

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U. S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Smart Grid Data Access
Funding Opportunity Announcement
Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000579
Announcement Type: Initial
CFDA Number: 81.122 Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability,
Research, Development and Analysis**

Issue Date:	November 8, 2011
Letter of Intent Due Date:	Not Applicable
Pre-Application Due Date:	Not Applicable
Application Due Date:	March 01, 2012 at 3:00:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

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Section I - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy – National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) is seeking applications aimed at empowering residential consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by residential customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third-party tools and software products that utilize the available data to deliver a value added service to the residential customer. Projects under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will be comprised of two Phases. Under Phase I applicants will need to demonstrate the capability for residential electricity customers and/or designated third parties to access their usage data and the functionality of their proposed tool or software product to provide this access. Approximately \$500,000 is available per project for Phase I activities. Phase II involves adoption of the tools and software products demonstrated in Phase I to an entire service territory, region or community within the jurisdiction of the applicant or the applicant's utility partner. Approximately \$2,000,000 is available for Phase II.

This announcement is unique in that it includes an oral presentation as part of the merit review/selection process, and a down-select process at the end of the Phase I project activities. DOE anticipates making 12 awards under this announcement. At the conclusion of Phase I, a competitive down-select will take place where it is anticipated that only one of the Phase I Recipients will be selected to proceed into Phase II.

B. BACKGROUND

Integration of Smart Grid technologies into the electric grid will generate unprecedented amounts of data regarding electricity use that when translated into actionable information will give residents and businesses more control over their electricity choices. With more control, residential consumers will be able to make choices based on their own objectives, such as electricity bill consciousness, comfort, or environmental considerations.

In order to turn the smart grid enabled data into actionable information, it will be important to have sufficient tools and software products available that are convenient and easy to use and help residential consumers understand the value of the smart grid. With the ongoing investments in smart grid technologies, residential consumers will have an increasing number of opportunities to manage and control their energy consumption to better meet their specific needs. However, access to consumption data along with products and services that utilize that data are essential to engaging the residential consumer and delivering value to the public. This builds on the efforts to increase energy efficiency investments in the commercial sector by ensuring residential customers have access to their energy usage data electronically. To utilize the data that will be available as smart grid implementation progresses, successful projects will need to provide access to or make available, at a minimum, hourly electricity consumption data to residential customers and their designated third parties. In addition, these demonstration or pilot projects must provide or support the use of third-party tools and software products (**i.e., no funding from this FOA may be used to develop tools or software products**) that utilize the available data to deliver a value-added service to the residential customer, thereby enhancing their overall awareness of smart grid capabilities and benefits.

C. SMART GRID DATA ACCESS

The objective of this FOA is to empower residential consumers to use smart grid enabled data to better manage their electricity consumption by allowing residential consumers and their authorized third parties access to their electricity usage information on demand through a standardized data access architecture. As electricity usage data becomes available and consumers' interest in managing their energy use increases, many more innovative tools and software products will become available that provide actionable information for managing energy choices. The Department of Energy is seeking applications for projects that will, first and foremost, develop and implement a program within a utility, region or community, which allows residential customers and authorized third parties to access and download their hourly electricity

consumption data. In addition, the proposed projects must include the demonstration of at least one, third-party consumer-oriented information tool or software product that creates a value-added service for residential consumers interested in managing their electricity more efficiently. Projects under this Funding Opportunity Announcement will be comprised of two Phases: Phase I – Demonstration and Phase II – Adoption. Each Phase will consist of 1 Budget Period.

The objective of Phase I is to support utilities and/or communities that wish to begin to explore the value of empowering end-use residential consumers with products and services that hinge upon access to electricity consumption data by residential customers and third party providers. The objective of Phase II is to fully adopt the data access pilot demonstrated in Phase I across an entire service territory, region or community within the jurisdiction of the applicant or the applicant's utility partner.

The applicant must address the following:

1. Document the existence of a policy that provides residential customers and authorized third parties electronic access to their electricity consumption data. If such a policy is not in place, the applicant must propose a process for developing such a policy. The applicant must demonstrate that it has the authority to develop such a policy or demonstrate the support of key stakeholders and the appropriate regulatory body to develop a policy.
2. Provide a comprehensive discussion of the proposed approach with respect to launching and maintaining the capability to provide any residential electricity customer, and/or their designated third party, access to, at a minimum, hourly electricity consumption data in a downloadable, machine readable format. Although electricity usage data that is made available to consumers must have a minimum sampling rate of 1 per hour, higher rates are certainly encouraged.
3. Provide a comprehensive discussion of how standards will be identified and utilized in specifying how data in a standardized format is made available to residential customers and any designated third party including a discussion of North American Energy Standards Board, (NAESB) REQ18/WEQ19, PAPI0 Energy Usage Information and NAESB REQ21 Energy Services Provider Interface standards. Information on this topic can be found at: http://www.naesb.org/smart_grid_pap10.asp
4. Provide a detailed discussion of privacy and data security policies, both internally and with third parties. If these policies are not currently in place, the applicant must propose a process for developing these policies, and demonstrate the authority to do so, or support from the appropriate organization with such authority.
5. Document the support and participation of an electricity service provider(s).
6. Document the process by which residential customers can authorize third party access to their data or, if the process does not yet exist, the approach to developing the process.
7. Document the process by which an authorized third party can obtain the data directly from the utility or, if the process does not yet exist, the approach to developing the process.
8. Provide a detailed description of at least one third-party existing information tool or software application that will be provided or made available to residential customers which supports the use of their electricity consumption data and provides a value-added service/function that enables an increased level of control over electricity consumption. No project funding is to be used for tool or software product development. Examples of value added services include, but are not limited to:
 - Total household electricity use, both instantaneous and cumulative, over some defined time period, along with associated costs.
 - Electricity use, both instantaneous and cumulative, at the device level (lighting, hot water heater, HVAC, stove, refrigerator, etc.)
 - Comparison of electricity use with other households of similar size.
 - Comparison of the amount of electricity used and/or saved on a daily, monthly and/or yearly basis with associated costs.
 - Environmental impact of electricity usage tied to actual generation mix within a certain region or State.

