



20 September 2016

Open call for Deep Carbon Observatory Synthesis Proposals

Pre-proposal submission deadline 25 October 2016

Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO) science is broad and far-reaching in its scope. To date, most of DCO science has been carried out within four communities—Deep Energy, Deep Life, Reservoirs and Fluxes, and Extreme Physics and Chemistry—by nearly 900 researchers in 40 countries.

Throughout the remainder of its decadal program, DCO will focus on synthesis and integration, culminating in a wide range of activities and products by 2019. To encourage innovation and broad, creative thinking, we invite pre-proposals from all DCO Science Network members for projects relating to the synthesis and integration of deep carbon science. We will fund up to three proposals in this round, with a value of up to \$50,000 each. We encourage applicants to look for other sources of leveraged funds to increase the scope of their projects.

Our challenge in the lead up to 2019 is to synthesize what we have learned and to develop an overarching understanding of the carbon system in Earth, integrating advances made across all four DCO communities. A critical part of the synthesis process is to present and communicate these discoveries not only to our scientific colleagues, but also to a wider range of stakeholders, including funders, educators, and the interested public.

Project criteria

We will consider a variety of synthesis and integration activities, but they must *combine data and knowledge from within communities or across different disciplines to advance understanding* of deep carbon in Earth.

Synthesis projects might involve, for example, developing a model, analyzing a dataset, bringing together insights from different fields, or producing a multidisciplinary review of a topic. Other synthesis projects might focus on communicating a particular set of results, or a concept, to a particular stakeholder. Examples might include a synthetic workshop, a short video, book, or suite of graphics exploring key deep carbon science concepts to engage the interested public.

Deadlines

For this round, we invite DCO Science Network members to submit proposals requesting up to \$50,000, including indirect costs, for projects beginning 1 March 2017.

The deadline for pre-proposal submissions is 25 October 2016. SG2019 will provide feedback on successful pre-proposals by 29 November, when we may ask applicants to refine their proposals for a final deadline of 27 December 2016.

Initial pre-proposals must comply broadly with the Sloan Foundation's "under \$125K" guidelines, see <http://www.sloan.org/apply-for-grants/grant-proposals/>. Applicants should follow the guidelines for either "Research" or "Some other purpose," depending on the focus of the proposal. *At this stage only a cover sheet, proposal, budget, and budget justification are required.*

Applicants should submit pre-proposals via email as one file to Marie Edmonds (me201@cam.ac.uk), Chair of Synthesis Group 2019, by 5 pm EDT 25 October 2016. SG2019 and representatives of the DCO Executive Committee will review the pre-proposals. Successful proposals will demonstrate a clear synthesis focus and plan for achieving the proposed outcome within 12-18 months.