



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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ACQUISITION
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

JUL 24 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR DOD COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNITS
REGIONAL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Competition of Cooperative Projects Funded Under the
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units National Network

The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) National Network provides coordinated research, technical, and educational assistance to federal agencies and their partners through a network of 17 regional partnerships. The Department of Defense has committed to continued participation in the CESU network by signing the revised CESU Memorandum of Understanding (attached). DoD actively participates in seven CESU regions, and has developed the attached fact sheet for use by all DoD representatives.

Recently, questions have arisen concerning the requirement to compete CESU proposals. The following guidelines should be used for all proposed DoD work involving the CESU Network:

- DoD CESU Regional Coordinators shall seek competition within each CESU region through the issuance of a Request for Statement of Interest (SOI) for each proposed CESU project initiated by the DoD. Widespread dissemination of the SOI may be obtained by posting the SOI (sample SOI letter attached) on the website maintained by the host university for the relevant CESU region. Where the number of potentially qualified applicants is limited, a more restricted notice may be made by sending the SOI directly to all qualified CESU partner institutions within the region.
- Under the terms and conditions of all current CESU Cooperative Agreements, the host university and all partner institutions within a CESU region within which DoD is a member may themselves submit a proposal to DoD. In such cases, competition is not required and an SOI is unnecessary.
- DoD CESU Regional Coordinators are not required to issue an SOI for projects that are submitted to DoD for consideration as part of competition-based funding programs such as the DoD Legacy Program, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP), and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP).

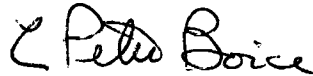
Adherence to these guidelines will ensure that:

- DoD obtains the best project proposals possible for the research requests it initiates;



- Cooperative agreements are consistent with the DoDGARs requirements for competition;
- Projects comply with 10 U.S.C. 2361; and
- The process will generate a clear and auditable administrative record to support CESU project awards.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Pedro Morales at (703) 604-1933.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Peter Boice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "P".

L. Peter Boice
Conservation Team Leader
ODUSD-ESOH

Attachments
As stated