- Notification when electricity consumption/bill exceeds a specified threshold on a daily, or monthly basis
9. Provide a detailed discussion of the approach for the Demonstration which includes the following information:
 - Intended participants in the pilot demonstration (size, demographics, etc.) – minimum size must be 1,000 residential customers for the demonstration.
 - Detailed project approach including set of metrics to be used to measure and track success
 - Communications or marketing plan that includes information on the mechanisms, messages and methods that will be used to solicit participation.
 - Project management plan
 10. Provide a detailed discussion of the approach for the Phase II adoption which includes the following information:
 - Intended participants (i.e., customer segment) in the adoption phase including the size, demographics, projected participation levels, etc.
 - Discussion of how the experience gained by their project team during the Phase I demonstration will be used to extend the data access capability to a larger service area in Phase II
 - Project approach including set of metrics to be used to measure and track success
 - Communications or marketing methodology that includes information on the mechanisms, messages and methods that will be used to solicit participation
 - A summary analysis of risks that apply to the adoption phase

D. APPLICATION REVIEW AND PHASE II DOWN-SELECT PROCESS

Applications submitted under this announcement and passing an initial review will be subject to a 2-step merit review process. In addition, applicants who receive an award under this announcement will be subject to a down-select process between Phases I and II of the project.

2-STEP MERIT REVIEW:

STEP 1. The first step of the merit review process involves review of the electronic application files in accordance with the Merit Review Criteria contained in Section V of this announcement. Applications will be scored according to the Merit Review Criteria. Based on those scores, only the highest technically ranked applications will be eligible to proceed to Step 2 of the merit review process.

STEP 2. The second step of the merit review process will give the highest technically ranked applicants from Step 1 the opportunity to make an oral presentation to the Merit Review Committee. The oral presentation will be reviewed in accordance with the same Merit Review Criteria used in Step 1 and contained in Section V of this announcement. The oral presentation will consist of applicants presenting their overall approach to residential customer and third party access to electricity usage information, displaying the functionality of their proposed tools or software products, presenting a high level summary of their approach for the demonstration and adoption phases, and responding to a fixed set of questions from the Merit Review Committee.

Only those applicants who are determined eligible to proceed to Step 2 of the Merit Review Process will be scheduled to make an oral presentation. Those applicants not eligible to proceed to Step 2 will receive written notice. Details regarding the logistics and requirements for the oral presentation will be sent to eligible applicants approximately 30 days prior to the date the applicant is scheduled for the oral presentation. In the event travel to the designated location is not feasible, the applicant may make its oral presentation via online meetings or web conferencing mediums, such as WebEx. The format used for the oral presentation will not affect the scoring.

Based on the scores, only the highest technically ranked applications at the completion of Step 2 will be forwarded to the Selection Official for consideration for an award. DOE anticipates making approximately 12 awards under this Announcement.

PHASE II DOWN SELECT:

DOE plans to make a down select prior to authorizing performance of Phase II. It is anticipated that of those applications selected for a Phase I award, only one Recipient from the selected awardees will be authorized to proceed to Phase II, Adoption. Prior to the completion of Phase I, Recipients will submit a Phase I Demonstration Report and a Phase II Adoption Plan to DOE. Recipients shall also present a Down-Select Briefing to DOE which summarizes the Phase I results and discusses planning for Phase II Adoption. The details and logistics of the Down-Select Briefing will be provided to the Phase I recipients approximately 30 days prior to the dates scheduled for the briefing. Based on review of Phase I deliverables and the Down-Select Briefing, a determination will be made on which project will proceed to Phase II. For details on the Demonstration Report and updated Adoption Plan see Deliverables Section of the Statement of Project Objectives located in Section IV.C.3.

Section II - AWARD INFORMATION

A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT

Cooperative Agreements

DOE anticipates awarding cooperative agreements under this funding opportunity announcement (See Section VI.B.2 Statement of Substantial Involvement).

B. ESTIMATED FUNDING

Approximately \$8,000,000 of Federal funding is expected to be available for new awards under this announcement.

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

Ceiling (i.e., the maximum amount for an individual award made under this announcement):
\$2,500,000 of Federal funding

Floor (i.e., the minimum amount for an individual award made under this announcement):
NONE

D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS

Depending on the size of the awards DOE anticipates making approximately 12 awards under this Announcement. A competitive down select after Phase I – Demonstration is planned which will result in only 1 project continuing into Phase II – Adoption.

