

VOCALS Science Working Group  
28 February 2007



Dear VOCALS Participants,

As planning for VOCALS moves forward, we are writing to you all to provide information about the calendar of upcoming events and the logistics of proposal submission.

The current VOCALS calendar for 2007 is as follows, with details below.

1. March 1 - Deadline for provision of US participant biographical information for purposes of proposal review/panel selection
2. May 18-20 - First VOCALS-Mod Workshop, mid-May, NCAR, Boulder, CO, USA
3. June 11-12 - First VOCALS-Rex Preparatory Workshop, NCAR, Boulder, CO, USA
4. July 1 - NCAR EOL Facility Request submission
5. July 15 - NSF/NOAA Proposal submission deadline

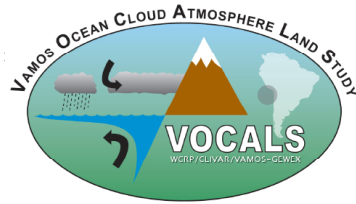
*Request for biographical information:* José Meitín has sent out requests to U. S. participants for biographical information regarding recent collaborators and thesis/postdoctoral advisors. This information, which is required in NSF proposals, is needed by the agencies in order to set up a review panel for VOCALS proposals that is free from conflict of interest issues. Please be timely with your provision of this information since there are many people and disciplines involved.

*VOCALS-Modeling Workshop:* The workshop goals are to: 1) Revise the scientific hypotheses of VOCALS modeling (e.g., the role of ocean eddies in the region); 2) Identify the models (both small scale, regional, and global) to be used in VOCALS, discuss their readiness, and review their difficulties with the key processes in the region (e.g., stratocumulus); 3) Design strategies for model validation using current and anticipated VOCALS datasets; 4) Determine whether there are any critical measurement gaps in the Rex plan; 5) Fix a timeline for development of the Multi-Scale Seasonal Prediction (MUSSIP) system (see Modeling Plan).

*VOCALS-Rex Preparatory Workshop:* The workshop's overarching aim is to prepare for the VOCALS-Rex field program. This will involve discussions and decision-making regarding sampling, PI teams, and participant requirements. Ahead of this meeting we will be sending specific requests (some have already been sent) to participant teams for logistical information that is required by NCAR's Earth Observing Laboratory (EOL) to facilitate planning. **The aim is to have a draft version of the EOL Facility Request document (see below) ready for discussion at this meeting.** Your timely participation in returning this information is therefore very much appreciated and is required for the July 1 facility request.

*NCAR EOL Facility Request submission:* This is the single most important document that we as a team must produce this year as it provides EOL, who will be coordinating logistics for VOCALS, with the information they need to (a) equip the various platforms (especially the C-130); (b) set up an operations center and provide participants with the support they need to function in the field. Over the next month or so, we will be requesting information that is required to complete this document. More information on the request can be found at <http://www.eol.ucar.edu/requests.html>.





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*NSF/NOAA Proposal submission deadline:* NSF and NOAA will provide the majority of the competitive funding for VOCALS (with additional funding provided by ONR and DOE). All NSF and NOAA program managers have agreed to a single target date of July 15th for proposal submission. Proposals **MUST** be submitted to a specific NOAA program or NSF division in the usual way. There is one additional very important point: **Any VOCALS proposal must also be submitted to NSF in their required format for proposals.** This does impose some extra work on the NOAA PIs, as they will have to submit an NSF-compliant proposal, but it is needed in order to coordinate all the reviews and the panel through NSF. Those PIs expecting funding from NOAA should check the box indicating they expect support from another agency.

PIs should informally communicate their intentions to their program managers. Agencies/divisions that are expecting VOCALS-related proposals are:

NSF Climate and Large Scale Dynamics (ATM-CLD) - *Walter Robinson, manager,*  
*warobins@nsf.gov*

NOAA Climate Program Prediction Program for the Americas (CPPA) - *Jin Huang, manager,*  
*jin.huang@noaa.gov*

NSF Physical Oceanography (OCE-PO) - *Eric Itsweire, manager, eitsweir@nsf.gov*

NSF Atmospheric Chemistry (ATM-AC) - *Anne-Marie Schmoltner, manager, aschmolt@nsf.gov*

NOAA Atmospheric Composition and Climate Program (ACCP) - *Kea Duckenfield, manager,*  
*kea.duckenfield@noaa.gov*

The VOCALS web site includes the Scientific Program Overview (SPO) that was reviewed by NSF/NOAA at the end of 2006. This document forms the basis for the VOCALS plan to which agencies are committing funds. In preparing the document, we did our utmost to fit projects that would address the scientific goals as specified in the VOCALS Science and Implementation plans within a viable budget according to the advice we received. This fitting was achieved by dividing projects into two categories: core and linked. Agencies have planned their financial allocations to VOCALS based on the draft budgets of the core projects. We have all expectations that funds will become available next for the linked projects. Our most pressing needs during 2007, therefore, will be submitting a set of proposals that represent a comprehensive and highly coordinated VOCALS core.

The attached spreadsheet provides the budget attached to the document submitted to NSF/NOAA last September. Please call us if you would like clarification of any aspect of this message.

C. R. Mechoso, Professor  
VOCALS SWG Chair, UCLA

Rob Wood, Assistant Professor  
VOCALS-REX PI, U. Washington

