

Q & A: Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Control Technologies Incubator Funding Opportunity

The following questions were anticipated by NOAA or received via chat during the September 30, 2021 webinar on the funding opportunity for the establishment of a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Control Technologies Incubator. Where appropriate, they have been edited for clarity and conciseness.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please contact Felix Martinez (felix.martinez@noaa.gov) or Jennifer Hinden (jennifer.hinden@noaa.gov).

CESU: Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

Question: Can the Incubator Principal Investigator(s) apply for Incubator sub-awards?

Answer: No. The Investigator(s) receiving the NOAA award resulting from this announcement will be involved in the development and implementation of the framework for soliciting and funding the subawards, including reviewing the sub-award proposals. As such, they will be precluded from engaging in research funded by the Incubator as it would constitute a conflict of interest.

Question: Can an unaffiliated researcher from the institution(s) implementing the Incubator apply for a sub-award?

Answer: Yes. Researchers from the institution implementing the Incubator that are not involved in any aspect of Incubator operations can apply for subawards.

Question: Is the competition for sub-awards to be a one-time annual call?

Answer: Yes. After the call, selected proposals will have to be collated into the Incubator Annual Research Plan as an Action Award Request through Grants Online for prior approval by NOAA before any funding is issued.

Question: How many sub-awards can be funded in a given year?

Answer: The number sub-awards in a given year will be determined both by the annual funding level and the amounts requested in the selected sub-awards. Unused funds in a given year can be rolled over into the next year competition.

Question: Can a sub-award be renewed?

Answer: Possibly. The process can be set up so that ideas can be assessed in stages with future funding dependent on successful completion of each stage. However, we expect that the total amount would not exceed the funding cap to evaluate a particular idea. We anticipate that no more than \$250K will be used to evaluate specific ideas.

Question: Do sub-awards have to adhere to the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Terms & Conditions?

Answer: Yes. Sub-awards need to adhere to the same terms and conditions as the Incubator, including the 17.5% IDC rate.

Question: Is there a list of CESUs for which NOAA is a member?

Answer: Yes. The list can be found in slide 10 of the webinar presentation and in the Eligibility Information section (Sec III.A) of the funding announcement.

Question: Is there a list of member institutions for those CESUs of which NOAA is a member?

Answer: Information on member institutions and the respective points of contacts can be found in the CESU Network website at <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>.

Question: Does the Incubator Principal Investigator need to be an employee of the lead CESU institution or can it be an employee of one the member academic institutions under the regional CESU?

Answer: The Principal Investigator does not have to be an employee of the lead CESU institution but has to be affiliated with an institution that is a member of that CESU.

Question: What is the advantage of an external institution rather NOAA reviewing and awarding individual grants?

Answer: By collaborating with an external partner, NOAA will be able to speed up the process of soliciting and implementing the projects that can assess novel control ideas.

Question: Is there a way folks can find each other that might want to work together?

Answer: Yes. Interested person can join and post messages inquiring about partnerships in the listserv of the US HAB Office. To join go to: <http://mailman.who.edu/mailman/listinfo/us-hab>.