

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ASSOCIATED WITH SOLICITATION 05-STAC-01

- 1. It appears that in contrast to the previous solicitation, there is now no requirement for a pre-proposal or pre-application, and only a full proposal is due by the 15 July deadline.**

STAC Response: Solicitation 05-STAC-01 does not require a pre-application or pre-proposal.

- 2. We would like to know how many projects will be funded out of the \$3.6 million total available (after \$1.35 million designated for Rebuild America). Will the remaining \$3.6 million then be split evenly between the program areas of interest?**

STAC Response: There is no pre-determined funding amount per project or anticipated number of awards under the solicitation. The STAC solicitation does not indicate, nor does the STAC Executive Committee favor, a particular dollar threshold for proposed projects. No matter the size, the STAC Executive Committee is interested in impact projects that result in significant technical advances and/or substantial deployment of technologies indicated in the various program areas of interest included in the solicitation and that recognize the multi-state nature of the solicitation.

- 3. \$3.6 M of the total \$4.95 M is available for other than Rebuild America proposals. How many proposals do you anticipate awarding? What is the minimum and maximum dollar amounts (before match) do you anticipate for each awardee?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 2.

- 4. What do you envision the average award to be or the number of awards?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 2.

- 5. Is there a maximum dollar limit/cap for each Rebuild America project?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 2.

- 6. My question is to confirm there are no funding maximums per category for STAC, except the total available? Although it would not be practical, could one technically submit a proposal for a maximum of \$1.35 million in STAC funding for Rebuild and a maximum of \$3.6 million in any one of the other four categories?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 2.

- 7. What are the expected average dollar amounts per project and the number of projects to be awarded?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 2.

- 8. Can you clarify who is eligible? Specifically, with respect to State environmental offices or other state agencies (not energy offices) could they be either the lead and/or partner applicant?**

STAC Response: A state agency that qualifies as follows would be an eligible proposer:

State-Chartered Institutions—a college or university, or an instrumentality specially authorized or created pursuant to State law or regulation, the laws of the District of Columbia or the laws of the respective Territories, exclusive of local governments, private for-profit businesses and national laboratories. Specific evidence and certification by a responsible official must clearly show that a proposer is a State-Chartered Institution.

- 9. Does STAC look more favorably on solicitations if the collaboration includes a state energy office? Would STAC view solicitation including multiple universities more favorably? We have a large-scale project in mind where applicants are two or possibly more than two different state-chartered universities. It just so happens that one of universities works closely with their state energy office. This state energy office has indicated that they could contribute time (indirect costs), in kind or engineering personnel as part of the project. Our project ties in nicely to the State's energy strategy plan.**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 8

- 10. How does STAC define energy efficiency and are programs involving renewable technologies eligible under the Rebuild America Program area?**

STAC Response: Renewable energy technologies (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal) are not eligible for STAC funding.

- 11. Does a typed name of the Director on a certification or assurance constitute a signature or should we have the Director sign the document and scan it for a PDF file?**

STAC Response: A typed name of an authorized representative is sufficient. Proposers shall have an authorized representative (“Authorized Representative”) submit the proposal via email. The Authorized Representative shall state in the transmitting email its intent to obligate the organization with respect to the electronically signed (i.e., type written signatures) documents attached thereto.

- 12. Please clarify the term of the project. Solicitation Section 1. B. says "Projects may be proposed with performance periods of one to three years. (12-36 months). Attachment E. Article III: TERM says that contracts will be from an initial term of 18 months with an additional contract year allowed for a total of 28 months.**

STAC Response: Projects may be proposed with performance periods of one to three years. Article III of Attachment E is part of the Model Contract, and although the language in the Model Contract is illustrative, it does not alter the ability of proposals to be submitted for performance periods of one to three years.

- 13. Program Area of Interest, B. Industrial Technologies, on page 7 of the solicitation which defines and discusses what is included/of interest. It is stated that: The focus of this solicitation is design, research of innovative energy systems that deliver energy to an industrial process, not the process itself.**

**We are interested in developing a forced convection heating technology for non-ferrous applications such as extruded aluminum products. This heating technology concept consists of a hot mixture of fuel gas and air flowing through numerous nozzles, strategically placed within the interior of the furnace and strategically placed with respect to the product surface with the resultant high velocity flame from each nozzle impinging upon the surface of the non-ferrous product thereby heating the product from the surface to the interior of the product.**

**Would this technology concept qualify for this solicitation under the key statement of innovative energy systems that deliver energy to an industrial process? Or under Specific Need b-3 on page 8, Other Innovative Energy System Technology, and other industrial processing systems?**

STAC Response: STAC will not assess the eligibility of an applicant or its project. No preference is being given to any specific technology or project in the solicitation. However, if the forced convection heating technology fits the criteria described for research under the solicitation then such a project may qualify as an eligible project.

- 14. With regard to program Area of Interest, B, b-1 or b-3. We have a technology concept we are interested in developing that captures the chemical energy and the sensible heat from the hot waste gasses of a typical high temperature furnace such as is found in the steel industry for example and reforms natural gas to the substantial betterment of the process. Which Specific Need would be the most appropriate category? b-1. Waste Heat Recovery? or b-3. Other Innovative Energy System Technology?**

STAC Response: STAC will not assess the eligibility of an applicant or its project. No preference is being given to any specific technology or project in the solicitation. However, if the technology fits the criteria described for research under the solicitation then such a project may qualify as an eligible project

- 15. Can the food processing industry be a target industry? Our team is nearing completion of deliverables under our first STAC contract. We see excellent opportunities (i.e.- in waste heat and/or DER including CHP ) to continue efforts regarding a Phase II proposal. Can we submit a Phase II proposal according to the scope included in your new RFP?**

STAC response: Unlike the previous STAC solicitation, 03-STAC-01, the current solicitation does not have a program area of interest that targets the food processing industry.

