The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have launched an Initiative for an Arctic and Subarctic Networked Observations System (NNA) to foster and enable interdisciplinary research on the Arctic and Subarctic. This networked observatory is being developed to provide a platform for sharing data and enabling research among the communities, agencies, organizations, and individuals that work to understand Arctic change and its local and global effects.

The goal of NNA is to ensure that researchers, managers, policy-makers, and educators have access to an integrated, comprehensive, and high-quality dataset and related socio-economic data from the Arctic and Subarctic. The initiative will facilitate the sharing of data and information through a networked observatory that includes autonomous observing systems, research vessels, satellites, and in situ observations from various stakeholders.

The NNA approach is to build on existing Arctic regional networks and programs, such as the Arctic Observing Network (AON), to ensure that the initiative is complementary and does not duplicate existing efforts. The initiative will also work closely with other organizations and programs to ensure that the data collected are standardized and interoperable.

Researchers are invited to apply for Stage 1 of the NNA program, which seeks to identify potential research proposals that will be developed into full proposals for Stage 2. Application instructions and criteria are available on the program website.

The deadline for Stage 1 applications is September 10, 2020. Successful applicants will receive limited funding to prepare the project summary and develop their full proposal for Stage 2. Only awardees of Stage 1 will be eligible to submit proposals for Stage 2. The deadline for Stage 2 proposals is February 15, 2021.

The objective of Stage 2 is to support Coastal Research Limited Submission Funding Opportunities, develop full proposal for Stage 2. Only awardees of Stage 1 will be eligible to submit proposals for Stage 2. The deadline for Stage 2 proposals is February 15, 2021. Successful applicants will receive funding to undertake pre-development activities, including developing a project summary and researching partnerships and cost-sharing opportunities.

NNA is committed to broadening participation goals to address the underrepresentation of certain groups in Arctic research. The initiative will prioritize proposals that develop partnerships and increase access to the networked observatory for underrepresented communities, including Indigenous communities.

The initiative will also work to identify potential research using the NNA framework and facilitate the sharing of data and information through a networked observatory that includes autonomous observing systems, research vessels, satellites, and in situ observations from various stakeholders.

The NNA program is a collaboration among the federal government, academia, and the private sector, and will work closely with other organizations and programs to ensure that the data collected are standardized and interoperable.