

Advanced Spatial Technologies in Agriculture (ASTA)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY04

The Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) requests proposals from MAFES scientists for the 2004-05 Advanced Spatial Technologies for Agriculture (ASTA) Program. Provided that funding is available for FY 04, this solicitation will provide up to a total of \$200K with each project limited to \$50K.

MAFES research projects supported by the ASTA program will encompass the following principles: well-integrated involvement of appropriate disciplines in collaboration, strong focus on identification of end-user requirements which justify the research effort, an emphasis on how those requirements were or will be determined, well-defined and scientifically sound research project description, and a convincing description of how the outcome of a project contributes ultimately to sustained public and private use of precision agricultural applications. In addition each proposal should provide intellectual property and “sunset” plans and plans to pursue additional competitive funding or sponsorship. Proposals will be evaluated not only on quality of research, but the degree to which the broad goals and specific objectives of the ASTA program are addressed.

ASTA overall goal:

Investigate site-specific technologies as they pertain to natural resource management, precision farming, agribusiness, and decision making in agriculture. The project will develop research activities in an effort to produce new knowledge concerning applications of these technologies in Mississippi and the Nation.

Individual project proposals that do not clearly define how they fit into the research strategy and overall goal of the ASTA program will not be considered for funding. Cooperative projects with relevant commercial entities are recommended when appropriate.

Proposals should have a strong interdisciplinary representation for developing solutions to the complex problems of the users of site-specific technologies.

When there is duplication in proposals, ASTA program management will work with principal investigators to develop a coordinated effort within that specific application.

Matching costs are not required, but enhance the prospects of success for the project. Leveraging of funds through cooperation with industry, other government agencies (e.g. USDA/ARS), and other related projects is therefore encouraged. These matching funds or leveraging activities should be specified in the proposal.

Proposal format is attached in a separate document. Proposal budget must use the form provided. Proposals requesting continuation funding must include a complete progress

report, in addition to the new proposal, for consideration. Guidelines for progress report format are attached separately.

Funding commitments are on a one-year basis only, given the source of program funding. However, multiple-year projects will be accepted, with funding contingent on available resources in subsequent years.

Submit ten copies of the proposal (eight-page limit with a font size no less than 12 pt.) following the attached format to:

Mr. Charles L. Hill, Associate Director
GeoResources, Institute
Mississippi State University
Box 9652
Mississippi State, MS 39762

An Internal Approval Sheet, signed by the principal investigator(s) and their department head(s) should accompany the proposal. In addition, an electronic copy of the proposal in MS Word format should be provided to chill@gri.msstate.edu.

Deadline for proposal submission is COB January 30, 2004.