- 16. Section B on Industrial Technologies does not include agriculture or food processing among the industries. Was this intentional? Are these industries therefore excluded from consideration? If they are excluded, could someone please provide the rationale for doing so?**

STAC Response: Unlike the previous STAC solicitation, 03-STAC-01, the current solicitation does not have a program area of interest that targets the food processing industry. Each Program Area of Interest, including Industrial Technologies, was developed in a collaborative fashion relying on input from the STAC planning teams, which included State, federal, and private sector representatives. The industry sectors

indicated in the solicitation are a reflection of the priorities set forth by the planning teams and STAC.

**17. Would it be possible to provide some insight as to the makeup of the review/selection committee? It would be very helpful to know to what extent industry, university, government, and other sectors will be represented as we craft our proposals.**

STAC Response: No. It is important for eligible organizations to note that selection for negotiation will be made entirely on the basis of proposals submitted. Proposals should, therefore, address specifically the factors mentioned in the evaluation criteria, and not depend upon reviewer's background knowledge.

**18. Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be "linked" in the same Program Area of Interest, such as Rebuild America? As an example, "linked" proposals focusing on capacity building for a specific sector could involve multiple state and non-profit entities that partner with a state energy office.**

STAC Response: There is no preconceived limit to the number of linked proposals, provided the teaming arrangement provisions stated in the solicitation are followed including:

Teaming Arrangements

Proposers must submit projects of a multi-State nature, which are, by definition, multiparty. STAC recognizes that this may create difficulties associated with State law and regulations regarding a variety of matters, including venue. STAC recognizes that certain States may have difficulty executing contracts with other States. STAC would prefer to award one contract based upon a single proposal, wherein the various parties have coordinated the management and technical responsibilities, and have designated one party as the lead. However, STAC recognizes that in order to accommodate teaming arrangements and the varying State laws and regulations that STAC may need to award a contract to each eligible applicant for a selected project.

Therefore, STAC will equally consider the following additional options: 1) proposers may submit a single proposal, identifying the team leader and identifying that each eligible applicant would execute a separate contract with NASEO; or 2) Proposers may submit a "linked" proposal, whereby each team member submits a proposal that when combined would compose the total proposal (each eligible applicant that submitted a proposal would receive a separate contract with NASEO). Each individual proposal of a set of "linked" proposals shall be clearly marked on the cover page as "linked" and shall indicate to which other proposals it is "linked". In each instance, it will be critical for the proposers to clearly state how coordination and management (including enforcement of key contract terms) of the project will occur, including how communications with each of the multiple parties will be effectuated in an efficient manner. All information required in the solicitation, including the additional information required of Prime Participants (see *Attachment E: Model Contract*, for a definition of Prime Participant), must be submitted in the case of independent, coordinated proposals.

**19. Is there a cumulative request limit for “linked” proposals?**

STAC Response: Please see the response to Question No. 18.

**20. If proposals are “linked” in a Program Area of Interest, can each proposal focus on a different objective within the Program Area of Interest? Using the Rebuild America area of interest as an example, one entity would provide capacity building, another would provide implementation of financing models for efficiency projects, and a third would provide energy efficiency building assistance.**

STAC Response: There is no prohibition regarding submission of a proposal that covers multiple objectives within the same Program Area of Interest.

**21. Is the research in this solicitation classified as Basic, Applied or Both of nature. Please advise.**

STAC response: The focus of any research activity conducted with funding resulting from this solicitation is applied research.

**22. May Petroleum Violation Escrow Stripper Well funds be used as cost share for the Rebuild America Program area similar to the State Energy Program Special Projects cost share requirement?**

STAC Response: Consistent with DOE cost share guidelines, *Stripper Well Funds* may be used as cost share.

**23. A substantial part of our costs may include implementation as part of development effort. How does STAC view this when considering solicitations?**

STAC Response: The primary objective of this solicitation and the purpose of STAC is to support joint energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) of technologies where common federal and State objectives exist. Proposals addressing these broad objectives are further defined in the descriptions of the Program Areas of Interest in Section 2., and will be evaluated using the criteria outlined in Section 4. of the solicitation.

**24. Our group would like to design and build a community wide system of heat pump and wind renewable energy based log homes on the Blackfeet reservation. The funding available from your RFP could be used if you approve for all forty homes being financed by Washington Mutual mortgage programs If your group were willing to paydown the 5% of 6.4 million dollars in total costs for permitting, site preparation and down payments forty homes would be made available to reservation citizens.**

STAC Response: STAC will not assess the eligibility of an applicant or its project. No preference is being given to any specific technology or project in the solicitation. However, if your proposal fits the criteria described under the Program Areas of Interest then such a proposal may qualify as an eligible project.

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technologies where common federal and State objectives exist. Proposals addressing these broad objectives are further defined in the descriptions of the Program Areas of Interest in Section 2., and will be evaluated using the criteria outlined in Section 4 of the solicitation.

- 25. The solicitation states that "applicants may submit proposals in one or more of the program areas", can an organization submit more than one proposal for the same program area?**

STAC Response: There is no prohibition on submitting multiple proposals in any program area of interest.