

# Building Technologies Proving Ground – Public Sector Field Validation

FOA Webinar

June 30, 2020

Presented by the U.S. Department of Energy

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Hello everyone, and welcome to our webinar. Thank-you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Energy’s efforts on renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is the official funding opportunity announcement, or FOA, webinar for DE-FOA-0002324, “Building Technologies Proving Ground – Public Sector Field Validation.”

Before we begin, I’d like to draw your attention to the email address on the left-hand side of this cover page. This is the official mailbox to direct all of your questions during the entire FOA process. Please do not contact EERE individuals directly with questions, including myself. All questions received at this mailbox are posted publicly at the Q&A section of the FOA page on EERE Exchange in an anonymous way. The official answers to your questions will typically also be posted within three business days. Please be careful not to submit any language that might be business-sensitive, proprietary or confidential.

If you have questions during this webinar, you can send them to the email address on this slide and we’ll post the answers on EERE Exchange. Alternately, you can type your questions into the chat field as they come up. Again, please be careful not to submit any language that might be business-sensitive, proprietary or confidential. We will be posting all Q&As to EERE Exchange after the webinar. There may be questions that require further discussion with EERE staff and will not be addressed today. If you don’t hear the answer to your question during the Webinar, please check EERE Exchange in the next few days, and the answer will be posted there.

Just to be clear, NO NEW INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT PROVIDED IN THE FOA WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE WEBINAR. There are no particular advantages or disadvantages to the application evaluation process with respect to participating on the webinar today. Your participation is completely voluntary.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the funding opportunity announcement DE-FOA-0002324 (“FOA”) and adhere to the stated submission requirements.

This presentation summarizes the contents of FOA. If there are any inconsistencies between the FOA and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the FOA is the controlling document and applicants should rely on the FOA language and seek clarification from EERE at [BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov).

This slide shows the anticipated schedule for the FOA. The FOA has already been posted, and we are conducting the FOA informational webinar now. We will cover all requirements for this FOA later in the presentation. The FOA was issued on June 26, 2020.

<b>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers:</b>	July 27, 2020 (5 p.m. ET)
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<b>Submission Deadline for Full Applications:</b>	September 28, 2020 (5 p.m. ET)
<b>Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments:</b>	November 2, 2020 (5 p.m. ET)
<b>Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications:</b>	January 2021
<b>Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:</b>	Early 2021

The agenda for this presentation is as follows:

1. FOA Description
2. Topic Areas and Technical Areas of Interest
3. Award Information
4. Statement of Substantial Involvement
5. Cost Sharing
6. FOA Timeline
7. Concept Papers
8. Full Applications
9. Merit Review and Selection Process
10. Registration Requirements

We encourage you to have a copy of the FOA in front of you for reference as we go through the presentation.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), on behalf of the Building Technologies Office (BTO), in cooperation with the State Energy Program (SEP), will invest up to \$10 million in a competitive funding opportunity announcement (FOA). This competitive FOA allows state, local, and tribal government entities to compete for funding designed to meet U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) goals via field validation of high-impact building technologies.

There is tremendous opportunity across the United States for energy and cost savings given that 50% of the nation’s 5.6 million commercial buildings were built before 1980—prior to the existence of today's more-efficient products and building practices. Unlocking the energy savings of these buildings through efficiency improvements represents a significant economic opportunity. Improving the energy efficiency of buildings alleviates pressure on our electric grid and extends our energy resources as we diversify to a greater use of an all-of-the-above energy supply strategy. This helps to ensure a reliable energy system well into the future.

BTO leads a network of national laboratory, university, small business, and industry partners to develop innovative, cost-effective, energy-efficiency solutions — better products, better new home construction, better ways to improve older homes, and better buildings in which we live and work.

SEP provides funding and technical assistance to states, territories, and the District of Columbia to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and maximize the benefits of energy efficiency.

### **Technology Space and Strategic Goals**

The objective of this funding is to generate and disseminate data on the field performance of building technologies to inform commercial and multifamily building efficiency, demand flexibility, and building-to-grid programs.

Objective testing, measurement and verification in real, dynamic conditions is essential to aggressively and accurately validate and de-risk promising technologies and inform and improve technology research and development.

Researchers, technology providers, industry partners and end-users alike need trustworthy performance information on energy use, cost, savings, interoperability, durability, maintenance, etc., as well as an understanding of the complexity of the technology integration and implications to health, safety, security, and comfort.

