Why?

On numerous occasions, we've been told that ROSES is too complicated for first time proposers.

Indeed, ROSES has become quite the behemoth. Between ROSES-2005 and ROSES-2023,

- …the number of program elements grew from 69 to 161.

- …the size of the "Summary of Solicitation" (the general rules) grew from 35 pages to 69 pages.

- …the total size of the Division Overviews grew from 25 pages to 94 pages.

- …more program elements override some or all of the rules found in the Summary of Solicitation.

What to do?

SMD will perform a usability analysis of ROSES.

"Usability" is defined as ""the quality of a user's experience when interacting with products…Usability is about effectiveness, efficiency, and the overall satisfaction of the user." (https://www.usability.gov).

SMD has asked members of the scientific community what barriers they have encountered in using ROSES.

This is the origin of the Request for Comments (RFI).

The RFI was issued on 23 October 2023 and closed on 24 February 2024

15 responsive responses were received. These responses contained ~121 recommendations.

In the coming year, SMD will hold town halls and listening sessions — some at conferences and some independently (and virtually) — to gather further input

Initial impressions of RFI responses

Responses came from 14 institutions and one individual.

The responses came from different organization types although NASA GSFC submitted the most recommendations (77)
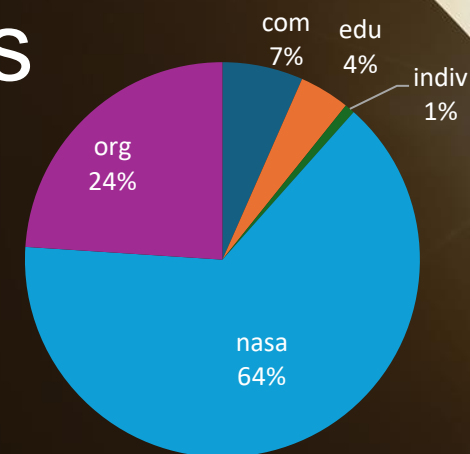
Few of the responses focused on the *structure* of the ROSES solicitation.

Many commented on shortcomings of NSPIRES, suggested changes to proposal requirements, or suggested rearrangements of divisions' R&A programs.

Conservatively, about 30 comments were focused on the usability of the ROSES solicitation.

These recommended increased use of "plain language", more guides and templates, clearer navigation through ROSES, and other improvements.

SMD will be considering these recommendations as we prepare ROSES-2025 although it's not expected that ROSES-2025 will differ significantly from ROSES-2024.

Topic	Count
AOs	1
Archiving	5
Documentation	9
Due Dates	2
Grant Policies	6
Guides/Training/Mentoring	6
Language clarity	4
Navigation	2
NSPIRES	13
Proposal Requirements	38
Reviews	11
Templates	3
Award Processes	4
Program Structure	10
ROSES Structure	4
Grand Total	**118**

Through the Eyes of NASA