

Request for Proposals

Natural Hazards Research Platform
Contestable Funding 2017

“New Zealand’s Natural Hazards”

Date: 9 June 2017

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1. Key information for applicants

This request for proposal (RfP) seeks projects that advance understanding of New Zealand's natural hazards across the following themes: (1) geological hazards; (2) weather, flood & coastal hazards; (3) regional & national risk evaluation; (4) societal resilience; and (5) resilient engineering and infrastructure.

1.1 Documents

- Request for Proposals
- Investment Guidelines and Processes
- Application Form
- Additional Guidance

These documents are available on the NHRP website:

www.naturalhazards.org.nz/NHRP/Funding

1.2 Duration and value of projects

New Zealand Natural Hazards	
Funding Available:	Up to \$3M (GST ex) to invest over 24 months
Expected Value per project:	\$100,000 – \$500,000 (GST ex) in total. All proposals should demonstrate their value. Those valued at greater than \$300K ideally cover greater thematic areas and involve large teams from multiple institutions.
Project Duration:	24 months
Project start date:	1 November 2017
Project end date:	31 October 2019
Eligibility:	Both project leader and applicant organisation must be NZ-based.* Proposed research must be within scope of the RfP, and must meet the format, timing and administrative requirements of the NHRP
Key emphasis:	Innovative projects that advance the knowledge of New Zealand's natural hazards processes and events, risk modelling, societal, engineering and infrastructure resilience, and our understanding of societal vulnerability to natural hazards; multidisciplinary and multi-institutional; maintaining and building NZ capability; new researchers and research teams.

* Both project leader and applicant organisation must be NZ-based. Projects may include overseas collaboration, but must be led by a NZ-based researcher for the duration of the project, with a significant proportion (>75%) of the research conducted in New Zealand. Funding may be used to cover reasonable disbursements for overseas collaborators but not their salaries.

1.3 Application Timeline

'New Zealand Natural Hazards'	
RfP, Investment Guide and Application template available on the NHRP website.	9 June 2017
Applications due at NHRP@gns.cri.nz Proposals received by NHRP and checked for eligibility.	31 July 2017 at noon
Proposals assigned to assessors and sent out to the Assessment Group	By 21 August 2017*
Assessment scores back to NHRP	25 September 2017*
Reference Panel Meeting to discuss all proposals and to agree on final recommendations	2 October 2017*
Anchor CEO Group endorsement	9 October 2017*
Results released	23 October 2017*
Contracts begin	1 November 2017

**Dates are indicative*

1.4 How to submit your proposal

Proposals are to be submitted by e-mail to NHRP@gns.cri.nz.

Follow the guidance on proposal and CV length.

1.5 Contacts and enquiries

Please email enquiries to the Natural Hazards Research Platform (NHRP@gns.cri.nz) and check the website (www.naturalhazards.org.nz) for any information updates.

2. Purpose and scope of 'New Zealand's Natural Hazards' Contestable Round

The Natural Hazards Research Platform currently works across five themes: (1) geological hazards; (2) weather, flood & coastal hazards; (3) developing regional & national risk evaluation models; (4) societal resilience: social, cultural, economic and planning factors; and (5) resilient engineering and infrastructure. A key principle of the NHRP is to develop greater cohesion and integration between the physical, engineering and social elements of hazards research.

In this contestable funding round, the NHRP requests proposals for research as shown in 'Table 2.1 - Funding Priorities,' this may be within a theme or across themes.

Table 2.1 -Funding Priorities.

Please indicate the theme and topic area that best applies to your project.

Theme	Targeted Topics – New Zealand Natural Hazards
1. Geological	1.1 Improved understanding of geological processes that inform future hazards
	1.2 Fundamental research into the frequency and magnitude of geological hazard events
	1.3 Multi-hazard studies including modelling secondary perils and cumulative hazards
2. Weather	2.1 Improved understanding of the processes that drive weather-related hazards
	2.2 Enhanced quantification of weather-related hazard events on coasts and floodplains
	2.3 Assessing the impacts of hazard events arising from climate change
3. Risk	3.1 Natural hazard risk and impact models for New Zealand towns, cities and industry sectors
	3.2 Improved understanding of interdependencies, cascading hazards /failure scenarios and their impacts
4. Societal	4.1 Addressing challenges faced by vulnerable populations across the 4 R's: reduction, readiness, response and recovery.
	4.2 Understanding the benefits and costs of disaster risk management options, considering reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities
	4.3 Better design and use of existing systems, emergent technologies and public education to minimise the impact of hazard events
	4.4 Economics of disaster risk management
5. Engineering	5.1 Research that builds on performance of buildings in past earthquakes including determining effective methods of assessing residual building capacity after severe loading and establishing the need for replacement rather than repair
	5.2 Improved understanding of vulnerability and fragility in the built environment, particularly for natural hazards other than earthquakes
	5.3 New technologies and systems for in-situ monitoring of building and infrastructure performance and how to make use of such data
	5.4 Assessment of damage and losses including seismic vulnerability of secondary (non-structural) elements in buildings and how to reduce these.