DOE seeks proposals that de-risk and drive innovation through the integration of new technologies and operational improvements in real buildings “in the field,” while fostering the collaboration of dynamic teams. Teams must be led by a U.S. state, local, or tribal government entity. The state, local or tribal government entity must be the prime applicant. Hereafter, the term “prime” will reference these entities. Preferred teams will include technology providers, utilities, and building owners/operators.

### **Topic Area**

This FOA seeks to fund field validation of emerging technologies and technology solutions in partnership with state, local and tribal government entities. Successful proposals should include a clear description of the energy savings or demand flexibility potential, and the path to scalability, which may include a description of market segmentation and opportunity, pilot size, design, validation objectives, success metrics and the pathway to broader deployment.

Projects should result in the collection and dissemination of performance data and best practices (for energy consumption, cost, and other benefits) from the installation, instrumentation and verification of technologies, technology packages, or operational solutions, in one or more occupied, operational buildings. Specific application requirements are articulated in detail in the Technical Volume, Section C.ii. of the FOA.

Successful proposals will include the validation of technologies and/or the validation of operational changes to achieve energy and load flexibility in commercial or multifamily buildings. Preferred proposals will include:

- Near-commercial and emerging technology solutions (including operational and energy management solutions) that are ready for validation in occupied and operational buildings and can achieve a technical potential of at least 250 trillion British thermal units per year (TBtu/yr.) of U.S. primary energy savings ,

or yield significant end use energy demand flexibility as compared to the existing building baseline condition.

- Technology areas of interest include, but are not limited to:
  - Envelope and window technologies for existing buildings
  - Integration of thermal energy storage
  - Direct use of advanced natural gas efficiency technology solutions for end-use building sector applications
  - Plug load identification, controllability and optimization

Preferred application components include:

- Teams that include energy utilities, building owners and operators, and/or technology providers.
- Projects demonstrating commitments from commercial or multifamily building host sites ready for technology installation.
- Project objectives, deliverables and a data collection strategy that support the potential for follow-on deployment of new technologies, and enable non-federal entities to implement energy-efficiency and building load flexibility programs.

This FOA will not fund validations of measures that do not produce energy efficiency or end-use demand flexibility, for example renewable installations and micro-grids.

As a reminder, the prime applicant must be a state, local or tribal government.

### **Teaming Partner List**

To facilitate the formation of new project teams for this FOA, a Teaming Partner List is available at [eere-Exchange.energy.gov](http://eere-Exchange.energy.gov) under FOA DE-FOA-0002324.

Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the information shown on this slide to [ProvingGroundTeamingList@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ProvingGroundTeamingList@ee.doe.gov). Keep in mind, though, that by submitting this information, you consent to the publication of that information.

Please also note that by facilitating this Teaming Partner List, EERE does not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of the entities that self-identify themselves for placement on the Teaming Partner List.

In addition, EERE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it compensate any respondents for the development of such information.

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered for an award:

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in Section I.A or I.B of the FOA
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (for example, they violate the law of thermodynamics)
- Applications that are not led and submitted by a state, local or tribal governmental entity
- Technologies with market barriers that cannot be addressed through validation (for example, the technology cannot meet local code)

- Applications for the validation of technologies that do not produce energy efficiency or end use demand flexibility, such as renewable installations or micro-grids

EERE expects to make approximately \$10 million of federal funding available for new awards under this FOA subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The average award amount is anticipated to range up to \$1 million.

The award instrument for the projects under this FOA will be cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement, which we will discuss next.

Under cooperative agreements, there will be what is known as “substantial involvement” between EERE and the recipient during the performance of the project.

EERE has substantial involvement in work performed under awards made following this FOA. EERE does not limit its involvement to the administrative requirements of the award. Instead, EERE has substantial involvement in the direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project as a whole. Substantial involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- EERE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.
- EERE may intervene in the conduct or performance of work under this award for programmatic reasons. Intervention includes the interruption or modification of the conduct or performance of project activities.
- EERE may redirect or discontinue funding the project based on the outcome of EERE’s evaluation of the project at that the go/no go decision point(s).
- EERE participates in major project decision-making processes.

### **Cost-Sharing Requirements**

*Cost Share 30%, Cost Share Waiver Not Utilized*

The cost share must be at least 30% of the total allowable costs (i.e., the sum of the governmental share and the recipient share of allowable costs equals the total allowable cost of the project) and must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law. (See 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 910.130 for the applicable cost-sharing requirements.)