E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE

Phase I – \$500,000 of Federal funds, with a minimum cost share requirement of 50%.

Phase II –\$2,000,000 of Federal funds, with a minimum cost share requirement of 50%.

The Government reserves the right to fund the proposed Government share, in whole or in part, on any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this Announcement and will award that number of financial assistance instruments which serves the public purpose and is in the best interest of the Government.

F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The overall period of performance, including both Phase I and II, is twenty-four (24) months.

Phase I – 15 months. It is anticipated that the period of performance for Phase 1 shall include 2 to 3 months for preparation of the demonstration, 7 to 9 months for Recipients to conduct the demonstration (with a minimum 6-month data collection period) and to prepare deliverables, and up to 3 months for DOE to conduct the Phase II down-select process.

Phase II – 9 months.

G. TYPE OF APPLICATION

DOE will accept only new applications under this announcement.

Section III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All types of entities are eligible to apply except for DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, DOE Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995. In addition, these entities may not participate in any capacity, i.e. subawardee, subcontractor, team member, etc., under this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

B. COST SHARING

The cost share must be at least 50% of the total allowable costs for demonstration and commercial application projects (i.e., the sum of the Government share, and the recipient share of allowable costs equals the total allowable cost of the project) and must come from non-Federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law. (See 10 CFR 600 for the applicable cost sharing requirements.)

Section IV - APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select "Apply for Grants," and then select "Download Application Package." Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this announcement and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION

1. Letter of Intent.

Letters of Intent are not required.

2. Pre-application

Pre-applications are not required.

C. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS

You must complete the mandatory forms and all applicable optional forms (e.g., Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement.

1. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance

Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Complete all required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. To activate the instructions, turn on the "Help Mode" (Icon with the pointer and question mark at the top of the form). The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 21 can be found on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm under Certifications and Assurances.

2. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Indicate the primary site where the work will be performed. If a portion of the project will be performed at any other site(s), identify the site location(s) in the blocks provided.

Note that the Project/Performance Site Congressional District is entered in the format of the 2 digit state code followed by a dash and a 3 digit Congressional district code, for example VA-001. Hover over this field for additional instructions.

Use the Next Site button to expand the form to add additional Project/Performance Site Locations.

3. Other Attachments Form

Submit the following files with your application and attach them to the Other Attachments Form. Click on "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" to attach the Project Narrative. Click on "Add Optional Other Attachment," to attach the other files as specified.

Project Narrative – Mandatory Other Attachment

The project narrative must not exceed 20 pages, including the cover page, table of contents, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, tables, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper

with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) {single spaced} with font not smaller than 11 point. **EVALUATORS WILL ONLY REVIEW THE NUMBER OF PAGES SPECIFIED IN THE PRECEDING SENTENCE.** Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide information necessary to review the application, because the information contained in these sites will not be reviewed. See Part VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. Save the information in a single file named "Project.pdf," and click on "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" to attach.

The project narrative must include:

Project Objectives: This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project that includes a comprehensive discussion of the proposed approach with respect to utilizing standards identified and under development through the NIST Smart Grid standards process (including the NIST Framework and Smart Grid Interoperability Panel). Information on the NIST Smart Grid standards can be found at: <http://www.nist.gov/smartgrid/>

Merit Review Criterion Discussion: The section should be formatted to address each of the merit review criterion and sub-criterion listed in Part V.A. Provide sufficient information so that reviewers will be able to evaluate the application in accordance with these merit review criteria. **DOE WILL EVALUATE AND CONSIDER ONLY THOSE APPLICATIONS THAT ADDRESS SEPARATELY EACH OF THE MERIT REVIEW CRITERION AND SUB-CRITERION.**

Relevance and Outcomes/Impacts: This section should explain the relevance of the effort to the objectives in the program announcement and the expected outcomes and/or impacts.

Roles Of Participants: For multi-organizational or multi-investigator projects, describe the roles and the work to be performed by each participant/investigator, business agreements between the applicant and participants, and how the various efforts will be integrated and managed.

Multiple Principal Investigators: The applicant, whether a single organization or team/partnership/consortium, must indicate if the project will include multiple PIs. This decision is solely the responsibility of the applicant. If multiple PIs will be designated, the application must identify the Contact PI/Project Coordinator and provide a "Coordination and Management Plan" that describes the organization structure of the project as it pertains to the designation of multiple PIs. This plan should, at a minimum, include:

- process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction;
- publications;
- intellectual property issues;
- communication plans;
- procedures for resolving conflicts; and
- PIs' roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project.

Facilities And Other Resources: Identify the facilities (e.g., office, laboratory, computer, etc.) to be used at each performance site listed and, if appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Provide any information describing the other resources available to the project such as machine and electronics shops.

Equipment: List important items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate, note the location and pertinent capabilities of each. If you are proposing to acquire equipment, describe comparable equipment, if any, already at your organization and explain why it cannot be used.

Statement Of Project Objectives (SOPO): The project narrative must contain a single, detailed Statement of Project Objectives that addresses how the project objectives will be met. The Statement of Project Objectives must contain a clear, concise description of all activities to be completed during project performance and follow the structure discussed below. The Statement of Project Objectives may be released to the public by DOE in whole or in part after award. It is therefore required that it shall not

contain proprietary or confidential business information.

