's strategic objective to discover how the universe works, explore how it began and evolved, and search for life on planets around other stars. Find the solicitations at the following short URLs

1. 2021 Astrophysics Medium Explorer (MIDEX) Solicitation Number: NNH21ZDA018O at <https://go.nasa.gov/21APMIDEX>
2. 2021 Astrophysics Explorers Mission of Opportunity (MO) Program Element Appendix Q (PEA-Q) as an Amendment 20 to the NASA Third Stand Alone Missions of Opportunity Notice (SALMON-3) Announcement of Opportunity NNH17ZDA004O Solicitation Number: NNH17ZDA004O-APEXMO2 at <https://go.nasa.gov/21APEXMO2>

URLs to use to locate Questions & Answers webpages by solicitation

- 1) 2021 Medium Explorer (MIDEX) NNH21ZDA018O:
<https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2021APMIDEX/MIDEX/index.html>
- 2) 2021 Astrophysics Explore NNH17ZDA004O-APEXMO2
<https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2021APMIDEX/MO/index.html>

New Since May's FDP: (Effective August 3, 2021): Revised NASA Procedural Requirement (NPR 7120.5F) *NASA Space Flight Program and Project Management*

<https://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?t=NPR&c=7120&s=5F%20>

- Applies to all NASA space flight programs and projects, e.g., a) spacecraft, b) launch vehicles, c) instruments developed for space, d) technical facilities specifically developed or significantly modified for space flight systems, e) Information Technology (IT) acquired as a part of space flight programs and projects, f) ground systems that are in direct support of space flight operations, g) reimbursable space flight programs and projects performed for non-NASA sponsors and h) NASA contributions to space flight programs and projects performed with international and interagency partners.
- Research & Technology that are directly funded by a space flight program/project will decide whether they are subject to NPR 7120.5, NPR 7120.8, “*NASA Research and Technology Program and Project Management Requirements*” (Updated w/Change 2 download from <https://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?t=NPR&c=7120&s=8A>) or will be a hybrid between those two per Mission Directorate policy (e.g., SMD) and Decision Authority (DA) approval. R&T projects that directly tie to the space flight mission's success and schedule are normally managed under NPR 7120.5.
- URL for Responsible Office: Office of Chief Engineer <https://www.nasa.gov/oce>



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Back Up



NOFO Language Update

- Effective August 19th, 2021, All NASA Notice of Funding Opportunities for grants and cooperative agreements will include the following language in the eligibility section:
 - *“ NASA recognizes and supports the benefits of having diverse and inclusive scientific, engineering, and technology communities and fully expects the reflection of such values in the composition of all panels and teams, including peer review panels, proposal teams, science definition teams, and mission and instrument teams. Per Federal statutes and NASA policy, no eligible applicant shall experience exclusion from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NASA on the grounds of their race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, or disability. NASA welcomes proposals from all qualified and eligible sources, and strongly encourages proposals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs), veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), HUBZone small businesses, and women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), as eligibility requirements allow.”*