

(CFDA No. 11.431)—Climate and Atmospheric Research***Program Objectives***

PACS is a joint Program of the NOAA Office of Global Programs (OGP) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)/Environmental Research Laboratories (ERL) which falls within the scope of the U.S. GOALS (Global Ocean-Atmosphere-Land System) Program. PACS is designed to advance the ability to predict seasonal to interannual climate variability, particularly summertime precipitation, over the Americas. Specific scientific objectives are to better understand and more realistically model (1) the seasonally varying mean climate over the Americas and adjacent ocean regions, with emphasis on the intertropical convergence zones, the North and South American monsoons, the equatorial cold tongues, the subtropical oceanic stratus decks, and the dominant tropical and extratropical cyclone tracks; (2) the role of boundary processes in forcing seasonal to interannual climate variability, with emphasis on tropical sea surface temperature in relation to continental precipitation; (3) the coupling between the oceanic mixed layer and the atmospheric planetary boundary layer in the tropical Atlantic and eastern Pacific; and (4) the processes that determine the structure and evolution of the tropical sea surface temperature field.

Program Priorities

With limited funding anticipated for new starts in FY 1996, NOAA will place emphasis on new projects designed to improve the understanding and modeling of coupled ocean-atmosphere interactions in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. This region has been identified as an initial target in PACS because of its importance in influencing the seasonally-varying precipitation over the American continents. Proposals are encouraged to focus on pilot field observations, data management, and empirical studies. Pilot field observing efforts are needed to provide improved measurements of rainfall, surface fluxes and upper ocean and atmospheric dynamics in the East Pacific Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and other important phenomena in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Field observing projects are expected, to the greatest extent possible, to build upon existing observing systems and planned field projects and to be well coordinated with other observing efforts in the region. Data management activities should aim at providing PACS-related global data

sets (particularly satellite observations), field projects, and modeling efforts. Empirical studies should provide preliminary analysis of data available in the eastern Pacific in an effort to establish the background climatology required for model validation and field program planning in this region. Proposals in response to the announcement are expected to be of one to three years duration.

Eligibility

Extramural eligibility is not limited and is encouraged with the objective of developing a strong partnership with the academic community. Non-academic proposers are urged to seek collaboration with academic institutions. Universities, non-profit organizations, for profit organizations, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes, are included among entities eligible for funding under this announcement.

The NOAA Climate and Global Change Program has been approved for multi-year funding up to a three year duration. Funding for non-U.S. institutions is not available under this announcement.

Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent: (1) Letters should be no more than two pages in length and include the name and institution of principal investigator(s), a statement of the problem, brief summary of work to be completed, approximate cost of the project, and program element(s) to which the proposal should be directed. (2) Evaluation will be by program management, according to the selection criteria for full proposals described. (3) It is in the best interest of applicants and their institutions to submit letters of intent; however, it is not a requirement. (4) Facsimile and electronic mail are acceptable for letters of intent only. (5) Projects deemed unsuitable during program review should not be submitted as full proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those proposals which address one of the Program Priorities listed above and meet the following evaluation criteria:

(1) Scientific Merit (20%): Intrinsic scientific value of the subject and the study proposed.

(2) Relevance (20%): Importance and relevance to the goal of the Climate and Global Change Program and to the research areas listed above.

(3) Methodology (20%): Focused scientific objective and strategy, including measurement strategies and

data management considerations; project milestones; and final products.

(4) Readiness (20%): Nature of the problem; relevant history and status of existing work; level of planning, including existence of supporting documents; strength of proposed scientific and management team; past performance record of proposers.

(5) Linkages (10%): Connections to existing or planned national and international programs; partnerships with other agency or NOAA participants, where appropriate.

(6) Costs (10%): Adequacy of proposed resources; appropriate share of total available resources; prospects for joint funding; identification of long-term commitments. Matching funding is encouraged, but is not required.

Selection Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by (1) independent peer mail review, and/or (2) independent peer panel review; both NOAA and non-NOAA experts in the field may be used in this process. Their individual recommendations and evaluations will be considered by the Program Managers in final selections. Those ranked by the panel and program as not recommended for funding will not be given further consideration and will be notified of non-selection. For the proposals rated either Excellent, Very Good or Good, the Program Managers will: (a) Ascertain which proposals meet the objectives, fit the criteria posted, and do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded by NOAA or are approved for funding by other federal agencies, (b) select the proposals to be funded, (c) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal, and (d) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal. Awards are not necessarily made to the highest-scored proposals, even though scoring is one of several factors considered in selecting proposals for award.

Unsatisfactory performance by a recipient under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Proposal Submission

The guidelines for proposal preparation provided below are mandatory. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

(a) Full Proposals: (1) Proposals submitted to the NOAA Climate and Global Change Program must include the original and two unbound copies of the proposal. (2) Investigators are not