The Statement of Project Objectives shall be no more than 8 pages in total for the proposed work.

Applicants shall prepare the Statement of Project Objectives in the following format: (Phase 1 tasks are fixed, but applicants can add subtask under the four main tasks):

TITLE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

(Insert the title of work to be performed. Be concise and descriptive.)

A. OBJECTIVES

Include one paragraph on the overall objective(s) of the work. Also, include objective(s) for each phase of the work.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

This section should not exceed one-half page and should summarize the effort and approach to achieve the objective(s) of the work for each Phase.

C. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

Tasks, concisely written, should be provided in a logical sequence and should be divided into the phases of the project, as appropriate. This section provides a brief summary of the planned approach to this project. An outline of the Project Management Plan (referenced in Task 1.0 below and required to be submitted with your application) is provided later in this Section.

PHASE I – DEMONSTRATION

Task 1.1 – Project Management and Planning

(Description includes work elements required to revise and maintain the Project Management Plan and to manage and report on activities in accordance with the plan)

Subtask 1.1.1

(Description)

Task 1.2 - Demonstration Preparations

Subtask 1.1.1

(Description)

Task 1.3 – Demonstration Execution

Subtask 1.1.1

(Description)

Task 1.4 – Analysis and Results Reporting

[Included in this task are the preparation and submission of the Demonstration Report and the updated Adoption Plan, and preparation and presentation of the Down-Select Briefing.]

Subtask 1.1.1

(Description)

Recipients shall not proceed with Phase II activities prior to receiving written authorization from the DOE Contracting Officer.

PHASE II – ADOPTION

Task 2.1 - Project Management and Planning

(Description includes work elements required to revise and maintain the Project Management Plan and to

manage and report on activities in accordance with the plan)

Subtask 2.1.1
(Description)

Task 2.2 -

D. DELIVERABLES

The periodic and final reports shall be submitted in accordance with the attached "Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist" and the instructions accompanying the checklist. Additional deliverables are listed below.

1. Task 1.1 – An updated *Project Management Plan* shall be submitted within 30 days of award.
2. Task 1.4 – *Demonstration Report* shall be submitted no less than 90 days prior to the end of Phase I.

The Demonstration Report must include:

- A summary of the demonstration including implementation details of the demonstration, results, findings and lessons learned.
- Resulting metrics utilized during the demonstration as outlined in the Project Management Plan including but not limited to:
 - Total number of residential customers that agreed to participate in the pilot demonstration and number that used any value added application
 - Percentage of residential consumers who opted to participate in the demonstration versus the total number of residential customers in the targeted segment of the community
 - Average retention length (in days) of participants in the demonstration
 - Quantitative measurement of residential customer satisfaction gathered through customer feedback e.g. satisfaction surveys, to be conducted by the electricity service provider(s).

3. Task 1.4 – A Phase II *Adoption Plan* shall be submitted no less than 90 days prior to the end of Phase I.

The Adoption Plan must include:

- An in-depth description and analysis (including total market location and size, projected market penetration, target residential customers and segmentation, competitive analysis, etc.) of the customer segment targeted for Phase II adoption
- A concise, detailed, and comprehensive strategy for incorporating the extended customer segment such that residential customer participation is maximized within the target segment
- A comprehensive risk analysis that includes assessments of probability and impact, and addresses prevention and/or mitigation strategies

4. Task 1.4 – Phase II Budget (revised SF424A) shall be submitted no less than 90 days prior to the end of Phase I.
5. Phase II – An updated Project Management Plan to include details on the Phase II adoption activities shall be submitted within 30 days of the Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement that authorizes proceeding into Phase II.
6. *Final Technical Report* shall be submitted within 90 days after expiration of Phase II of the project.

E. BRIEFINGS

The Recipient will prepare detailed briefings for presentation to the Project Officer at a location to be

determined. Briefings will be given by the Recipient to explain the plans, progress, and results of the technical effort. Briefings to be conducted are identified below.

Phase I Kickoff Briefing - Not more than 15 days after submission of the updated Project Management Plan, the Recipient shall prepare and present a project summary briefing as part of a Project Kickoff Meeting to be held at a location to be determined by DOE.

Down Select Briefing - No less than 90 days prior to the end of Phase I, Recipients shall prepare and present a detailed Down Select Briefing to DOE on the results of the demonstration and their plans for further adoption in Phase II. DOE will use the information from this briefing, as well as the content of the Deliverables listed above to determine which Recipient will proceed to Phase II.

Phase II Kickoff Briefing - Not more than 15 days after submission of the updated Phase II Project Management Plan, the Recipient shall prepare and present a Phase II briefing as part of a Project Kickoff Meeting to be held at a location to be determined by DOE.

Final Project Briefing - No less than 30 days prior to the end of Phase II, Recipients shall prepare and present a Final Project Briefing to DOE on the results and accomplishments of the entire project.

Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing Appendix: At the time you submit your application, you must have a letter from each third party (i.e., a party other than the organization submitting the application). The letter must state that the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount of cost sharing. By submitting your application, you are providing assurance that you have signed letters of commitment. In an appendix to your Project Narrative, you must identify the following information for each third party contributing to cost sharing: (1) the name of the organization; (2) the proposed dollar amount to be provided; (3) the amount as a percentage of the total project cost; and (4) the proposed cost sharing - cash, services, or property. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation. Successful applicants must provide the signed letters of commitments within the number of days specified in Part IV.D, Submissions from Successful Applicants.

