**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ms. Nancy Kaplan, NASA Reports Officer, NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street SW, Code AO, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358–1372.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Abstract

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to renew an ongoing collection designed to collect information needed to evaluate bids and proposals submitted to NASA for the award of contracts with a value less than $500,000 for goods and services in support of NASA's mission, and in response to contractual requirements. Solicitations for bids and proposals, and requirements for contract deliverables, are prepared in accordance with the OFPP Policy Act as amended by Pub. L. 96–83, the NASA Space Act, 42 U.S.C. *et seq.*, and approved mission requirements. As the need arises for goods and services, NASA follows the procedures set forth in Parts 14 and 15 of the FAR for the issuance of Invitation for Bids (IFBs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs) before a contract can be awarded. Similarly, in bids and proposals voluntarily submitted in response to IFBs and RFPs, contractors must furnish all information required by the FAR, the NFS, and Agency needs. This solicited information is used by NASA project and procurement managers to determine the responsiveness of bids and proposals and come to a decision on which contractor can provide the greatest benefit to the Agency and, ultimately, who will be awarded a contract.

### II. Method of Collection

NASA collects this information electronically where feasible, but information may also be collected by mail or fax.

### III. Data

*Title:* NASA Acquisition Process: Bids and Proposals for Contracts With an Estimated Value Less than $500,000.

*OMB Number:* 2700–0087.

*Type of review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,900.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Varies, depending on type of response. Bids take an average of 250 hours per response. Proposals take an average of 400 hours per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,560,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* $0.

### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information collected has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection. They will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

**Patricia L. Dunnington,**

*Chief Information Officer, Office of the Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03–32011 Filed 12–29–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–P**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**[Notice: (03–163)]**

## Notice of Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection.

**SUMMARY:** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–13, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** All comments should be submitted by February 28, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments should be addressed to Ms. Celeste Dalton, Code HK, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546–0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ms. Nancy Kaplan, NASA Reports Officer, NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street, SW., Code AO, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358–1372.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Abstract

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to renew an ongoing collection designed to collect information needed to evaluate bids and proposals submitted to NASA for the award of contracts with a value greater than $500,000 for goods and services. Solicitations for bids and proposals, and requirements for contract deliverables, are prepared in accordance with the OFPP Policy Act as amended by Pub. L. 96–83, the NASA Space Act, 42 U.S.C. *et seq.* As the need arises for goods and services, NASA follows the procedures set forth in parts 14 and 15 of the FAR for the issuance of Invitation for Bids (IFBs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs) before a contract can be awarded. Similarly, in bids and proposals voluntarily submitted in response to IFBs and RFPs, contractors must furnish all information required by the FAR, the NFS, and Agency needs. This solicited information is used by NASA project and procurement managers to determine the responsiveness of bids and proposals and come to a decision on which contractor can provide the greatest benefit to the Agency and, ultimately, who will be awarded a contract.

### II. Method of Collection

NASA collects this information electronically where feasible, but information may also be collected by mail or fax.

### III. Data

*Title:* NASA Acquisition Process: Bids and Proposals for Contracts With and Estimated Value More Than $500,000.

*OMB Number:* 2700–0085.

*Type of review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,313.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Varies, depending on type of response. Bids take an average of 400 hours per response. Proposals take an average of 600 hours per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 750,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* $0.

### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance

of the functions of the agency, including whether the information collected has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection. They will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

**Patricia L. Dunnington,**

*Chief Information Officer, Office of the Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03–32012 Filed 12–29–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–P**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**[Notice 03–155]**

## National Environmental Policy Act; Outrigger Telescopes Project

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conduct scoping for the Outrigger Telescopes Project.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4231 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR part 1216 subpart 1216.3), NASA intends to prepare an EIS for the proposed Outrigger Telescopes Project (OTP). The EIS will address environmental issues associated with the on-site construction, installation, and operation of four to six 1.8-meter (72-inch) Outrigger Telescopes. NASA proposes to fund the OTP at the W.M. Keck Observatory (WMKO) site within the Astronomy Precinct of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve on the Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii.

