

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001534**Notice of Intent to Issue
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001535**

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Vehicle Technologies Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “FY 2016 Vehicle Technologies Multi-Topic Funding Opportunity Announcement.”

This FOA supports DOE’s strategic goal of protecting the U.S. national and economic security by reducing imports and promoting a diverse supply of reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy. More specifically this FOA helps to achieve by 2020, U.S. petroleum reduction of over 2.5 billion gallons per year through voluntary adoption of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

This goal will be achieved by reducing petroleum consumption through vehicle efficiency technologies; replacing petroleum fuels with alternative fuels, non-petroleum fuel blends, and electric drive technology vehicles; and reducing petroleum consumption through idle reduction technologies as well as through reduction in personal vehicle miles traveled or other means.

It is anticipated that the FOA will include the following three areas of interest:

1. Plug-in Electric Drive Vehicle Program

The objective of this area of interest is to research, develop, and demonstrate Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PEVs) in accordance with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) Section 131. These vehicles, once adopted by the market, will realize significant petroleum energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions through batteries and electric drive systems designed to use grid electricity in vehicle applications. Vehicles are limited to medium and heavy duty classes 3-7, including vehicles that can provide power for ancillary services or exportable power, and/or vehicles with connected and autonomous capabilities with an emphasis on electrification.

Projects must develop and demonstrate plug-in electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles that use a significant amount of grid electricity for vehicle propulsion. Projects will consist of three phases – component development, powertrain integration into vehicles, and demonstration for at least one year. Infrastructure investments are not included in the project scope.

2. Direct Injection Propane Engine

The objective of this area of interest is to research, develop, and demonstrate a direct injection (DI) propane engine for on-road vehicles approved for highway use. The engine must be based on currently-available commercial engines and meet current U.S. standards for useful life.

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Recent advances in DI technology have enabled higher efficiency spark-ignited gasoline engines. Similarly, the properties of propane are expected to complement DI technology and lead to benefits in both fuel economy and emissions. Because the current market for propane vehicles is small and limited to the light commercial sector, there has not been market incentive to date to develop new hardware. This project is intended to demonstrate the possibility for improving current propane vehicle efficiency, and a potential path forward for propane DI technology.

3. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Community Partner Projects

The objective of this area of interest is to accelerate the use of commercially available alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles, and supporting infrastructure technologies, through community-based partnerships between state and local governments and the private sector. These projects will reduce U.S. dependence on petroleum, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase local fuel diversification, and catalyze the adoption of clean transportation technologies in other communities through sharing of best practices and the collection and sharing of data.

Teams should include strategic partners such as state and local governments, fuel suppliers, auto dealerships, fuel retailers, public or private fleets, equipment manufacturers, energy marketers, and energy companies. The intent is for these efforts and community-based partnerships to be sustainable without Federal assistance after the completion of the project.

EERE anticipates awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 2-3 years.

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 in June 2016 via the EERE Exchange website (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>). Applicants who wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

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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.

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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