

## EVI-4 Questions and Answers

Q1 : Will NASA consider under EVI-4 any proposals that have similar hardware, analogous sensing methods, and/or overlapping science goals than recently selected Earth Venture Investigations?

A1 : Yes. As stated in the EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO, “This solicitation calls for investigations addressing any of the science goals in NASA’s Earth Science program.” However, proposers should also be aware that the Selection Official “may take into account a wide range of programmatic factors in deciding whether or not to select any proposals and in selecting among selectable proposals, including, but not limited to, planning and policy considerations, available funding and funding profiles, programmatic merit and risk of any proposed partnerships, and maintaining a programmatic balance across the Mission Directorate(s).”

Q2 : Will Cubesats with form factors larger than 6U be considered under the EVI-4 solicitation if the proposed investigation is within the EVI-4 Cost Cap and addresses critical science questions?

A2 : Requirement S-20 of the EVI-4 PEA S states “CubeSat form factors larger than 6U will not be considered.” Please note that larger form factors are permitted under the Earth Venture Mission (EVM) solicitations of the Earth Venture element within the Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) Program.

Q3: NASA has stated that Earth Venture Instrument (EVI) solicitations are intended to have a cadence of 18 months. The EVI-3 solicitation was release on March 25, 2015 while the EVI-4 solicitation was released July 27, 2016; this is only 16 months. Is there a reason that NASA decided to release 2 months early?

A3 : NASA considered various factors in determining the solicitation release date. These included maintaining the 18-month cadence for selections, avoiding proposal due dates during the end-of-year holiday season, extending the time between solicitation release and proposal due date to allow proposers more time for preparation (from 90 days in previous EVI releases to 114 days for EVI-4), and other upcoming Announcements of Opportunity.

Q4 : Although the EVI-4 solicitation calls for “for developing instruments for participation on a NASA-arranged spaceflight mission of opportunity”, could a proposal include a specific spaceflight mission of opportunity?

A4. Yes. The EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO states “Proposals may include information on any research the proposing team has done relative to potential payload accommodations for their proposed instrument. This is not a requirement for any proposal. However, such information can serve to demonstrate to NASA the potential of finding one or more opportunities for accommodating the proposed instrument.” In addition the EVI-4 PEA S states “selection of proposals from this solicitation will take into account the ‘accommodatability’ of the proposed instruments... .. as well as the value of the science to be returned from the selected investigations.”

Q5 : T-# Requirements (e.g. T-19) are mentioned in Sections 4.7 and 5.1 of EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO, but are not listed elsewhere in the PEA.

A5 : The T-# requirements are typographical errors and should have been S-# requirements. These errors have been corrected in the updated file available from NSPIRES at the EVI-4 page: <https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId={50369F77-361E-C238-DB87-C3FC0F347E73}&path=open>

Q6 : Does the *Template for EVI-4 Accommodations Worksheet* from the EVI-4 Library count toward the page limit? Where does the worksheet belong in the proposal?

A6. Requirement S-19 in the EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO states “...A template is provided on the EVI-4 Library to aid proposers to provide this data. This table shall be provided in the experiment implementation section (Section E) of the proposal. This table does not count towards the proposal page limit. “

Q7 : Does NASA have a desirable expenditure profile for the PI-Managed Mission budget? We note that Requirement 54 of the SALMON-2 AO states “No more than 25% of the proposed costs may be incurred prior to KDP-C (Confirmation).” As well, expenditures are likely to be high in Phase C due to fabrication costs, and low in Phase D as NASA covers integration to the spacecraft.,

A7 : The EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO states “Proposers should propose a funding profile that is appropriate for their investigation. However, NASA cannot guarantee that every proposed funding profile can be accommodated within the ESSP Program’s budget. The inability of NASA to accommodate the requested funding profile may be a reason for nonselection of a proposal. Final funding profiles for all selected investigations will be negotiated between the ESSP Program and the selected investigation teams.”

Q8 : When and where will the EVI-4 Preproposal Teleconference/Webex charts be posted?

A8 : The EVI-4 Preproposal Teleconference/Webex charts are now available at [http://essp.larc.nasa.gov/EVI-4/evi-4\\_prepropwebex.html](http://essp.larc.nasa.gov/EVI-4/evi-4_prepropwebex.html)

Q9 : EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO states “Factor A-2, programmatic value of the proposed investigation, also includes the extent to which the proposed science investigation addresses unique science areas that are not being addressed by other missions (both NASA and non-NASA missions) expected to be in operation five to ten years from the start of the proposed investigation. ” When referring to “other missions”, does this extend to Instrument Incubator Programs?

A9 : This question appears to misinterpret the overall goals of NASA’s Earth Venture Program. As stated throughout the EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO, the intent of the PEA is to support unique and compelling scientific investigations, which is reflected in the evaluation and selection criteria. The Instrument Incubator Programs are primarily targeted at technology development, and the EVI-4 PEA S of the SALMON-2 AO states that “This EVI-4 PEA solicits flight missions, not technology or advanced engineering development projects. Proposed investigations are generally expected to have mature technologies, with systems at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 6 or higher.”

Q10 : What type of cost information should be included in Section H??