To assist applicants in calculating proper cost-share amounts, EERE has included a cost-share information sheet and sample cost-share calculation as Appendices A and B to this FOA.

### **Cost-Share Contributions**

The total budget presented in the application must include both federal (DOE), and non-federal (cost share) portions, thereby reflecting TOTAL PROJECT COSTS proposed. All costs must be verifiable from the recipient’s records and be necessary and reasonable for the accomplishment of the project.

Contributions must be:

- Specified in the project budget

- Verifiable from the prime recipient's records
- Necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project

If you are selected for award negotiations, every cost-share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the contracting officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

### **Allowable Cost Share**

Cost share must be allowable and must be verifiable upon submission of the full application. Please refer to this chart for your entity's applicable cost principles. It is imperative that you follow the applicable cost principles when creating your budget for the full application.

Cost share can be provided in cash and/or in-kind. It can be provided by the prime recipient, subrecipients, or a third party. One note, vendors and contractors CANNOT provide cost share because that is considered a discount.

Cash contributions include but are not limited to: personnel costs, fringe costs, supply and equipment costs, indirect costs and other direct costs.

In-kind contributions are those where a value of a contribution can be readily determined, verified and justified but where no actual cash is transacted in securing the good or service comprising the contribution. Allowable in-kind contributions include, but are not limited to: the donation of volunteer time or the donation of space or use of equipment.

Please be aware that there are items that are considered unallowable cost share. If a cost is considered unallowable, it cannot be counted as cost share. This slide provides some examples of cost share that is unallowable.

### **Cost-Share Payment**

Recipients must provide documentation of the cost share contribution, incrementally over the life of the award.

The cumulative cost-share percentage provided on each invoice must reflect, at a minimum, the cost-sharing percentage negotiated.

In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the EERE contracting officer may approve a request by the prime recipient to meet its cost-share requirements on a less frequent basis, such as monthly or quarterly. See Section III.B.7 of the FOA.

EERE's Evaluation and Selection Process is shown in blue here. EERE will review concept papers, replies to reviewer comments (which we will cover later in the presentation), and full applications. The green boxes represent the actions that apply to applicants throughout the FOA process.

To reiterate, concept papers are due July 27, 2020. Applicants will receive encourage / discourage notification by August 14, 2020. Full applications for this FOA are due September 28. Reviewer

comments are given October 29. The replies to reviewer comments are due back on November 2. And applicants should expect to receive notification of selection or non-selection in early 2021.

Concept papers are required for this FOA. Concept papers are brief descriptions of the proposed project. It allows applicants to submit their ideas with minimum time and expense. EERE will provide feedback on the proposed project so the applicant can make an informed decision whether to expend additional resources to prepare a full application.

If an applicant fails to submit an eligible concept paper, the applicant is not eligible to submit a full application.

Concept papers must be submitted by July 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET through EERE Exchange.

EERE will provide applicants with either an encouraged or discouraged notification. A “discouraged” notification conveys EERE’s lack of programmatic interest in the proposed project. An applicant who receives a “discouraged” notification may still submit a full application.

Please note that regardless of the date applicants receive the encourage/discourage notifications, the submission deadline for the full application remains the date stated on the FOA cover page, in this case, September 28, 2020 at 5 p.m. ET.

### **Concept Paper Review**

Concept papers are evaluated based on consideration of the following factors. All subcriteria are of equal weight.

Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project is weighted at 100%:

This criterion involves consideration of the following subcriteria:

- The project will verify energy savings of at least 250 TBtu/yr. or yield significant end-use energy demand flexibility, and clearly describe and document assertions to support energy savings and flexibility calculations.
- The proposed project is innovative and includes validation of the technologies described in section 1.B of the FOA.
- The applicant has identified risks and challenges, including possible mitigation strategies, and has shown the impact that EERE funding and the proposed project would have on the relevant field and application.
- The applicant has the qualifications, experience, capabilities and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project.
- The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the FOA.

### **Full Applications**

The full application includes:

- Technical Volume: The key technical submission. Applicants submit info pertaining to the technical content, project team members, etc.

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance: The formal application signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. Includes cost-share amounts and federal certifications and assurances.
- SF-424A Budget and Budget Justification: Budget documents that asks applicants to submit a detailed budget and spend plan for the project.
- Statement of Project Objectives: The entire scope of the cooperative agreement.
- Summary for Public Release: Applicants must provide a one-page summary of their technology appropriate for public release.
- Summary Slide: PowerPoint slide that provides quick facts about the technology. Slide content requirements are provided in the FOA.
- Administrative Documents: Resumes; Letters of Commitment; Subrecipient Budget Justification; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; Foreign Entity and Foreign Work Waiver Request; Data Management Plan (DMP).