**DATES:** Interested parties are invited to submit comments on or before February 16, 2004, to assure full consideration during the scoping process.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Dr. Carl B. Pilcher, Office of Space Science, Code SZ; NASA Headquarters; 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546–0001. In addition, electronic comments may be sent to Dr. Carl B. Pilcher at *otpeis@nasa.gov* or by hardcopy facsimile at 202–358–3096.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Carl B. Pilcher, at telephone 877–283–1977 (toll-free), electronically at *otpeis@nasa.gov,* or by hardcopy facsimile at 202–358–3096.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The OTP is a key element in NASA's Origins Program. The Origins Program addresses two fundamental questions: (1) How do galaxies, stars, and planets form? (*i.e.,* ''Where do we come from?''); and (2) Are there planets, aside from ours, that have the conditions necessary to support life? (*i.e.,* ''Are we alone?''). The OTP has four scientific objectives that contribute to achieving the goals of the Origins Program:

- Detect the ''wobble'' of stars due to the gravity of unseen orbiting planetary companions as small as Uranus.
- Make images of disks of gas and dust surrounding young stars and stars that are still forming.
- Make high-resolution images of faint objects outside our galaxy.
- Make high-resolution images of objects within our solar system, including asteroids, comets, and outer planets.

The first of these four objectives can be accomplished with the Outrigger Telescopes alone linked together as an interferometer. (An interferometer combines the light from two or more separate telescopes so that they act like one big telescope.) The last three objectives require that the Outrigger Telescopes be linked as an interferometer to at least one 8-meter or larger telescope.

NASA proposes to fund the OTP at the W.M. Keck Observatory (WMKO) site located within the Astronomy Precinct of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve on the Island of Hawaii. WMKO is the site of the two largest optical telescopes in the world—the twin 10-meter Keck I and Keck II. The OTP, if fully implemented as proposed, would consist of up to six 1.8-meter (72-inch) telescopes placed strategically around the two existing Keck Telescopes.

The California Association for Research in Astronomy (CARA), a non-profit corporation established by the University of California and California Institute of Technology (Caltech), operates and maintains the WMKO. The approximately 2-hectare (5-acre) WMKO site is subleased to Caltech by the University of Hawaii (UH). The WMKO site is located within the Astronomy Precinct (approximately 212 hectares (525 acres)) of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. The 4,500 hectare (11,000 acre) Science Reserve, is leased to UH by the State of Hawaii.

Because of present funding constraints, only four Outrigger Telescopes would initially be installed and operated, although the foundations for six would be constructed. It is anticipated that the on-site construction and installation of four of the six Outrigger Telescopes, along with on-site construction of the underground structures for Telescopes 5 and 6, would begin early in 2005, with initial operations anticipated in 2006. If funding were available, NASA would intend to complete the on-site construction, installation, and operation of Telescopes 5 and 6, with on-site construction and installation likely to begin no earlier than 2006.

In addition to the WMKO site, alternative sites with at least one existing 8-meter or larger telescope will be considered in the EIS. If NASA decides not to or cannot implement the OTP at the WMKO site or a reasonable alternative site with an existing 8-meter or larger optical telescope, NASA would consider sites where at least the one objective that does not require such a large telescope (*i.e.,*) the survey of stars for ''wobble'' due to the gravity of unseen orbiting planetary companions as small as Uranus) can be achieved. Alternative sites to be considered in the EIS under such a materially reduced science OTP option will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the Mt. Wilson Observatory in Los Angeles County, California, and the Navy Prototype Optical Interferometer (NPOI) site near Flagstaff, Arizona. The No Action alternative will also be addressed.

The EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the on-site construction, installation, and operation of the Outrigger Telescopes at the WMKO site and other reasonable alternative sites. The potential environmental impacts at alternative sites for the materially reduced science OTP option will also be evaluated. Environmental issues to be emphasized will include, but not necessarily be limited to, cultural resources, flora and fauna, sewage, and cumulative impacts.

Because it is evident that there is substantial environmental controversy and concern about locating the Outrigger Telescopes on Mauna Kea, public scoping meetings will be held in the State of Hawaii on the following dates: