

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001657

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001654

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Solar Energy Technologies Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Photovoltaics Research and Development (PVRD) 2: Modules and Systems”.

The planned FOA supports improvements in module design as well as approaches to reduce installation and interconnection time, which represent important development avenues for reducing the cost of PV electricity and energizing the future growth of the U.S. PV industry. This funding opportunity encourages project teams to optimize the completed product by considering the holistic module and system architecture rather than focusing on individual components.

Applicant eligibility is anticipated to follow the same criteria as provided in the previous [PVRD funding opportunity](#), which was released in September, 2015. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and Government-Owned Government Operated institutions (GOGOs) are not expected to be eligible to apply as primary applicants, but may be included as sub-recipients on proposals to this funding opportunity. Comprehensive details on eligibility will be released in the funding opportunity announcement.

Projects are expected to range in size from \$100,000 to 225,000 in Topic Area 1 and \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 in Topic Areas 2 and 3. Cost Share is anticipated to be 20% for all Topic Areas, with academic and non-profit institutions able to apply for a waiver to reduce the cost share to 10%.

It is anticipated that the funding opportunity will include the following Areas of Interest:

Topic Area 1: Small Innovative Projects in Solar (SIPS):

This topic is expected to fund small projects that have high potential impact and high technical risk due to a relatively low technology readiness level. The aim of this topic area is to enable small exploratory projects that will determine the potential of an innovative idea related to any aspect of photovoltaic systems and lay the groundwork for further research and development should the results prove promising.

Topic Area 2: Systematic Optimization of Layout, Interconnection, and Design (SOLID):

Successful applications will lead to significant improvements in the performance, energy yield,

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. EERE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or EERE may not issue a FOA at all.

manufacturability, and reliability of completed PV modules. Projects may also be encouraged to focus on the development of advanced analysis capabilities that will address knowledge gaps in module-level characterization, and will ultimately inform the design and development of next generation modules and systems.

Topic Area 3: Rapidly Applied Photovoltaics: Integration and Deployment (RAPID):

As technological advances have reduced the cost of solar hardware, balance-of-system costs (including permitting, inspections, and interconnection) account for an increasing portion of residential and commercial PV system prices. Further, the length of time from initiation of a project (e.g., permit application) through interconnection impacts the project economics. This funding area will focus both on hardware and software solutions to facilitate rapid installation of PV systems considering existing structural and integration constraints.

EERE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 1 year for SIPS, and 2-4 years for SOLID and RAPID.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about October 2016 via the EERE Exchange website <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

Potential Applicants can also sign up for the SunShot newsletter at <http://energy.gov/eere/sunshot/sunshot-newsletter> which contains updates on SunShot funding programs and announcements.

If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. EERE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or EERE may not issue a FOA at all.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. EERE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or EERE may not issue a FOA at all.