Bibliography & References Cited Appendix: Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. In order to reduce the number of files attached to your application, please provide the Bibliography and References Cited information as an appendix to your project narrative. Do not attach a file in Field 9. This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

Project Summary/Abstract

The project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as the Department may make it available to the public after awards are made. The project summary must not exceed 2 pages when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left and right) {single spaced} with font not smaller than 11 point. Save this information in a file named "Summary.pdf," and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Project Management Plan

This plan should be formatted to include the following sections with each section to include the information as described below:

A. Executive Summary: Provide a description of the project that includes the objective, project goals, and expected results. For purposes of the application, this information is included in the Project Narrative and should be simply copied to this document for completeness, so that the Project Management Plan is a stand-alone document.

B. Risk Management: Provide a summary description of the proposed approach to identify, analyze, and respond to perceived risks associated with the proposed project. Project risk events are uncertain future events that, if realized, impact the success of the project. As a minimum, include the initial identification of significant technical, resource, and management issues that have the potential to impede project progress and strategies to minimize impacts from those issues.

C. Demonstration and Adoption Approach: Provide a detailed discussion of the Phase I demonstration that includes the geographical area identified for the demonstration; detailed project approach including a set of metrics to be used to measure and track project performance; and a communications and marketing plan that includes information on the mechanisms, messages and methods that will be used to solicit participation. Provide a summary discussion of plans for the Phase II adoption that includes the geographical area identified for the adoption activities; a high-level project approach including a set of metrics to be used to measure and track project performance; and a summary of communications and marketing activities that includes information on the mechanisms, messages and methods that will be used to solicit participation in the Phase II adoption.

D. Milestone Log: Provide milestones for each Phase (or Budget Period) of the project. Each milestone should include a title and planned completion date. Milestones should be quantitative and show progress toward budget period and/or project goals.

[Note: During project performance, the Recipient will report the Milestone Status as part of the required quarterly Progress Report as prescribed under Attachment 4, Reporting Requirements Checklist. The Milestone Status will present actual performance in comparison with Milestone Log, and include:

- (1) the actual status and progress of the project,
- (2) specific progress made toward achieving the project's milestones, and,
- (3) any proposed changes in the project's schedule required to complete milestones.

E. Funding and Costing Profile: Provide a table (the Project Funding Profile) that shows, by Phase, the amount of government funding going to each project team member. Also provide a table (the Project Costing Profile) that projects, by month, the expenditure of government funds for Phase I, at a minimum.

F. Project Timeline: Provide a timeline of the project (similar to a Gantt chart) broken down by each task and subtask, as described in the Statement of Project Objectives. The timeline should include for each task, a start date, and end date. The timeline should show interdependencies between tasks and include the milestones that are identified in the Milestone Log (Section C).

G. Success Criteria: Provide success criteria for the project, including go/no-go decision points and the conclusions of Phases and the entire project. The success criteria should be objective and stated in terms of specific, measurable, and repeatable data. Usually, the success criteria pertain to desirable outcomes, results, and observations from the project.

Save this plan in a single file named "pmp.pdf" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

SF 424A Excel, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs File – Phase I and II Combined

You must provide a separate budget for each year of support requested and a cumulative budget for each Phase of the project, and a cumulative budget for the total project period. Use the SF 424A Excel, "Budget Information - Non Construction Programs" form on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm.

You may request funds under any of the Object Class Categories as long as the item and amount are

necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this announcement (See PART IV, G). Save the information in a single file named "SF424A.xls," and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Budget Justification File

The Budget Justification File consists of a Detailed Budget Justification for Phase I and Summary Justification for Phase II. The Detailed Budget Justification and Summary Justification should be combined into 1 file and attached according to the instructions below.

Budget justification information consists of Cost Detail information and associated Narrative Explanations. Save the budget justification information in a single file named "Budget.pdf," and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach. Cost detail shall be submitted as described below. The proposed budget must include all costs (**both DOE funded as well as non-DOE funded costs, i.e., cost sharing**). Narrative Explanations of budget items should be provided to supplement the Cost Detail Requirements described below. There is no specific format for the Narrative Explanations, but it must follow the requirements as specified below.

For the Phase II Cost Summary Justification, provide a high level summary of the basis of your proposed costs for each individual cost category. For example, travel for Phase I will include the details requested below (number of trips, travelers, cost per trip, etc.), but your Summary Justification for Phase II travel will only need to provide the cost basis for the total proposed travel amounts, e.g. Phase II costs are based on current internet rates or government travel rates, etc. NOTE: Remember to include the Phase II totals for each cost category (Personnel, Equipment, Travel, Indirects, etc.) in your total estimated budget on the SF 424A Budget Pages.

Cost Detail Requirements for Phase I Only

The following cost detail is required for the proposed cost elements:

Personnel (Direct Labor) -- In support of the proposed personnel costs, provide a schedule that identifies the labor hours, labor rates, and cost by labor classification. Also indicate the basis of the labor classification, number of hours, and labor rates. An example of the basis for the labor classification and number of hours could be past experience, engineering estimate, etc. An example of the basis for the labor rates could be actual rates for the individuals who will perform the work or an average labor rate for the labor classification or a departmental average rate.