Successful projects are likely to have the following characteristics:

- Clear research-user engagement and support;
- Strong organisational support;
- Enhanced integration between discipline groups or themes.

What will not be funded:

- Research relating to man-made (technological or social) hazards including major transport accidents, infrastructure failures, terrorism, and biological accidents;
- Infrastructure research, including new building solutions, that does not specifically relate to mitigating impacts from hazard events;
- Research where the benefits are specific to a discrete sector, rather than having widespread national benefits;
- Research and translation of research outputs that are expected to be funded by other public sector or private sector agencies to meet local needs or immediate operational requirements.

3. Issues and Characteristics for ‘New Zealand’s Natural Hazards’

Capability	Proposals should clearly indicate where they are seeking to develop or maintain capability and why the capability is important for and beneficial to New Zealand. The short funding period will limit the types of capability development that are able to be funded.
Themes	Proposals may cross themes and targeted topics.
Leadership	It is expected that proposals will be led by researchers with documented experience in the relevant areas.

4. Assessment Criteria for ‘New Zealand’s Natural Hazards’

Benefits to New Zealand	Risk management or success factors
<p>1. Outcome benefits to New Zealand</p> <p><i>Key Question: To what extent would the proposed research, science or technology, or related activities create benefits for New Zealand?</i></p> <p>Your answer should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the opportunity or need and the potential impacts of the proposed research; • The project’s potential contribution to topic outcomes if it is adopted and implemented (include any spill over benefits); • Evidence that the research is beyond ‘business as usual’ and is unlikely to be undertaken by others (industry, private sector, public sector, community, voluntary) in the near future. 	<p>2. Implementation Pathway</p> <p><i>Key Question: To what extent does the proposal have a credible pathway to implementation?</i></p> <p>Your answer should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team’s relevant track record in delivering contributions to outcomes and working with research users; • Freedom to operate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – any barriers to adoption including ethical issues, intellectual property, and regulatory hurdles; – takes account of existing or new competitors, substitutes and alternative ways of achieving outcomes; • A pathway to research use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – your plan to achieve uptake (including mechanisms and key steps), capturing benefits for New Zealand; – quality engagement with research users and/or co-investment.
<p>3. Benefits to New Zealand of research, science, or technology or related activities.</p> <p><i>Key Questions: What is the quality of the proposed research, science, or technology, or related activities? To what extent would the proposed research, science, or technology, or related activities generate new knowledge?</i></p> <p>Your answer should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced knowledge in the research area; how it extends knowledge frontiers and generates significant new knowledge, potentially contributing to the topic outcome; • Excellence of RS&T fit-for-purpose – demonstration of soundness of research method (including research questions and/or hypotheses) and the rationale for the approach and methodology, and identification of the strengths/weaknesses of the research approach; • The potential for this distinctive RS&T capability to contribute to future outcomes; OR how the maintenance and development of an existing RS&T 	<p>4. Ability to deliver results (outputs) from research, science, or technology, or related activities.</p> <p><i>Key Question: What is the likelihood that the proposed outputs of the research, science, or technology, or related activities will be achieved?</i></p> <p>Your answer should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RS&T track record of teams, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fit-for-purpose science track record – Collaborations where necessary to bring together the best team to deliver the proposed research • Track record of delivering on research (including but not limited to previous contracts with the NHRP and MBIE); • Your project management and support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Team leadership, roles, level of commitment of key individuals and coordination – organisational & infrastructural support – succession planning; • Your project plan:

<p>capability makes, or may make, an important contribution to target outcomes, taking account of the difficulty of replicating it. (RS&T capability includes development of individual and team research abilities and associated support and infrastructure).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – clearly defined, well-sequenced critical path steps; – change events and identification of and mitigation of key project delivery risks.
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5. Assessment Process

The applications will be assessed by the NHRP Management Group (PMG) with expert advice from members of the NHRP's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), external Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and other experts seconded as required. Please refer to the NHRP *'Investment Guidelines and Processes'* for further information about the Assessment Process.

