

TO: STAFF FROM: Dr. Jacob Cohen, Chief Scientist and Dr. Harry Partridge, Center Chief Technologist

SUBJECT: FY26 IRAD RFP – Proposals due 1/19/2026

The NASA Ames Office of the Chief Scientist and Center Chief Technologist in conjunction with the Deputy Center Director for Research and Technology, are pleased to announce the FY26 IRAD request for proposals.

Proposals are due January 19, 2026 at 5 p.m. (Pacific)

The Internal Research and Development (IRAD) program is an annual request for proposals to develop strategic technical capabilities relevant to Ames*. IRADs enable science, technology, and engineering efforts that support future Agency missions, help make Ames more competitive, provide opportunities for risk reduction and/or increased cost effectiveness, and initiate potentially transformational solutions to the most challenging mission-related problems.

The FY26 IRAD proposals are open to any area of science, technology or engineering research investment relevant to Ames*. Proposals that include funded collaborations with other Centers, USGS, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and SJSU are encouraged.

* Ames NASA Specific Mission Focused Areas:

- Moon-to-Mars (M2M) mission, technology and exploration science.
- Earth and Mars Entry Systems.
- Air Traffic Management & Advanced Air Mobility.
- UAV/UAS testing capability.
- Intelligent/Adaptive systems.
- Advanced Computing.
- Space Biology, Astrobiology, Space & Weather Science.

Requested budget is not to exceed \$100K (FY26) and \$100K (FY27) with awards expected to be made in March 2026. Funds can be split between FTE and Procurement, including contract labor. A minimum of 70% of the budget must be allocated for work conducted at or procurement for Ames. Line management has the authority to shift contract labor requests to FTE allocations.

Proposals are due January 19, 2026 at 5 p.m. (Pacific). Late submissions will not be accepted nor reviewed.

See [here](#) for more information, including all supporting documents and instructions.

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