



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

MEMORANDUM FOR: All NOAA Cooperative Institutes

*John Cortinas*

FROM: John Cortinas, Ph.D., Chairman,  
NOAA Research Council  
Cooperative Institute Committee

SUBJECT: Cooperative Institute Committee Memorandum (CICM) #7:  
Extension of Cooperative Institute Awards

DATE: May 22, 2009

The attached memorandum is being released as CICM #7 and documents the approval of extending some Cooperative Institute (CI) awards for the purpose of providing more agency time to compete all CI awards.



APR 28 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rimas Liogys  
Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Grants Management Division

FROM: Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., CMarSci  
Chair, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Research  
Council

SUBJECT: Cooperative Institute Award Extensions

1) Introduction

On September 27, 2005, the Chair of the Research Council and the Director of the Grants Management Division approved the extension of 18 cooperative institute (CI) cooperative agreements listed in Table 1 of the NOAA Cooperative Institute Transition Plan<sup>1</sup>. Since that time, NOAA has executed the details of the Plan and has competed replacement CIs for all of the CIs that were extended until 2007 and 2008, with the exception of CICOR, which received one additional extension until 2009 because NOAA needed more time to determine the type of CI that was needed when the CICOR award ends. These competitions followed the timeline described in figure 1 of the Transition Plan.

2) Revised CI Establishment Timeline

In December 2007, the NOAA Research Council's CI Committee re-analyzed the CI establishment schedule considering NOAA's actual experiences with establishing several CIs under this process. That analysis determined that two additional months should be added to the original timeline shown in the transition plan to account for additional time needed during the establishment process (Fig. 1). Included in the revision of the timeline was an extension of the period when applications will be accepted from two to three months to provide applicants with enough time to develop a consortium and work with multiple institutions when requested by NOAA in the competitive announcement.

3) Revised Award End Dates

The CI Committee's review of the CI establishment process also determined that NOAA's current human resources were insufficient to competitively establish all the required replacement CIs (if NOAA determined such a replacement was necessary) according to the Transition Plan

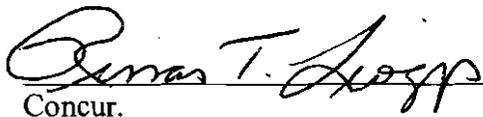
<sup>1</sup> The CI Transition Plan details how NOAA will end all non-competitively established CIs and is described in Cooperative Institute Committee Memorandum #1, which is available at <http://www.nrc.noaa.gov/ci/policy/docs/CITransitionPlan.pdf>.



schedule. This was particularly clear when the revised timeline (Fig. 1) is considered. Based on the amount of resources that have been used for previous competitions, the CI committee estimates that NOAA can reasonably compete up to six new CIs each year. Therefore, to accommodate competitions for the CIs listed in Table 1, and any new CIs that NOAA wants to create, the NOAA Research Council recommends that the end date of the CI awards shown in Table 1 be extended again for seven CI awards to ensure that the competitive process is conducted correctly using the necessary NOAA resources. The new end dates were chosen based on the resources needed/available by the lead Line Office and the impact on current research projects at the CI.

Upon your approval, the Research Council's CI committee will work with your Grant Specialists and the CIs that are affected to process the necessary paperwork to complete this action. The Research Council understands that new awards will need to be created for CI cooperative agreements that are being extended beyond 2009 to improve efficiency with processing future funding requests.

If you approve, please sign this memorandum below and return to the Chairperson of the Cooperative Institute Committee, John Cortinas.

  
Concur.

\_\_\_\_\_  
I do not concur.

4/29/08  
Date

Activity	Months																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Programs, GT(s), and LO(s) write and submit prospectus for a new CI to the RC	■	■	■	X																
RC Review				O	X															
NEC/NEP Review and NOAA Administrator Approval					O	■														
Write and publish competitive announcement as a Federal Register notice and Grants.gov announcement							■													
Accept Applications								■	■	■	■									
Review Applications											■	X								
Submit Application Package to Grants Management Division/ Award Processing Time												O	■	X						
Announce Award															O					
Begin Research Planning with CI and Write MOA																■	■	■	■	■
CI Award Begins																				O

Figure 1. Timeline for Establishing a New CI (X = first two weeks of the month, O = last two weeks of the month).

Table 1. Revised End Dates for Current NOAA Cooperative Institute Awards

Cooperative Institute	Original Award End Date	Revised Award End Date
CIFAR	6/30/2008	*
CICS-Princeton	6/30/2008	*
CMER-RI, MA	6/30/2008	9/30/2009
CMER-VIMS, Rutgers	6/30/2009	9/30/2009
CICOR <sup>^</sup>	6/30/2008	6/30/2009
CICS-Univ. of MD	6/30/2009	*
CIRA	6/30/2009	*
CIMAS	6/30/2009	9/30/2010
CIMSS	6/30/2010	*
JISAO	6/30/2010	*
JIMO	6/30/2010	*
CIMRS	6/30/2009	9/30/2011
CIMMS	6/30/2009	9/30/2011
JIMAR	6/30/2009	9/30/2011
CIRES	6/30/2010	9/30/2011
*no revision to end date described in original CI Transition Plan		
<sup>^</sup> award extension was approved by the NOAA Grants Officer on February 13, 2008.		