A10 : Cost requirements and evaluation criteria are stated in both the SALMON-2 AO and EVI-4 PEA S, and proposals must comply with the requirements and constraints contained within both documents. Cost requirements are stated in section 5.5 of the SALMON-2 AO and section 4.4 of the EVI-4 PEA S. The cost evaluation criteria is in section 7.2.4 of the SALMON-2 AO under Factor C-5. The specific requirements for the format and content of the cost portion of the proposals are found in Appendix B, section H of the SALMON-2 AO.

Q11 : Is a Feasibility Letter from the ISS Program required for EVI-4 instruments proposing accommodation on the International Space Station (ISS)?

A11 : A feasibility Letter from the ISS Program is not required and proposals will not be penalized for not including one. Nevertheless, the ISS Program highly recommends that proposers request an interface and resource feasibility assessment prior to proposal submission.

Q12 : Does the table of accommodation data count toward the page limit?

A12 : No. Requirement S-19 of the EVI-4 PEA of the SALMON-2 AO states “Requirement S-19. Proposals for instrument investigations that will be accommodated on a NASA selected platform shall clearly state the proposed instrument mass, volume dimensions...A template is provided on the EVI-4 Library to aid proposers to provide this

data. This table shall be provided in the experiment implementation section (Section E) of the proposal. This table does not count towards the proposal page limit.”

Q13 : Appendix B of the SALMON-2 AO has two versions of Section F (Version A and Version B). For CubeSat proposals, do we use Version B for Small Complete Missions since it is more applicable?

A : Yes.

Q14 : Section 4.5.2 of the SALMON-2 AO PEA-S states "Proposals may include information on any research the proposing team has done relative to potential payload accommodations for their proposed instrument." Does inclusion of this research on potential accommodations count against the page limits? Where should it be included in the proposal?

A14 : Yes, this information count against the page limit. Please include in Section E.

Q15 : Please explain how the cost requirements of the SALMON-2 AO and PEA-S can be fully addressed within the 8 pages allotted for section H in proposals.

A15 : NASA cannot provide advice on proposal preparation. Please note that page allotment for Section H was specifically evaluated (using both historical proposals and current requirements) during the development of PEA-S, and it was determined that 8 pages was sufficient.

Q16 : Is the SALMON-2 AO Requirement 54 “No more than 25% of the proposed costs may be incurred prior to KDP-C (Confirmation)” waived for EVI-4?

A16 : No.

Q17 : How are Fiscal Year 2020 costs to be calculated?

A17 : Requirement B-53 of the SALMON-2 AO states “Proposers shall use their own approved forward pricing rates. For organizations that are without approved forward pricing rates, proposers may use the most recent NASA inflation/deflation indices... ” For investigations using the most recent NASA inflation/deflation indices, use this table to inflate/deflate to FY 2020 dollars for all years encompassing the lifecycle of your investigation. The latest NASA inflation Table can be found in the EVI-4 Program Library.

Q18 : If a proposal includes Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), what documentation is required regarding the GFE?

A18 : GFE is specifically addressed in Section 5.8 of the SALMON-2 AO. “If Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) is being contributed, then permission must be obtained from the appropriate Agency or Program; the permission must be included in the Letter of Commitment.”

Q19 : Are significant contributions an advantage for this solicitation?

A19 : Proposals are evaluated and selected according to the criteria and factors in the SALMON-2 AO and the EVI-4 PEA S.

Q20 : Are costs for getting the instrument data to the ground and delivered to the DAAC to be included in the PI-Managed Mission Costs or are they part of the "Cost for access to space" listed in Table 1 of the EVI-4 PEA-S?

A20 : Section 1.1 of the EVI-4 PEA S of SALMON-2 AO states “This solicitation calls for proposals for complete

PI-led science investigations requiring spaceflight instrument or CubeSat(s) development. The term "complete" encompasses investigation phases from project initiation, through development and science operations, to scientific analysis of space based data." Please refer to Section 4.5.7 of the EVI-4 PEA S and Requirement B-25 "Science Operations" of the SALMON-2 AO for specific details.

Q21 : Does the unencumbered cost reserve for each phase have to be 25% or more, or does the 25% or higher apply to the aggregate of all phases?

A21 : Requirement 57 of the SALMON-2 AO states "Proposals shall justify the adequacy of the proposed cost reserves... . . . Proposals shall comply with the requirement for unencumbered cost reserves against the development cost to complete and shall demonstrate an approach to maintaining required development unencumbered cost reserves through subsequent development and operations phases."

Q22 : Could a proposed investigation have any mix of percent reserve per Phase (justified) as long as the sum of the dollar amount of reserve across Phases A through D divided by the PI-Managed Mission Cost for A through D is at least 25% or must the investigation have at least 25% reserves at each Key Decision Point (KDP)?

A22 : Section 5.5.2 of the SALMON-2 AO states "Adequate development unencumbered cost reserves for Phases A/B/C/D is defined to be a minimum of 25%. Instruments and international collaborations often require higher reserves than the minimum. Adequate unencumbered cost reserves must be demonstrated at each of the following milestones: KDP-A (demonstrated in the proposal), KDP-B, KDP-C (the independent cost estimate for Confirmation), and KDP-D (at the end of Phase C)."