NASA Initiatives with Grants and Contracts for Universities and Colleges

Rex T. Elliott
NASA Sponsored Research Business Activity
August 29, 2001
## NASA FY 2000 Research Obligations to Educationals and Non-Profits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NASA FY 2000 Research Dollars (obligations)</th>
<th>FY 2000 Educational Obligations</th>
<th>FY 2000 Non-Profit Obligations</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Profits ($M)</strong></td>
<td>$395.1</td>
<td>$291.1</td>
<td>$206.2</td>
<td>$497.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Educational ($M)</strong></td>
<td>$928.9</td>
<td>$415.5</td>
<td>$77.9</td>
<td>$493.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contracts ($M)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$497.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grants ($M)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$493.4</td>
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<td><strong>Cooperative Agreements ($M)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$309.3</td>
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<td><strong>Space Act Agreements ($M)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total ($M)</strong></td>
<td>$1,324</td>
<td>$217.2</td>
<td>$92.1</td>
<td>$309.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Summary

- **Total FY 2000 Obligations ($M)**: $1,324.1
- **NASA FY 2000 Research Dollars (obligations)**: $1,324
Room for Improvement

- NASA performed internal assessment of grants management process in 1998

- Some suggestions for improving the process:
  - Improve information access
  - Communicate announcement/award schedules and stick to them
  - Reduce burden and shorten length of process
  - Present a common face within NASA and support interagency commonality
  - Establish a mechanism for grant management initiatives and innovations
Sponsored Research Business Activity (SRBA)

- SRBA is the common link among HQ Program Offices, Field Center Grant Offices, and the research business community

- Functions
  - Represent a “common face” to the research community
  - Build cross-program efficiency by acting as the catalyst for applying lessons learned

- Interactions
  - Grant Steering Committee - Headquarters Program Offices
  - Grant Working Group - Center Grant Officers
  - Interagency Groups - Grant-making Agencies
Solutions Implemented

- Formed Headquarters grants steering committee for program office buy-in
- Established inter-center grants working group with NASA grant officers
- Published guidance on property administration requirements for special purpose and general purpose equipment for universities and non-profits (March 29, 2001)
- Awarded consolidated closeout contract
- Awarded consolidated peer review support service contract for Headquarters program offices
  - Moving to one automated system: SYS-EYFUS
Consolidation of Grant Awards

Grant awards from these centers are now made by Glenn Research Center (GRC) in Cleveland, OH:

- Dryden Flight Research Center
- Kennedy Space Center
- NASA Management Office/JPL
- Stennis Space Center

Grant award processes at these Centers are unchanged

(award at Center, delegate administration to ONR):

- Ames Research Center
- Goddard Space Flight Center
- Johnson Space Center
- Langley Research Center
- Marshall Space Flight Center
Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook Revisions

- Established a phase-in term for adoption of an automated system for the SF 272 - Federal Cash Transactions Report, that will eliminate the requirement for hard copies and quarterly forecasts
  - Quarterly Reports will be required

- Allowed the use of simplified acquisition procedures for awarding research grants (within the $100K threshold)

- Developed a standard budget summary sheet to be used by all NASA Centers with grant-making authority

- Vest property with grant recipients
Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook Revisions (continued)

- No longer require new budget proposals from Principal Investigators for changes of less than 20 percent (+/-) of the value of the grant or cooperative agreement

- Rewriting Section D of the Handbook regarding cooperative agreements with commercial firms (scheduled for publication in Fall '01)

- NASA’s procedures for grants and cooperative agreements are described in the NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook (NPG 5800.1)

http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/grcover.htm
Methods of Obtaining Research Proposals

- **Broad Agency Announcements**
  - NASA Research Announcement (NRA)
  - Announcement of Opportunity (AO)
- **Other Announcements**
  - Request for Proposals (RFP)
  - Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN)
- **Unsolicited Proposals**

For examples of NASA research opportunities, please see the following:

http://procurement.nasa.gov/
Research Announcements

Broad Agency Announcements
- Announcement of Opportunity
- NASA Research Announcement
- Cooperative Agreement Notice
- Request for Proposal
- Contract
- Grant
- Cooperative Agreement

Other Announcements
Standard NRA Timelines

- NRA Release to Selection Notification: 240 Days
  (includes 90 days for proposal receipt/150 days for selection announcement)

- Notification of Selections to Award: 29 Days
  Package Submittal

- Award Package Submittal to Grant Office to Award of Funding: 17 Days

- TOTAL: 286 Days
NRA Proposal Evaluation

- **Evaluation Factors (unless otherwise specified)**
  - Relevance to NASA's objectives,
  - Intrinsic merit, and
  - Cost

- **Peer Review**
  - Scientific review by discipline specialists in the area of the proposal
  - May be in-house, external, or combination (with due regard for conflict-of-interest and protection of proposal information)

- **Selection Decision**
  - NASA program representative serves as the selecting official in determining whether to fund proposals
What Else Is New?

- Developed a standard NASA Research Announcement (NRA)
- Developed NRA Proposers’ Guide
- Now permit single certification on NRA proposal cover page
- Revising ONR Delegation to reflect closeout contract (will include revision to NF 1674)
NASA’s Commitment to the Research Community

- In February 2000, Gen Sam Armstrong was appointed as Senior Advisor to NASA’s Administrator.

- Focus is to expand NASA’s partnerships with the university community and with other Federal agencies.

- NASA-University Webcasts
  - October 2000: Research Activities
  - March 2001: Focus on Procurement/Grants
  - June 2001: Information Technology (IT) Security
Internet Resources

- Business Opportunities with NASA
  - [http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/common/biz.html](http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/common/biz.html)

- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and NASA FAR Supplement
  - [http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/library/v-reg.htm](http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/library/v-reg.htm)

- Guidance for the Preparation and Submission of Unsolicited Proposals
  - [http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/library/unSol-Prop.html](http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/library/unSol-Prop.html)

- NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS)
  - [http://procurement.nasa.gov](http://procurement.nasa.gov)
Internet Resources (continued)

- NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook (NPG 5800.1)
  - http://ec.msfc.nasa.gov/hq/grcover.htm

- NASA Research Announcement (NRA) Proposers Guide

- NASA Research Opportunities
  - http://research.hq.nasa.gov
Questions ??

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