The key technical component of the full application is the Technical Volume, which helps applicants frame the technical information that the application will be evaluated on. The Technical Volume provides information regarding what the project is, how the project tasks will be accomplished, and the project timetable.

The Technical Volume is comprised of a cover page, project overview, technical description, innovation, and impact, workplan and technology transition plan, technical qualifications and resources and FOA specific requirements. Please note that the percentages listed here are suggested and are not mandatory.

The cover page will be a one-page document and provides basic information on their project, such as title, topic area, points of contact, etc.

The project overview constitutes approximately 10% of the Technical Volume and provides information on project background, goals, and the impact of EERE funding.

The technical description, innovation, and impact section is approximately 30% of the Technical Volume. It provides information on project relevance and outcomes, feasibility, and innovation and impacts. This ultimately provides the justification as to why EERE should fund the project.

The workplan is the key element to the Technical Volume, and constitutes approximately 40% of the Technical Volume. It details the proposed milestones and project schedule. If selected for award negotiations, the workplan serves as the starting point when negotiating the Statement of Project Objectives.

The technical qualifications and resources section is approximately 20% of the Technical Volume. It provides applicants an opportunity to provide information about the proposed project team and demonstrate how the applicant will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed project. This FOA also has FOA specific requirements, which is one page with short answers to eight relevant questions. Please see the FOA document for more details.

As we previously pointed out, applicants must submit full applications by September 28, 2020, at 5 p.m. Eastern time. EERE will conduct an eligibility review, and full applications will be deemed eligible if:



- The applicant is an eligible entity Section III.A of FOA
- The applicant submitted an eligible concept paper
- The cost-share requirement is satisfied according to Section III.B of FOA
- The full application is compliant as listed out in Section III.C of FOA
- The proposed project is responsive to the FOA, and you can see Section III.D of FOA for more details
- The applicant adheres to the limitation on number of concept paper and full applications for review, Section III.E of FOA
- The full application meets any other eligibility requirements listed in Section III of the FOA

### **Who is Eligible to Apply?**

This FOA has restricted eligibility requirements to the following entities:

The prime applicant must be a state, local or tribal government. For states, preference will be given to the 25 state governments in the top half of non-transportation energy consumption per capita, according to Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, which is listed in Appendix G. Applications may be submitted by the State Energy Office (SEO) or other agency responsible for administering the State Energy Program.

For purposes of this FOA, an eligible Indian government means an Indian tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community (including Alaska Native villages), and must be federally recognized as listed in Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, published by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in the *Federal Register* on January 30, 2020, 85 FR 20.

DOE/NNSA FFRDCs are not eligible to apply for funding either as a prime recipient or subrecipient.

For more detail about eligible applicants, please see Section III.A of the FOA.

### **Multiple Applications**

An entity may submit more than one concept paper and full application to this FOA, provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project and provided that an eligible concept paper was submitted for each full application.

### **Merit Review and Selection Process for Full Applications**

The merit review process consists of multiple phases that each include an eligibility review and a thorough technical review.

Rigorous technical reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the FOA.

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**

Applications will be evaluated against the following merit review criteria:

Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact, which is worth 40%:

This criterion involves consideration of the following subcriteria:

Technical Merit and Innovation

- Extent to which the proposed project includes validation of at least one of the technologies described in section 1.B of the FOA
- Extent to which the proposed technology and project is innovative and meritorious
- Degree to which the current state of the technology and the proposed validation objectives are clearly described
- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the applicant will de-risk the state-of-the-technology

Impact of Technology Validation

- Degree to which the project will document cost, performance and grid benefits
- Degree to which project will produce data that is likely to accelerate private and public-sector investment
- Extent to which the project is likely to contribute to widespread national savings from voluntary energy and building flexibility programs

Criterion 2: Project Implementation and Technology Transition Plan, which is worth 30%:

This criterion involves consideration of the following subcriteria:

Approach, Workplan and SOPO

- The strength of the quantifiable metrics, milestones, and midpoint deliverables defined in the application, such that meaningful interim progress will be made
- The degree to which the approach and critical path have been clearly described and thoughtfully considered
- Degree to which success metrics and data will be generated to support a streamlined pathway to the development of voluntary programs for grid-interactive efficient buildings
- Degree to which the task descriptions are clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable, resulting in a high likelihood that the proposed workplan and SOPO will succeed in meeting the project goals.

