Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology

A Cooperative Agreement between NASA/GSFC and UMBC, UMCP, and USRA
What is CRESST?

• Goals:
  – Advance the space science enterprise at NASA and strengthen collaborative relationship between the partners and GSFC
  – Enhance GSFC’s ability to compete for research funding -- from NASA and other agencies
• CRESST is a GSFC Cooperative Agreement with a unified team:
  – University of Maryland College Park
  – University of Maryland, Baltimore County
  – Universities Space Research Association
• Led by a Director and Project Manager with an On-site business/support office
• With a 5 year term – renewable for a second 5 years
• Employs Ph.D. scientists, students, and supports special projects
• Much of the administrative and support costs paid by UMCP and UMBC.
• Diversity Summer Program and University Science Program support by UMIs
CRESST Scientists

• Scientists transferred to CRESST Coop: 10/1/06
• 54 scientists & 9 grad students on-board in September/October, 2007
• Single structure with three employing institutions
• Appointment levels: Post Doc, Research Scientist, Associate Research Scientist, Senior Scientist – based on experience & accomplishments
• Coordination of appointments, promotions, salaries, & raises ensures fair and equal treatment
• Encouraged to be full member of GSFC group, retain privileges of home institution
• Team approach with scientists, managers, and support services
CRESST Scientists

• CRESST not a legal entity
  – Therefore, each affiliated with one of three partner institutions

• Scientist benefits (U. Maryland System)
  – Competitive salaries based on value, merit, and accomplishments
  – Ties to university faculty & students
  – Good health, disability, retirement plans – choices
  – Tuition benefits – family after 2 years
  – Campus ID card & attendant privileges
  – On-site support for travel, proposals, etc.
CRESST Proposal Policies

- Ph.D. staff encouraged to write proposals, both as PI with GSFC Co-I’s and Co-I with GSFC scientists PI’s
- On Proposals with CRESST PI:
  - Strongly encouraged have GSFC Civil Service Co-I(s)
  - Require recovery of GSFC taxes & overhead, unless pre-approved exception (NSF proposals waived)
  - Requires written OK for GSFC resources
  - Routed and submitted through home institution
  - Budget for GSFC activities flows directly to GSFC
- On Proposals with CRESST Co-Is
  - CRESST Office coordinates creation of tasks and funds flow from GSFC PI to CRESST
  - CRESST Office can provide rapid response on proposal budgets to/for PIs
CRESST Special Projects

• We work with GSFC Scientists to support:
  – Visiting scientists, speakers, consultants, proposal collaborators
  – Sabbatical visitors
  – Foreign visitor/student immigration & insurance services
  – Student programs
  – Meetings support – when it is tied to CRESST research
  – Colloquia & Seminar administration
    • Currently run GSFC Friday Colloquium & ASD Colloquium
    – Summer Schools

• Sponsors contact CRESST Office to set-up tasks then CRESST staff facilitate arrangements
  – Subsequent activities fast-tracked through 2 coordinators

• CRESST bills for services
Key Personnel

- Lee Mundy (lgm@astro.umd.edu) & David Holdridge (dvh@astro.umd.edu) and are the primary points of contact for recruiting/hiring through CRESST
- John Trasco (UMCP), Ian George (UMBC), & Don Kniffen (USRA) are institutional leads
- Donna Montgomery is the GSFC Resource Specialist
- Frank Marshall is the GSFC technical lead (CATO)
- Michele Connerton is the GSFC contract officer
- Lee Mewshaw (lmewshaw@usra.edu) & Sandy Barnes (Sandra.L.Barnes@nasa.gov), in support of Don Kniffen, (dak@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov) are main contacts for special projects activities
CRESST Reporting

- CRESST is required by the Cooperative Agreement to provide:
  - Annual Research Program Plan
  - Quarterly technical and business reports
  - Annual Progress Report
- We will work with CRESST personnel and YOU the sponsors to develop the Program Plan
  - Submitted July 31st each year
  - Helps ensure clear expectations & maintain/redirect foci
- Quarterly reports provide means to monitor progress
  - Consolidated for all three partner institutions
  - Also serves as basis for dunning by resource analyst
- Annual Progress Report
  - Submitted October 31st each year
  - Compares research objectives & milestones vs. actual results
Practical Information

• Sponsor guidelines: [http://cresst.umd.edu/resources/](http://cresst.umd.edu/resources/)
  – Copy of this presentation
  – Establishing CRESST Tasks
  – Recruiting New Staff Members
  – Costs & Reporting
  – Visitor Guidelines
  – Other Special Projects

• CRESST Business Office:
  – Bldg 1, Room 252, 248, 246, & 251
  – David Holdridge 286-7583
dvh@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov
In Summary:
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

• The CRESST Team provides one point of contact for hiring, managing, and tracking costs

• On-site support for scientists and sponsors
  – Most costs covered through U. Md. cost-sharing

• Simple procedure for hiring and paying scientists

• Cooperative team approach to manage and mentor

• Experienced support for visitors & other special projects

• Detailed technical and financial reporting – to enable better monitoring of activities and accomplishments
We seek to increase and broaden our scientific collaborations with GSFC and collaborations between the CRESST Institution and GSFC.

– We have extensive experience working with GSFC.

– We can help make connections between people and between institutions.

– Ideas & suggestions on how to succeed and how to better fit your requirements are welcome.

Thank you for your time