6. Relevant Strategies and Policies

National CDEM Strategy

- Update in progress: *'National Disaster Resilience Strategy'*; Link: <http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/national-disaster-resilience-strategy-development/>

Natural Hazards Platform Research Strategy

ICNZ position paper *'Protecting New Zealand from Natural Hazards'* (October 2014) – accessed 1 June 2017

LGNZ think piece *'Managing natural hazard risk in New Zealand – towards more resilient communities'* (October 2014) – accessed 1 June 2017

Vision Mātauranga –

- Please refer to MBIE's **Vision Mātauranga Policy and guidance booklet**. Link: <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/science-innovation/pdf-library/vm-booklet.pdf>
- Also refer to the NHRP Contest 2017 document: *'Additional Guidance'*

7. Terms and Conditions which apply to this RfP and proposal process

The terms and conditions related to this RfP and proposal process follow. These explain how NHRP will use the information you provide, and clarify important features of applying for funding.

By submitting a proposal, you are agreeing to these terms and conditions.

Terms and Conditions

All reference to 'NHRP' in the terms & conditions below includes the Natural Hazards Research Platform and its host organisation, GNS Science.

Investigations and reliance on information

Applicants must examine this RfP and associated documents and carry out all necessary investigations before submitting a proposal. If you are in doubt as to the meaning of any part of this RfP and associated documents, you must set out in your proposal the interpretation and any assumptions you used.

The NHRP will not be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence, or otherwise) to anyone who relies on any information provided by or on behalf of the NHRP in connection with the RfP and proposal process.

Costs and expenses

The NHRP is not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by you in the preparation of a proposal.

Confidentiality

The NHRP will treat your proposal as confidential, but you should be aware that the NHRP is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be required to release information supplied in your proposal in accordance with that Act, or as otherwise required by law.

Inducements

You must not directly or indirectly provide any form of inducement or reward to any assessment panel member, officer, employee, advisor, or other representative of the NHRP in connection with the proposal process.

Business-as-usual communications (relating to existing arrangements) will be maintained with the usual contacts. However, during the proposal process you must not use business-as-usual contacts to solicit or discuss details of the RfP and proposal process, or any proposal you have, or intend to submit, with NHRP, its agents, including assessment panel members.

The proposal process

You should be aware:

- Your proposal may not be approved for funding.
- All or any proposal(s) may be rejected.
- Your proposal may be accepted in whole or in part.
- The NHRP may amend, suspend, cancel and/or re-issue or replace any of the Documents related to the proposal process at any time. The NHRP will announce changes or updates regarding the proposal process on its website www.naturalhazards.org.nz, and by utilising other science announcement mechanisms and channels.
- If you provide any information to the NHRP with your proposal, please be aware that the NHRP may not be able to return that information to you.
- Any information you provide to the NHRP with your proposal may be retained or destroyed

- The NHRP may seek clarification from any applicant(s) in relation to any matter in connection with this proposal process.
- Any applicant(s) may be contacted, which may be to the exclusion of any other applicant(s), at any time before or after the approval (if any) of proposal(s).
- NHRP may reject, or not consider further, any documentation related to your proposal that may be received from you, unless it is specifically requested.
- Any statement or representation contained in your proposal may be relied on in determining your proposal.
- The RfP and call for proposals does not give rise to a process contract.

No contractual obligations created

No contract or other legal obligations arise between the NHRP and any applicant(s) out of, or in relation to, this proposal process, until a formal written contract (if any) is signed by the applicant, NHRP or GNS Science.

The RfP and proposal process does not constitute an offer by NHRP to provide funding or enter into any agreement with you. The call for and receipt of proposals does not imply any obligation on NHRP to contract any funding requested in your proposal.

Exclusion of liability

Neither the NHRP, nor assessment panel members, officers, employees, advisors or other representatives will be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence or otherwise) for any direct or indirect damage, loss or cost (including legal costs) incurred or suffered by any applicant or other person in connection with this proposal process.