Montana NASA EPSCoR (MNE)

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https://nasaepscor.montana.edu/

MT NASA EPSCoR Goals

- **Goal 1**. Bring the capabilities of Montana's nationally competitive researchers to the attention of NASA.
- **Goal 2**. Build infrastructure to enhance Montana's capabilities and expertise in areas of importance to NASA, focusing on institutions of higher learning.
- **Goal 3**. Use EPSCoR sponsored research to strengthen partnerships with Montana's high-tech companies and drive the growth of Montana's aerospace-related economy.
- **Goal 4**. Focus on building nationally prominent, competitive research groups at Montana's major universities while also providing collaborative opportunities to faculty members at smaller institutions.

NASA EPSCoR Programs

NASA EPSCoR currently runs ~~four~~ three programs.

1. Research Infrastructure Development (RID)
2. Research Group cooperative agreements; three-year $750,000 awards
3. ~~ISS and suborbital cooperative agreements~~
4. Rapid Response Research (R3) cooperative agreements

Research Infrastructure Development (RID)

- All jurisdictions have to support local seed-grant programs.
- RID is the only NASA EPSCoR program in which the home jurisdiction has the authority to award funds.
- The remaining programs solicit proposals that are reviewed and awarded by NASA HQ.

- MNE: Research Initiation Awards

Research Initiation Awards

Awarded competitively through internal and external review of proposals

- **Amount:** $60,000 for one year (non-renewable) with a 15% cost share
- **Eligibility**: junior faculty or faculty new to NASA research.
- **Stipulations**: Awardees are required to submit a follow-on proposal to NASA for regular research funding during the year of the grant
- **Uses**: Can be used for graduate or undergraduate student support, materials and supplies, facility use fees, domestic travel, and faculty time (though this is not a funding priority)

Research Initiation Awards

The panel will consider:

- Scientific/Engineering merit
- NASA connection
- Feasibility
- Broader impacts; see Montana NASA EPSCoR goals
- Suitability of the proposed research team, including eligibility,
- Probability of the work resulting in further NASA funding, and

Optionally:

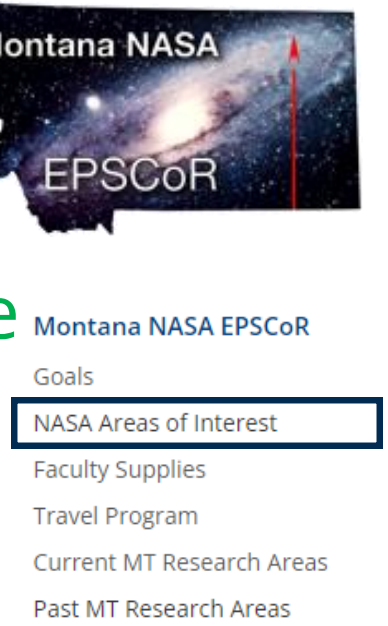
- Montana graduate student impact
- Economic development/technology transfer impact

Research Group

- NASA EPSCoR Research Group grants are awarded nationally each year
- NASA allows only one Research Group proposal per jurisdiction
- MNE typically has to down-select to a single proposal
  - Through a pre-proposal competition
  - Pre-proposals are reviewed by external experts as well as a panel of Montana university administrative-level stakeholders

Research Group

- **Amount:** $750,000 for three-years, with 50% cost share
- **Pre-Proposal**: Open to any faculty in the state whose research aligns with NASA's Areas of Interest
- **Stipulations**: For a research GROUP.
  - Proposals that incorporate researchers from diverse campuses and research backgrounds within MT have had favorable marks.
  - Can include team members from other EPSCoR jurisdictions, but not non-EPSCoR states.
  - No US citizenship requirement for team members or funded students



https://nasaepscor.montana.edu/interest.html

Research Group

Call for Pre-proposals

- Dependent on NASA
- Typically, in the fall
- 2024/2025: Opened August, ended September
- Full Proposal due to NASA on January 27th, 2025
- Down-select depends on expert reviewers -> Montana panel -> VPR's (MSU, Tech, UM).
- Notification to research groups on the one proposal moving forward

Research Group

Key Items:

- Scientific/technical merit
- NASA Alignment
- Montana Impact
- Research Group Membership
- Evaluation
- Budget

Other Items to Consider:

- Department Head (or equiv) Letters of Support to include statement regarding cost share
- NASA Collaborator/supporters Letters of Support are encouraged
- ***MSU (Boz) groups only*:** In addition to submitting the pre-proposal on the MT NASA EPSCoR website, you must also submit the pre-proposal in the Office of Sponsored Programs electronic Proposal Clearance Form (ePCF)

Rapid Response Research (R3)

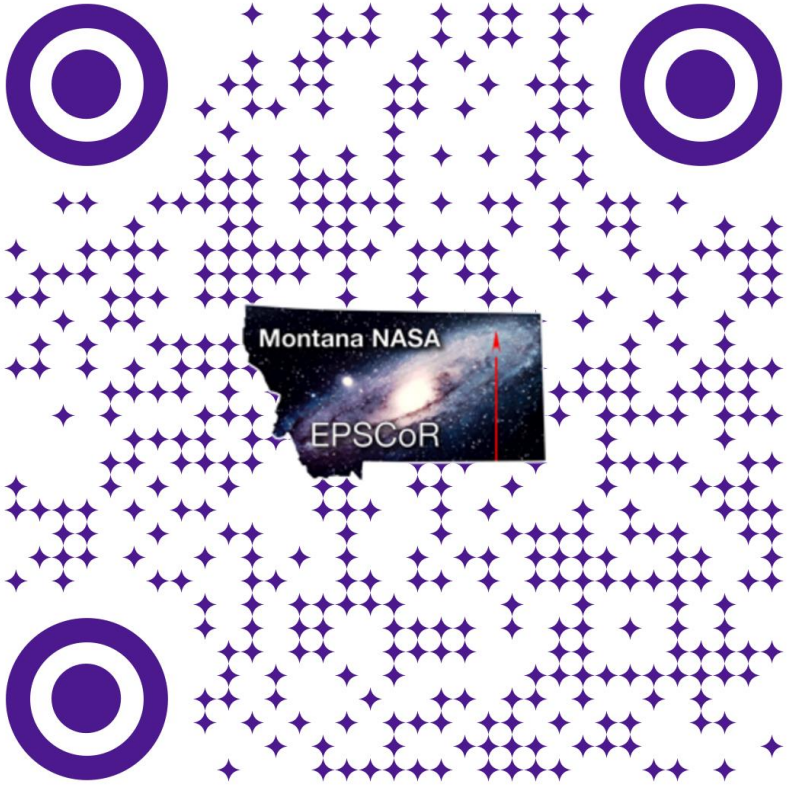
- The R3 is a collaborative effort between NASA EPSCoR, NASA Centers and mission directorates.
- The goals of R3 are to provide a streamlined method to address research issues important to NASA, and to enable NASA EPSCoR researchers to work with NASA to solve research issues impacting the agency's programs/missions.

- Management has been moved from EPSCoR Directors directly to NASA. ($$)

Rapid Response Research (R3)

Parameters:

- Solicitation released yearly
- One-year period of performance (POP)
- Collaborations with Science Mission Directorate (SMD), Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD), Commercial Spaceflight and Industry
- $100,000 total, and cost sharing is not required
- **2025: Released second week in November in NSPIRES and due 4th Monday in February**



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Questions?