Fringe Rate -- Provide the method used to calculate the proposed rate amount. If a fringe benefit rate has been negotiated with, or approved by, a Federal Government agency, provide a copy of the agreement. If no rate agreement exists, provide a detailed list of the fringe benefit expenses (e.g., payroll taxes, insurances, holiday and vacation pay, bonuses) and their associated costs. Identify the base for allocating these fringe benefit expenses.

Travel -- For each proposed trip, provide the purpose, number of travelers, travel origin and destination, number of days, and a breakdown of estimated costs for airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals. The basis for the airfare, lodging, meals, car rental, and incidentals must be provided, such as past trips, current quotations, current version of the Federal Travel regulations, etc.

Your application should also include estimated travel costs associated with the debriefing at the end of Phase I.

Equipment -- Provide an itemized list of each piece of equipment, its unit cost, and the basis for estimating the cost, for example, vendor quotes, catalog prices, prior invoices, etc.

Supplies -- Provide an itemized list of supplies that have an acquisition cost greater than \$5,000, identify

the quantity of each item, its unit cost, and the basis for estimating the cost, for example, vendor quotes, catalog prices, prior invoices, etc.

Subrecipients (Subawardees) – See Also Subaward Budget File Below

Each recipient and subrecipient must comply with the standards prescribed in 10 CFR 600.144(e), 226(a) or 331(c)(3), as applicable, to provide access to their supporting cost records and financial statements when required.

Consultants -- Provide the hourly or daily rate along with the basis for the rate. Furnish resumes or similar information regarding qualifications or experience. Provide at least two invoices reflecting hourly or daily rates charged to residential customers other than the Government. If travel or incidental expenses are to be charged, give the basis for these costs.

Other Direct Costs -- Provide an itemized list with costs for any other item proposed as a direct cost and state the basis for each proposed item.

Indirect Costs -- Provide the name of your cognizant/oversight agency, if you have one, and the name and phone number of the individual responsible for negotiating your indirect rates. If indirect rates have been negotiated with or approved by a Federal Government agency, please provide a copy of the latest rate agreement. If you do not have a current rate agreement, submit an indirect cost rate application which includes the major base and pool expense groupings by line item and dollar amount. In either case, provide a breakdown of the proposed indirect costs for each of your accounting periods included in the application. Identify the rate and allocation base for each indirect cost, such as Overhead, General and Administrative, Facilities Capital Cost of Money, etc.

Cost Sharing – Identify the percentage level (50% minimum) and source of cost sharing for the proposed project.

NOTE: Applicants must propose cost share for both Phase I and Phase II of their proposed project.

A detailed estimate of the cash value including its basis and nature, (e.g., equipment, labor, facilities, cash, etc.), of all contributions to the project by each participant must be provided. Note that “cost-sharing” is not limited to cash investment. In-kind contributions (e.g., contribution of services or property; donated equipment, buildings, or land; donated supplies; or unrecovered indirect costs) incurred as part of the project may be considered as all or part of the cost share. The “cost-sharing” definition is contained in 10 CFR 600.30, 600.101, 600.123, 600.202, 600.224, 600.302, and 600.313.

Fee or profit will not be paid to the recipients of financial assistance awards. Fee or profit paid to any member of the proposing team having a substantial and direct interest in the adoption of the demonstration technology is unallowable. Additionally, foregone fee or profit by the applicant shall not be considered cost sharing under any resulting award. Reimbursement of actual costs will only include those costs that are allowable and allocable to the project as determined by DOE, with reliance on the advice of DCAA, in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in 10 CFR 600.127, 600.222, 600.317 or 10 CFR 600.318.

Subaward Budget Files

You must provide a separate budget (i.e., budget for each budget year and a cumulative budget) for each subawardee that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$100,000 or 50 percent of the total work effort (whichever is less). Use the SF 424 A Excel for Non Construction Programs. This form is found on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm. Save each Subaward budget in a separate file. Use up to 10 letters of the subawardee's name (plus .xls) as the file name (e.g., ucla.xls or energyes.xls), and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Commitment Letters from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing

If a third party, (i.e., a party other than the organization submitting the application) proposes to provide all or part of the required cost sharing, the applicant must include a letter from the third party stating that it is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount of cost sharing. The letter should also identify the proposed cost sharing (e.g., cash, services, and/or property) to be contributed. Letters must be signed by the person authorized to commit the expenditure of funds by the entity and be provided in a PDF format. Save this information in a single file named "CLTP.pdf" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Resume File

Provide a resume for each key person proposed, including subawardees and consultants if they meet the definition of key person. A key person is any individual who contributes in a substantive, measurable way to the execution of the project. Save all resumes in a single file named "bio.pdf" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach. The biographical information for each resume must not exceed 2 pages when printed on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) [select single or double spaced] with font no smaller than 11 point and should include the following information, if applicable:

Education and Training: Undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral training; provide institution, major/area, degree, and year.

Professional Experience: Beginning with the current position list, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description.

Publications: Provide a list of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically.

Patents, copyrights, and software systems developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications.

