

# **U.S. Geological Survey**

## **Mineral Resources External Research Program – FY 2009**

### **Funding Opportunity and Award Description**

The Mineral Resources Program (MRP) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is offering a grant and/or cooperative agreement opportunity, called the Mineral Resources External Research Program (MRERP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. This opportunity is extended to universities, State agencies, Tribal governments or organizations, and industry or other private sector organizations that have the ability to conduct research in topics related to nonfuel mineral resources. For FY 2009 this has been expanded to include uranium.

The total amount of funding available for the FY 2009 MRERP is expected to be \$250,000. As of the posting date of this announcement the Federal appropriations process for FY 2009 was not complete. If the available funding remains \$250,000, the MRP anticipates making awards in FY 2009 for 3 to 5 proposals; however, individual proposals are not restricted to a set level of funding.

**Note that the schedule for proposal submittal and application for the MRERP has changed from previous years. The FY 2009 MRERP is accepting applications and proposals from August 18 to September 29, 2008. Access and download the FY 2009 MRERP announcement by going to <http://www.grants.gov/> and search for this grant opportunity by using keyword “mineral”, funding opportunity number “09HQPA0002”, or CFDA number “15.808”.**

### **Applicant Eligibility**

Applications will be accepted from any individual who has the ability to conduct research consistent with the Mineral Resources Program goals (see Research Topics section below) and who is not employed by a U.S. Federal agency. Applicants need not be U.S. citizens and can be affiliated (but are not required to be affiliated) with universities, State agencies, Tribal governments or organizations, industry, or other private sector groups.

### **Research Topic Eligibility**

All proposals must meet two primary criteria to qualify for funding consideration.

Criterion 1: The proposed work must be research; a systematic inquiry to generate new knowledge about a subject of investigation, through a process of interpretation. Data collection and compilation are important early steps in a research project, but do not, alone, constitute research.

Criterion 2: The proposed research must address one of the long-term goals of the MRP, as defined in the MRP Five-Year plan for FY 2006-2010 ([http://minerals.usgs.gov/plan/2006-2010/2006-2010\\_plan.html](http://minerals.usgs.gov/plan/2006-2010/2006-2010_plan.html)). These are:

- Long-term goal 1: Ensure availability of up-to-date quantitative assessments of potential for undiscovered mineral deposits
- Long-term goal 2: Ensure availability of up-to-date geoenvironmental assessments of priority Federal lands
- Long-term goal 3: Ensure availability of reliable geologic, geochemical, geophysical, and mineral locality data for the United States
- Long-term goal 4: Ensure availability of long-term data sets describing mineral production and consumption

**Note that evaluation criteria reward proposals that address one or more of the priority research topics outlined below.**

### *Priority Research Topics*

The USGS MRP conducts research to reduce the uncertainty in nonfuel mineral resource and mineral environmental assessments. As assessments are dynamic, so must be the research that supports them. Each year the MRERP designates research topics as priority for support. As the MRP prepares to embark on a new national mineral resource assessment of the United States in 2012, work is underway to update mineral deposit and mineral environmental models and to improve techniques of assessment for concealed mineral resources.

To support this on-going effort, the FY 2009 MRERP will solicit research proposals that (1) will improve our assessment for concealed mineral resources in general, or (2) will contribute to accurate and comprehensive mineral deposit or mineral environmental models for deposit types, known or expected to be found in the United States, that are important sources of the following commodities (listed in alphabetical order):

beryllium  
chromium  
cobalt  
iron  
lithium  
manganese  
nickel  
phosphate  
platinum-group metals  
potash  
rare earths  
titanium and TiO<sub>2</sub>  
uranium

The MRP also intends to include gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc in the new national mineral resource assessment, but the MRERP is not soliciting research proposals related to updating models for these commodities at this time.

For further information contact [MRERP@usgs.gov](mailto:MRERP@usgs.gov).