

## **Combining disparate data sources: Request for Proposal**

### **Organizational Overview**

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis, was founded in 2006. Its director is Professor Mark Burgman FAA of the University of Melbourne Department of Botany. It cooperates with several other universities, CSIRO, Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens and AMSI. ACERA is funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; its initial focus is on biosecurity.

### **Project Description**

The project “Combining Disparate Data Sources to Demonstrate Disease/Pest Status”, has been approved for funding. A number of different data sets may be used to evaluate disease/pest status of sensitive species. These may include sample inspection data, correlated data on environmental conditions, historical patterns and expert opinions. Disparate data sets will need to be combined to produce more reliable statistical indicators.

Statisticians who successfully apply for funding for this project will be Australian residents and will collaborate with agricultural scientists, ecologists, and people with excellent empirical and policy experience in this arena.

Individuals or groups of statisticians are invited to apply for support. Funding may be provided for up to \$100,000 for one year, beginning 2007.

### **Deliverables**

The project will lead to quantitative measures of disease/pest status. Relevant statistical techniques will be identified for combining disparate data sets. Statisticians must be able to contribute to a report that is understandable to a broad audience.

### **Proposal Format**

The proposal should be no longer than 6 pages of A4 in 12-point font.

- (i) List the team members, their contact details, affiliations and qualifications.
- (ii) Outline experience with relevant statistical techniques.
- (iii) Outline experience at working in a multidisciplinary team.
- (iv) Referring to relevant literature, describe how other statistical techniques might be relevant.
- (v) Describe your initial ideas on how this project should or should not be tackled.
- (vi) Provide a brief budget for items of expense. These may include the investigator’s partial release from other duties, technical assistance and software. Necessary travel expenses will be determined later by the Centre.

## **Submission Deadline**

December 12, 2006.

## **Agreements**

The successful team will be asked to make an agreement on publications and other intellectual property, acceptable to ACERA and the University of Melbourne, under conditions of the latter's existing agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia.

## **Project Submission**

A special subcommittee, under the auspices of AMSI's Scientific Advisory Committee, will be formed to assess proposals.

Please submit proposals to Prof. Peter Hall, Chair, AMSI Scientific Advisory Committee,  
email [peter.hall@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.hall@anu.edu.au)

The AMSI Scientific Advisory Committee will make a recommendation but ACERA will select the project team by negotiation.

## **For Additional Information, contact:**

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