

To: Managers of National Antarctic Programs

Date: 21 October 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to follow up on information that the US and UK provided at the recent COMNAP meeting in Goa. As noted at our meeting, the UK Natural Environment Research Council and the US National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs have been discussing a joint research initiative to address the important question of ice mass loss and sea level rise from changes in the Thwaites Glacier region of West Antarctica. This critical research topic was identified by several community-based reports on Antarctic science priorities including the 2015 US National Academy of Sciences report entitled "A Strategic Vision for NSF Investments in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research" as well as the 2014 SCAR Horizon Scan.

I am pleased to report that the research solicitation has now been released and is available at the URL below. The solicitation requires proposals to be submitted jointly by UK and US principal investigators and accommodates possible interests from scientists in other countries. Proposals can request logistical support required to enable the scientific work from both the US Antarctic Program and the British Antarctic Survey. We expect that proposals will be initiated and developed through collaborative discussions by the interested scientists. As described in the solicitation, we anticipate that involvement of non-UK or US scientists will also lead to discussions between National Antarctic Program operators from other countries about potential contributions that would help enable fieldwork.

The solicitation can be found at: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17505/nsf17505.htm>

I would appreciate your help in raising awareness of this research opportunity with scientists in your countries who might be interested in collaborative work with UK and US colleagues. The principal points of contact for this research solicitation are: Dr. Paul Cutler (pcutler@nsf.gov) for USAP, and Ms. Jessica Surma (jetc@nerc.ac.uk).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelly K. Falkner
Director, US Antarctic Program
Division of Polar Programs
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Cc

Dr. Eric Saltzman, NSF/ANT

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