



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY
SOLAR
DECATHLON

Solar Decathlon
College Team Competition
2017SolarDecathlonCompetition@ee.doe.gov

Notice Webinar
DE-FOA-0001398
September 2, 2015



Advisory

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read Notice DE-FOA-0001398 in its entirety, and adhere to the stated submission requirements.
- This presentation summarizes the contents of the Notice. If there are any inconsistencies between the Notice and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the Notice is the controlling document and applicants should rely on the Notice language and seek clarification from EERE.
- If you believe there is an inconsistency, please contact us through 2017SolarDecathlonCompetition@ee.doe.gov.
- This is the webinar for prospective applicants to the 2017 Solar Decathlon College Team Competition Notice only.



Agenda

- 1) Key Dates
- 2) Notice Description
- 3) Topic Areas/Areas of Interest
- 4) Prize Information
- 5) Letters of Intent
- 6) Full Applications
- 7) Merit Review and Selection Process
- 8) Registration Requirements



Anticipated Schedule

DE-FOA-0001398

Solar Decathlon College Team Competition

Notice Issue Date:	August 26, 2015
Informational Webinar:	September 2, 2015
Submission Deadline for Letter of Intent:	5:00 p.m. ET September 17, 2015
Submission Deadline for Full Applications:	5:00 p.m. ET October 29, 2015
Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications:	Early January 2016



Notice Description

DOE seeks up to 20 collegiate teams to compete in the Solar Decathlon 2017.

The challenge to the teams competing in the Solar Decathlon is, in less than 24 months, to safely and effectively design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive.

The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.



Notice Description

DOE is inviting collegiate teams of creative designers and innovators to enter this competition. For the first time in a Solar Decathlon competition, DOE intends to offer monetary prizes. For the Solar Decathlon 2017, DOE will award up to \$2,000,000 in prizes to teams that are selected to participate via this Notice, and who bring an eligible house to the Solar Decathlon competition.

The prizes will be awarded to the same 20 lead organizational entities that submit applications to DOE under this competition and are selected by DOE to compete.

Recipients will receive no Federal funding up front, but will be eligible for prize money upon completion of the competition.



Notice Description

The Prize money is open to all collegiate teams in the United States and around the world, but the focus is on design solutions for the United States.

The structure of the Solar Decathlon 2017 minimum prize purse is:

Place Award

1st \$300,000

2nd \$225,000

3rd \$150,000

4th \$125,000

5th - 12th \$100,000

13th – 20th \$50,000



Application and Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility:

- Teams must be led by a post-secondary education institution.

Application Process:

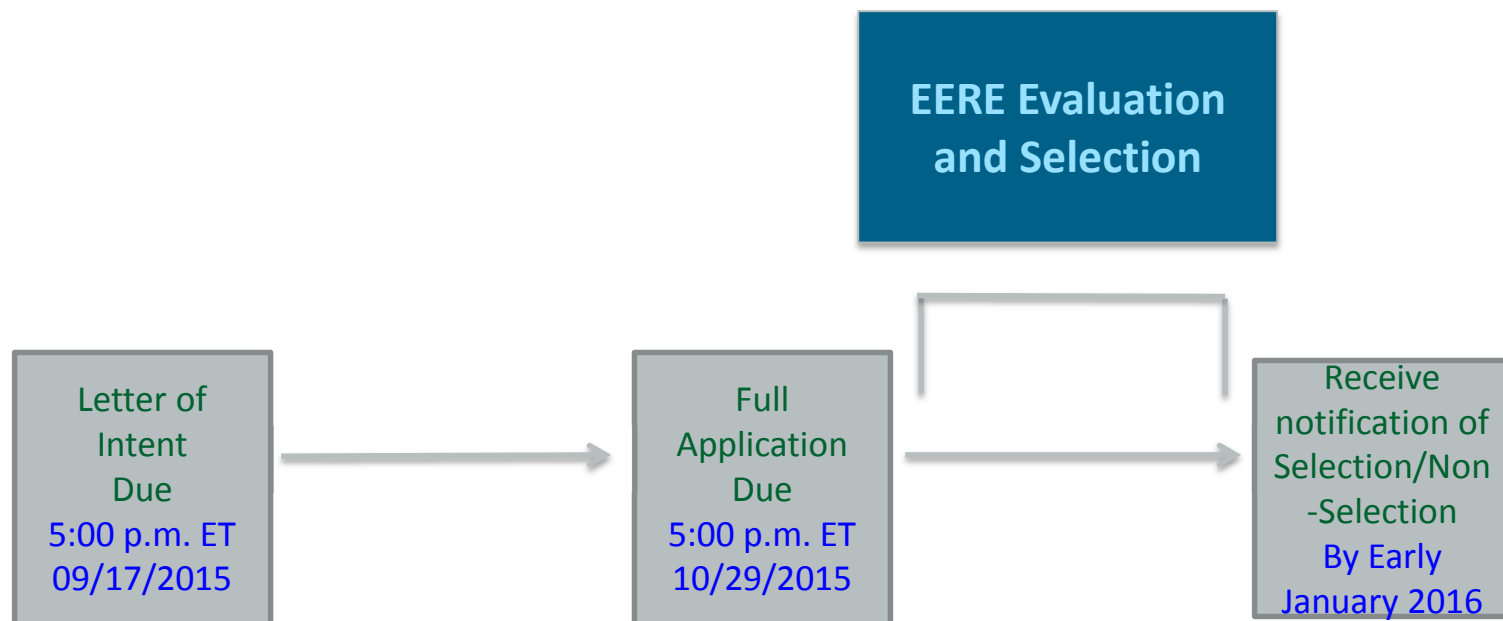
The application process will include two phases: a Letter of Intent phase and a Full Application phase.

Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Letter of Intent by the deadline will be eligible to submit a Full Application.

At each phase, EERE performs an initial eligibility review of the applicant submissions to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements of the Notice. EERE will not review or consider noncompliant and/or nonresponsive or otherwise ineligible submissions.



Notice Timeline



EERE anticipates notifying applicants of its decisions by early January 2016



Letters of Intent

- Letters of Intent (“LOIs”) are REQUIRED in order to be eligible to submit a Full Application
- To be considered:
 - The LOI must comply with the content and form requirements on page 6 of the Notice, and
 - The applicant must enter all required information and click the “Create Submission” button in EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in the Notice.
- The LOIs should not contain any proprietary or sensitive business information
- EERE will not provide notification of receipt for Letters of Intent



Full Applications

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Full Applications. Each Full Application must be limited to a single project. The Full Application includes:

- Technical Volume
- Statement of Project Objectives
- SF-424 Application for Federal Financial Assistance
- Budget Justification (EERE 335)
- Summary for Public Release
- Summary Slide
- Subaward Budget Justification



Full Applications: Technical Volume Content

Technical Volume: the key technical component of the Full Application. Limited to 20 pages.

Content of Technical Volume	Suggested % of Technical Volume
Cover Page	1 page
Project Overview	10%
Technical Description, Innovation and Impact	30%
Workplan	40%
Technical Qualifications and Resources	20%
Concept and Design Elements	Appendices



Full Application Eligibility Requirements

The Letter of Intent and Full Application must conform to the following requirements:

- Each must be submitted in Adobe PDF format unless stated otherwise.
- Each must be written in English.
- All pages must be formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with margins not less than one inch on every side. Use Times New Roman typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 12 point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10 point font). A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters, but the font size requirement still applies. References must be included as footnotes or endnotes in a font size of 10 or larger. Footnotes and endnotes are counted toward the maximum page requirement.



Full Application Eligibility Requirements (cont'd)

- The Control Number must be prominently displayed on the upper right corner of the header of every page. Page numbers must be included in the footer of every page.
- Each application must not exceed the specified maximum page limit, including cover page, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs when printed using the formatting requirements set forth above and single spaced. If Applicants exceed the maximum page lengths indicated in the Notice, EERE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

The Full Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. ET on October 29, 2015.



Evaluation Criteria

- The Merit Review process consists of multiple phases that each include an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review
- Rigorous technical reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the Notice
- Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors, to make the selection decisions



Technical Merit Review Criteria

Criterion 1: Technical Innovation and Design

Weight: 25%

The proposal demonstrates that the applicant:

- Has an aggressive yet practical approach to the project, maximizing its chances of success by studying past competitions and committing to a design philosophy that demonstrates it has learned valuable lessons from them
- Seek to incorporate innovations with a high likelihood of success, with potential benefit to professional home builders and the energy efficiency and renewable energy industry



Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 2: Sponsorship Engagement and Team Support

Weight: 25%

The proposal demonstrates:

- A clear understanding of the costs associated with the project
- A plan for obtaining sufficient sponsorship or other funds to support all phases of the two-year project; sponsorship engagement has been adequately planned
- The level of available or obtainable equipment, instrumentation, and facilities is adequate
- Industry involvement in the project is considered



Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion3: Organization and Project Planning

Weight: 20%

The proposal demonstrates that:

- The team understands all the activities involved in the project
- The activities are planned and organized adequately to ensure successful completion



Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 4: Conceptual Design

Weight: 15%

The proposal demonstrates:

- An energy-efficient, solar-powered house at the conceptual design stage
- A conceptual design that communicates ideas, character, and forms of an architectural design including aesthetics, building envelope, and solar components
- The design's potential to succeed in the marketplace and / or benefit professional home builders and solar installers



Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 5: Curriculum and Integration

Weight: 15%

The proposal demonstrates that the institution (or institutions):

- Has an architecture and/or building science curriculum and that the Solar Decathlon project is well-integrated into the students' course work
- Incentivizes top students to make long-term commitments to the project by offering scholarships, independent study credit, paid research assistantships, or other paid or academic compensation
- Has full commitment of college or university administration, including team members, with letters of commitment provided.



Means of Submission

- Letters of Intent and Full Applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>
 - EERE will not review or consider applications submitted through other means
- The Users' Guide for Applying to the Department of Energy EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements can be found at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/Manuals.aspx>



Key Submission Points

- Check entries in EERE Exchange
 - Submissions could be deemed ineligible due to an incorrect entry
- EERE strongly encourages Applicants to submit 1-2 days prior to the deadline to allow for full upload of application documents and to avoid any potential technical glitches with EERE Exchange
- Make sure you hit the submit button
 - Any changes made after you hit the submit button will un-submit your application and you will need to hit the submit button again
- For your records, print out the EERE Exchange Confirmation page at each step, which contains the application's Control Number



Applicant Points-of-Contact

- Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate
- It is imperative that the Applicant/Selectee be responsive and meet deadlines
 - Failure to do so may result in rescission of the Selection



Questions

- Questions about this Notice?
Email 2017SolarDecathlonCompetition@ee.doe.gov
- All Q&As for this Notice will be posted on EERE Exchange
 - Select this specific Notice in order to view the Q&As
 - EERE will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar Q&A has already been posted on the website
- Send an email to EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov about problems logging into EERE Exchange or uploading and submitting application documents
 - Include the Notice name and number in subject line



Thank you

This concludes today's webinar about Solar Decathlon College Team Competition (DE-FOA-0001398).

The slides and a recording of the webinar will be available with the FOA on EERE Exchange: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald7a43edea-d90c-46f2-b6ce-9adda347e64a>

Thank you for your time and interest.