Synergistic Activities: List no more than 5 professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

{ Complete text block add other requirements to the Resume File. }

4. DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES (SF-LLL)

If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Summary of Required Forms and Files

Your application must include the following documents

Name of Document	Format	File Name
1. SF424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Form	N/A
2. Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Form	N/A
3. Other Attachments Form:	Form	N/A
Project Narrative File (page limit 20 pages)	PDF	Project.pdf

Project Summary/Abstract File	PDF	Summary.pdf
Project Management Plan	PDF	Pmp.pdf
SF 424A File - Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs	Excel	SF424A.xls
Budget Justification File	PDF	Budget.pdf
Subaward Budget File(s)	Excel	See Instructions
Commitment Letters	PDF	Commit.pdf
Resume File	PDF	Bio.pdf
4. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	Form	N/A

D. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If selected for award, DOE/NNSA reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to:

- Indirect cost information
- Other budget information
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5)
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable

E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

1. Pre-application Due Date

Pre-applications are not required.

2. Application Due Date

Applications Due Date

Applications must be received by **March 01, 2012**, not later than **3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time**. You are encouraged to transmit your application well before the deadline. **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.**

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Program Not Subject to Executive Order 12372

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 - Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Cost Principles. Costs must be allowable, allocable and reasonable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 10 CFR 600. The cost principles for commercial organization are in FAR Part 31.

Pre-award Costs. Pre-award costs are NOT authorized for any awards received as a result of this announcement.

H. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Where to Submit

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH GRANTS.GOV TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARD. Submit electronic applications through the "Apply for Grants" function at www.Grants.gov. If you have problems completing the registration process or submitting your application, call Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or send an email to support@grants.gov.

2. Registration Process

You must **COMPLETE** the one-time registration process (all steps) before you can submit your first application through Grants.gov (See www.grants.gov/GetStarted). We recommend that you start this process at least three weeks before the application due date. It may take 21 days or more to complete the entire process. Use the Grants.gov Organizational Registration Checklists at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.pdf> to guide you through the process. **IMPORTANT:** During the CCR registration process, you will be asked to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBIZ POC). The EBIZ POC must obtain a special password called "Marketing Partner Identification Number" (MPIN). When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., Grants.gov registration).

3. Application Receipt Notices

After an application is submitted, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of four e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the emails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of email Number 2. The titles of the four e-mails are:

- Number 1 - Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number
- Number 2 - Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number
- Number 3 - Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number
- Number 4 - Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number

Section V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. CRITERIA

1. Initial Review Criteria

Prior to the 2-step merit review, DOE will perform an initial review to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the funding opportunity announcement has been submitted; and (3) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement. Applications that fail to meet all of the mandatory requirements will not pass the initial review, and the application will not be forwarded for comprehensive merit review and the application will be eliminated from further consideration.

2. Merit Review Criteria

Applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity including the oral presentation will be evaluated and scored in accordance with the criteria and weights listed below:

QUALITY OF APPROACH (CRITERION 1)

WEIGHT: 40%

- Soundness of proposed strategy or approach for establishing and maintaining the policy and procedures for providing residential customers and their designated third parties access to their electricity consumption data.
- Comprehensiveness of the research and analysis on the targeted residential customer segments for both the demonstration and adoption phases to fully evaluate all aspects that could affect success of the project.
- Quality and validity of the proposed approach to achieve the stated goals and to reach the proposed market segments.
- Well-defined, appropriate, and measurable metrics for evaluating the impact of proposed tools and software products being offered to residential customers for the purpose of managing their energy consumption.
- Quality and completeness of the Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) that describes the proposed interrelated tasks and of the Project Management Plan that includes a schedule with milestones and explains how the demonstration will be managed to achieve objectives on time and within budget.
- Degree to which the residential customer enrollment process is simple and straightforward.
- Adequacy of the proposed project management approach to effectively control and coordinate project efforts.
- Degree to which privacy and data security are addressed.
- Adequacy of the risk analysis to mitigate potential risks and provide alternate solutions.

POTENTIAL IMPACT (CRITERION 2)

WEIGHT: 35%

- The quality and value to residential consumers of the proposed tools and software products including factors such as the number and variety of different tools and software products and the degree of convenience and ease of access for residential customers to electricity consumption data.
- Likelihood of the project approach to engage a variety of residential consumers with different needs for energy consumption reductions, based on factors such as the size of the utility market segments, residential customer demographics, prevalence of smart grid devices on the system and in the customers' homes, and other similar means.
- Degree to which the applicant provides access to electricity consumption data with sampling rates greater than the minimum requirement of 1 per hour.
- Likelihood that the tool or software product will perform as proposed.

- Potential impact for aiding residential consumers to conserve energy and reduce their energy consumption.
- Potential for the tool or software product to have wide spread appeal to a variety of residential consumers across various market segments.
- Comprehensiveness of the approach to fully adopt the data access policy and procedure beyond the demonstration phase (i.e., the extent to which data access will be extended across the utility's entire service area).

PROJECT TEAM CAPABILITIES (CRITERION 3)

WEIGHT: 25%

- Completeness and qualifications of the proposed project team, including the adequacy of utility partner(s) and other organizations to help achieve the demonstration and adoption objectives.
- Ability of the Applicant to manage the project and effectively coordinate the project team's efforts.
- Demonstrated level of corporate commitment to the proposed project and proposed cost share as evidenced by letters of intent from all proposed team members.
- Adequacy of facilities, equipment, and other resources, including the capabilities of the Applicant and their team (especially the utility partner), to comprehensively address all aspects of the proposed work.

