

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Announcement of Opportunity to Participate in NASA's Summer of Innovation Project**

[www.nasa.gov/soi](http://www.nasa.gov/soi)

Questions as of August 13, 2010

- Q1. What is the incentive of a potential partner to submit something for this AO? Or, put another way, what are the likely direct outcomes of an explicit partnership with NASA under SoI that justify the effort to respond to this AO?
- A1. It is up to respondent organizations to determine the value of potential partnership with NASA. One direct outcome of a partnership with NASA on the Summer of Innovation is alignment with NASA on addressing national education priorities to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- Q2. Is this for the summer of 2011?
- A2. The Summer of Innovation is currently scheduled through December 2012. Respondents may propose activities for any time period between up until December 2012.
- Q3. We produce a rich variety of STEM resources for middle school ages that utilize NASA content in the earth and space sciences, and we would like to be listed on the SOI website as a NASA content provider. What is the process for being listed on SOI website as a NASA content provider?
- A3. Organizations responding to the Announcement of Opportunity to participate in NASA's Summer of Innovation Project that are selected by NASA as a prospective partner or collaborator may be identified on the SoI Web site.
- Q4. May we discuss potential partnership ideas with NASA before the response due date?
- A4. One objective of this Announcement of Opportunity is to encourage innovation and creativity for the Summer of Innovation project. For this reason, the NASA Office of Education cannot provide additional direction, other than what is already provided in the announcement on how to frame and develop the proposed response.
- Q5. Are international organizations eligible to respond to this announcement?
- A5. Yes, international organizations are eligible to respond to this announcement.
- Q6. If my organization enters into a Space Act Agreement with NASA for the Summer of Innovation, is my organization still eligible to respond to any future funded opportunities for Summer of Innovation that may arise?

- A6. Those who respond to the AO and enter into a SAA can still participate in a funded activity where the SAA did not create a conflict of interest. Where there is a clear advantage in the competition based on participating in the SAA, COI issues need to be evaluated.

#### Questions Added August 16, 2010

- Q7. I noticed in the announcement, there was not a dollar amount.
- A7. Please see page 1, paragraph 2 of the announcement: “Respondents will be responsible for financing their own activities, no NASA funding is available for this purpose.”
- Q8. Have you identified in-kind methods of support from NASA understanding that monetary assistance might not be available? Might there be access to data files, software support, professionals that might come from Educator Resource Centers, that sort of thing, or is this opportunity completely unsupported? Are there going to be NASA resources beyond what is available on the NASA education web sites.
- A8. Respondents may request access to NASA assets and resources, such as people, content, and facilities. NASA will consider each request on a case-by-case basis during the evaluation process. Please note the third threshold requirement on page 4 of the announcement: “The level of NASA assets and resources, such as people, content and facilities, requested for the collaboration is commensurate with the level of value and benefits offered to NASA.”
- Q9. We are in the south part of Alabama. Does underserved include rural areas?
- A9. It is the respondent’s responsibility to demonstrate that the population they will engage is underrepresented, underserved and/or underperforming in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. Rural areas are generally considered underserved.
- Q10. The target audience stated in the Announcement of Opportunity is middle school students and the teachers who serve them. Can this be extended to elementary school or to high school or does the response have to stay focused on middle school?
- A10. Proposers may respond however they choose. NASA will consider all responses and evaluate against the threshold requirements and evaluation criteria listed in the announcement.
- Q11. Is there a list of underserved communities or is the same guidelines used by the state?
- A11. NASA does not have a list of underserved populations or areas. It is up to the respondent to demonstrate to NASA that the area they are serving is underserved.

Q12. What is your position on pre-service teachers? Are they included when it says middle school students and teachers?

A12. It is up to the respondent organization to demonstrate that the population to be engaged through any proposed activity(ies) will help meet NASA's objectives for this announcement.

#### Questions Added August 17, 2010

Q13. Is there a maximum number of partners that you anticipate from this announcement?

A13. No. NASA has no set target for the number of partners anticipated from this AO.

Q14. The AO states NASA is looking for partners with a regional to national impact. If we are developing programs and haven't tested and piloted them, it would be difficult to implement at the regional scale. Does that rule you out for being competitive?

A14. NASA will consider all responses and evaluate them against the threshold requirements and evaluation criteria listed in the announcement. Organizations may also participate in Summer of Innovation as described on the SoI Web site under "Get Involved."

Q15. I'm wondering about nonprofits in partnership with the school district. Would such a partnership give us more strength?

A15. NASA has not have any requirements or preferences for the types of partnerships respondents may enter into. NASA will consider all responses and evaluate them against the threshold requirements and evaluation criteria listed in the announcement.

Q16. The announcement includes a requirement for the ability to measure success of the proposed activity. Is this something that SoI will participate in or is it something that respondents are supposed to bring to the table?

A16. As noted on page 5 of the announcement, responses should include a description of how success of the proposed activity could be measured. NASA SoI involvement in the evaluation process will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q17. We are launching a hands-on program on the subject of aviation. We are not strictly following standards. Our purpose is to motivate children to stay in school and be achievers in STEM. How rigid is the requirement to use the standards?

A17. The announcement states that the NASA is looking for partners to develop creative ways to help achieve one or more SoI goals and to increase the impact and visibility of SoI. It is not necessary for responses to address all SoI goals.

## Questions Added August 18, 2010

- Q18. Are Consortia of private and public entities allowed to partner with NASA for SoI?
- A18. NASA will accept responses from consortia of private and public entities. For all responses selected, NASA will determine the appropriate vehicle for establishing a partnership or other collaborative relationship.
- Q19. What are the benefits of entering a formal partnership with NASA as opposed to a collaboration?
- A19. NASA enters into partnerships when it wishes to work directly with another party to reach an outcome that is beneficial to both NASA and its partner. If you simply wish to use materials or resources that NASA is already making available, or plans to make available, then a formal partnership is not needed. Depending on how you want to utilize the Summer of Innovation materials and concepts, you may be asked to partner with NASA in response to your submission.
- Q20. Can we include pictures as part of the application and will they count as part of the 6 pages?
- A20. Pictures may be included within the 6-page guideline. Extra page allowance for pictures is not provided.