Announcements for Solicited Research Proposals (see subpart 1870.2). Such information shall be kept to the minimum necessary and shall cite specific "Instructions" paragraphs supplemented.

(J) When awards will be chargeable to funds of the new fiscal year and the NRA is to be issued before funds are available, the NRA shall contain a statement as follows:

Funds are not presently available for awards under this NRA. The Government's obligation to make awards is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment can be made and the receipt of proposals that NASA determines are acceptable for award under this NRA.

(ii) The Summary and Supplemental Information may include estimates of the amount of funds that will be available and the number of anticipated awards. A breakdown of the estimates by research area may also be shown.

(iii) The Summary and Supplemental Information may indicate that proposals submitted under an earlier NRA and held for subsequent reviews will be considered and need not be resubmitted. The earlier NRA shall be identified by number in the following statement:

Proposals for which no selection decision was made under NRA \_\_\_\_\_ and held for subsequent reviews will be considered under this NRA and need not be resubmitted. (Insert NRA number).

- (3) Technical Description. The first page shall contain the NRA number and title at the top. A brief description not exceeding two pages is preferable, but it should be detailed enough to enable ready comprehension of the research areas of interest. Specifications containing detailed statements of work should be avoided. Any program management information included must be limited to matters that are essential for proposal preparation.
- (4) Instructions for Responding to NASA Research Announcements. The NRA shall contain instructions in accordance with 1870.203.
- (d) Unsolicited proposals. (1) Unsolicited proposals for new efforts that are within the scope of an open NRA shall be evaluated in accordance with 1815.506(b).
- (2) Unsolicited proposals for renewal of ongoing efforts that are within the scope of an open NRA shall be evaluated in accordance with 1815.505–70.
- (3) A broad agency announcement is not an "acquisition requirement" as the term is used in FAR 15.507(a)(2).
- (e) Receipt of proposals, evaluation, and selection. (1) Proposals shall be

- protected as provided in 1815.508–70 and 1815.509–70.
- (2) Evaluation, selection, and award may occur during or after the period established for receipt of proposals. Late proposals and modifications shall be treated in accordance with 1815.412 (a) and (b).
- (3) When more than one time is established in the NRA for evaluating proposals, proposals received prior to the time established will be considered as part of the initial group to be evaluated. Subsequent groups of proposals to be evaluated shall be formed from those proposals received after the time established for the earlier evaluation groups and prior to the time established for a subsequent group, along with those proposals, if any, held over under paragraph (e)(8) of this section.
- (4) The selection decision shall be made following peer or scientific review of a proposal. Peer or scientific review shall involve (i) evaluation, outside NASA, by a discipline specialist in the area of the proposal, (ii) evaluation by an in-house specialist, or (iii) both. Evaluation by specialists outside NASA shall be conducted subject to the conditions in FAR 15.413-2(f) and NFS 1815.413 and 1815.413-2. In particular, the selecting official shall ensure compliance with FAR 15.413-2(f)(5) regarding the designation of outside evaluators and avoidance of conflicts of interest. After receipt of a proposal and before selection, scientific or engineering personnel shall communicate with an offeror, regarding the proposal, only for the purpose of clarification, as defined in FAR 15.601, or in order to understand the meaning of some aspect of the proposal that is not clear, or in order to obtain confirmation or substantiation of a proposed approach, solution, or cost estimate.
- (5) Competitive range determinations shall not be made, and best and final offers shall not be requested.
- (6) Part of a proposal may be selected unless the offeror requests otherwise. In addition, changes to a selected proposal may be sought if (i) the ideas or other aspects of the proposal on which selection is based are contained in the proposal as originally submitted, and are not introduced by the changes; and (ii) the changes sought would not involve a material alteration to the requirements stated in the NRA. Changes that would affect a proposal's selection shall not be sought. When changes are desired, they may be described to the contracting officer under paragraph (e)(10)(ii) of this section, or the selecting official may

- request revisions from the offeror. The changes shall not transfer information from one offeror's proposal to another offeror (see FAR 15.610(d)(2)). When collaboration between offerors would improve proposed research programs, collaboration may be suggested to the offerors.
- (7) The basis for selection of a proposal shall be documented in a selection statement applying the evaluation factors in the NRA. The selection statement represents the conclusions of the selecting official and must be self-contained. It shall not incorporate by reference the evaluations of the reviewers.
- (8) A proposal that is scientifically and programmatically meritorious, but that is not selected during its initial review under an NRA, may be included in subsequent reviews unless the offeror requests otherwise. If the proposal is not to be held over for subsequent reviews, the offeror shall be notified that the proposal was not selected for award.
- (9) The selecting official shall notify each offeror whose proposal was not selected for award and explain generally why the proposal was not selected. If requested, the selecting official shall arrange a debriefing under 1815.1003, with the participation of a contracting officer.
- (10) The selecting official shall forward to the contracting officer—
- (i) The results of the technical evaluation, including the total number of proposals received under the NRA by the time of selection, the selection statement, and the proposal(s) selected for funding;
- (ii) A description of any changes desired in any offeror's statement of work, including the reasons for the changes and any effect on level of funding:
- (iii) If a contract will be used to fund the proposal, a description of deliverables, including technical reports, and delivery dates, consistent with the requirements of the NRA;
  - (iv) A procurement request;
- (v) Comments on the offeror's cost proposal (either the selecting official's comments, which may be based on the reviewers' comments, or copies of the reviewers' comments with any different conclusions of the selecting official); these comments shall address the need for and reasonableness of travel, computer time, materials, equipment, subcontracted items, publication costs, labor hours, labor mix, and other costs; and
- (vi) A copy of the selected proposal as originally submitted, any revisions, and any correspondence from the successful offeror.