

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001466

**Notice of Intent to Issue
Funding Opportunity Announcement “Industrial Assessment Centers”
(DE-FOA-0001513)**

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Industrial Assessment Centers.”

This FOA supports EERE AMO technical assistance activities. The goal of the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program is twofold: first, to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), currently defined as having gross annual sales below \$100 million, fewer than 500 employees, and annual energy bills between \$100,000 and \$2.5 million, to increase their energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability and competitiveness; and second, to help address a growing shortage of engineering professionals with applied energy-related skills.

Prospective IACs can demonstrate their capabilities and describe their approach to serve small and medium-sized manufacturers by analyzing the operating characteristics, productivity, and energy, water and waste usage of manufacturing facilities; identifying, quantifying, and recommending specific opportunities to improve energy and water efficiency, reduce waste, and improve productivity; including potential enhancements to cyber security and related information technologies; and reporting the findings to the facility, together with estimates of the energy savings opportunities, implementation costs, and payback periods.

Each IAC will provide extensive training for undergraduate and graduate engineering students in industrial processes, energy assessment procedures, and energy management systems. IAC Applicants should define how they will maximize the student experience; increase student technical knowledge and business sense; and develop their understanding of key industrial concepts, including industrial supply chains, sustainability issues, and management systems.

In addition to the services outlined above, EERE is looking for new and innovative ways to accomplish its programmatic goals for manufacturers, and encourages Applicants to propose creative approaches to delivering IAC services that coincide with AMO priorities. These priorities are projected to include:

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- Smart manufacturing – identifying opportunities for productivity improvements through the availability and use of smart communications between machines, manufacturing processes, operators and management;
- Cyber security – assisting SMEs in threat detection and mitigation;
- Energy management systems – helping SMEs to continuously improve their energy performance by exploring the entire spectrum of management systems, from foundational to ISO 50001 to Superior Energy Performance (<http://energy.gov/isosep>); and
- Wastewater and water facilities – supporting the efficiency and productivity of water utility facilities, including facility operations as well as the biological component of wastewater treatment.

EERE envisions selecting 20 to 30 universities, with partnering organizations, as IACs based on a competitive selection process. These financial assistance awards will be in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be 5 years.

Eligibility Restrictions:

Eligibility will be restricted to the following types of entities: a U.S. college or school of engineering that is an integral part of its institutional structure and that has at least one of its four year undergraduate programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission or the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or equivalent (The IAC must be in the engineering department that holds the programmatic ABET or equivalent accreditation). The U.S. college or school of engineering must be physically located in the U.S.

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 late February/early March 2016 via the EERE Exchange website <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. 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:

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- 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.

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.

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