Program Policy Factors

The selection official may consider the following program policy factors in the selection process:

It may be desirable to select for award a project, which, when taken together with other selections, will expand geographic coverage and/or provide a diversity of approaches or implementation platforms (e.g., internet browser, smart phone, etc.).

It may be desirable to select different types and sizes of organizations in order to provide a balanced programmatic effort and a variety of different perspectives.

It may be desirable to select project(s) of less technical merit than other project(s) if such a selection will optimize use of available funds by allowing more projects to be supported and not be detrimental to the overall objectives of the program.

It may be desirable to select projects for award that result in a portfolio of projects that provides the maximum adoption potential.

It may be desirable to select projects for award that have proposed cost shares significantly greater than 50%.

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a merit review in accordance with the guidance provided in the "Department of Energy Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance." This guide is available under Financial Assistance, Regulations and Guidance at <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/maprod/documents/meritrev.pdf>.

1. 2-Step Merit Review

The merit review under this announcement will be conducted in two steps, review of the electronic application files and an oral presentation.

Step 1. The first step of the merit review process involves review of the electronic application files in

accordance with the Merit Review Criteria contained in Section V, of this announcement. Applications will be scored according to the Merit Review Criteria. Based on those scores, only the highest technically ranked applications will be notified of their eligibility to proceed to Step 2 of the merit review process.

Step 2. The second step of the merit review process will give the highest technically ranked applicants from Step 1 the opportunity to make oral presentations to the Merit Review Committee. The Oral Presentation will also be reviewed in accordance with the same Merit Review Criteria used in Step 1 and contained in Section V of this announcement.

Based on the scores, only the highest technically ranked applications at the completion of Step 2 will be forwarded to the Selection Official for consideration.

2. Selection

The Selection Official will consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available.

3. Discussions and Award

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to: (1) the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirement; (2) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (3) the Government needs additional information to determine that the recipient is capable of complying with the requirements in 10 CFR 600; and/or (4) special terms and conditions are required. Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES

Selection and Award Date

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected to proceed to Step Two (Oral Presentation) of the Merit Review Process by the end of March 2012.

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award by the end of May 2012 and making awards by the end of July 2012.

Section VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES

1. Notice of Selection

DOE will notify applicants selected for award. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance. (See Section IV.G with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

Non-selected Notification

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected, including the applicant's strengths and weaknesses as determined by the Merit Review Committee.

2. Notice of Award

An Assistance Agreement issued by the contracting officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes either as an attachment or by reference: (1) Special Terms and Conditions; (2) Applicable program regulations, if any; (3) Application as approved by DOE; (4) DOE assistance regulations at 10 CFR part 600, or, for Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) institutions, the FDP terms and conditions; (5) National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms; (6) Budget Summary; and (7) Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

For grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to OMB Circular A-110 the Award also includes the Research Terms and Conditions located at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy rtc/index.jsp>.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 10 CFR 600 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to Title 2 CFR are subject to the Research Terms and Conditions located on the National Science Foundation web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy rtc/index.jsp>.

DUNS AND CCR REQUIREMENTS

Additional administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR, Part 25 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Prime awardees must keep their data at CCR current. Subawardees at all tiers must obtain DUNS numbers and provide the DUNS to the prime awardee before the subaward can be issued.

SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE REPORTING

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR, Part 170. (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Prime awardees must register with the new FSRS database and report the required data on their first tier subawardees. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in the CCR.

2. Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at http://management.energy.gov/business_doe/business_forms.htm.

The National Policy Assurances to be incorporated as award terms are located at: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/appc.pdf>.

Intellectual Property Provisions.

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at http://www.gc.doe.gov/financial_assistance_awards.htm.

Statement of Substantial Involvement

Cooperative agreements will be awarded under this announcement, and the DOE Contract Specialist and DOE Project Officer will negotiate a Statement of Substantial Involvement prior to award.

C. REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement. For a sample Checklist, see <http://www.management.energy.gov/documents/DOEF4600pt292009.pdf>.

Section VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

A. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the content of the announcement must be submitted through the FedConnect portal. You must register with FedConnect to respond as an interested party to submit questions, and to view responses to questions. *It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to have the benefit of all responses.* DOE will try to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Questions and comments concerning this FOA shall be submitted not later than (5) calendar days prior to the application due date. Questions submitted after that date may not allow the Government sufficient time to respond.

Questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. DOE cannot answer these questions.

B. AGENCY CONTACT

Name:	Sheldon Funk
E-mail:	Sheldon.Funk@netl.doe.gov
Telephone :	(304) 285-0204
FAX:	(304) 285-4683

Section VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

A. MODIFICATIONS

Notices of any modifications to this announcement will be posted on Grants.gov and the FedConnect portal. You can receive an email when a modification or an announcement message is posted by registering with FedConnect as an interested party for this FOA. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any modifications or other announcements.

B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this announcement and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the Contracting Officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

"The data contained in pages [*Insert pages*] of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant."

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

"The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation."

E. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION BY NON-FEDERAL PERSONNEL

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel as reviewers. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreements prior to reviewing an application. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

F. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities under this program include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.