Identification of Technical Risks

- Demonstrated understanding of the key technical risk areas involved in the proposed work and the quality of the mitigation strategies to address them

Technology Transition Plan

- Identification of target market, competitors, and distribution channels for proposed technology along with known or perceived barriers to market penetration, including mitigation plan

Criterion 3: Team and Resources, 30%:

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The application includes documented commitments from a utility or program administrator, a building owner/operator and a technology provider
- The capability of the principal investigator(s) and the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work, especially demand flexibility measure validation, with a high probability of success

- The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team
- The extent to which the prime applicant is substantially involved in the project
- The level of participation by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment and how well they are integrated into the workplan
- The reasonableness of the budget and spend plan for the proposed project and objectives

The full applications are reviewed by experts in the FOA topic area(s). After those experts review the applications, EERE will provide applicants with reviewer comments. Applicants will have a brief opportunity to review the comments and prepare a short reply to reviewer comments responding to comments however they desire. The reply to reviewer comments is due by the date and time provided on this slide, November 2, 2020. Applicants should anticipate receiving the independent reviewer comments approximately three days before this due date. The reply to reviewer comments is an optional submission; applicants are not required to submit a reply to reviewer comments.

This a customer-centric process that provides applicants with a unique opportunity to correct misunderstandings and misinterpretations and to provide additional data that might influence the selection process in their favor. The replies are considered by the reviewers and the selection official.

Replies to reviewer comments must conform to the content and form requirements listed here, including maximum page lengths. If a reply to reviewer comments is more than three pages in length, EERE will review only the first three pages and disregard any additional pages.

Please see Sections IV.F. and V.A.3 for additional information regarding replies to reviewer comments.

As part of the merit review process, EERE may invite certain applicants to participate in pre-selection interviews.

The invited applicant(s) will meet with EERE representatives to provide clarification on the contents of the full applications and to provide EERE an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project. The information provided by applicants to EERE through pre-selection interviews contributes to EERE's selection decisions.

The pre-selection interviews often take place in person at EERE's offices. For some FOAs, EERE will conduct the interviews at a different location or conducts the interviews through a one-on-one conference with EERE via webinar, videoconference, or conference call. If EERE conducts pre-selection interviews for this FOA, EERE will notify the invited applicants and provide more details about the format for the interviews for this FOA at that time.

EERE will not reimburse applicants for travel and other expenses relating to the pre-selection interviews, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

EERE may select applications for funding and make awards without pre-selection interviews. Participation in pre-selection interviews with EERE does not signify that applicants have been selected for award negotiations.

## **Selection Factors**

The selection official may consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA.

After the merit review process, the selection official may consider program policy factors to come to a final selection decision.

They may consider the following program policy factors:

- The degree to which the proposed project exhibits technological diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the subject FOA
- The degree to which the proposed project, including proposed cost share, optimizes the use of available EERE funding to achieve programmatic objectives
- The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to accelerate commercialization and overcome key market barriers
- The degree to which the proposed project is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States
- The degree to which the proposed project will accelerate transformational technological advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty
- The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution (considering past awards and current applications)
- Whether the proposed project includes partners representing diverse industry sectors and large portfolios of buildings
- The degree to which the proposed project avoids duplication or overlap with other publicly or privately funded work
- The degree to which the proposed project supports complementary efforts or projects, which, when taken together, will best achieve the research goals and objectives
- The degree to which the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities for demonstration of technologies and research applications to facilitate technology transfer
- For state government applicants only: the degree to which the state government is in the top half of non-transportation energy consumption per capita amongst states in the U.S.

There are several one-time actions before submitting an application in response to this FOA, and it is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant's ability to apply to this FOA, or to meet the negotiation deadlines and receive an award if the application is selected.

First is a DUNS Number: Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

Next is the System for Award Management: Register with the System for Award Management (SAM). Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN, and these are all important steps in SAM registration. You want to update your SAM registration annually.

Next is Fedconnect: Register in FedConnect. 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 the FedConnect site.

And last is Grants.gov: Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that letters of intent, concept papers, and full applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

### **Means of Submission**

All required submissions must come through EERE Exchange. EERE will not review or consider applications submitted through any 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**

Please check your 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 submit 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 will contain your 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 to conduct award negotiations.

It is imperative that the applicant and selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of further award negotiations and rescission of the selection.

If you have any questions about this FOA, please email [BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov](mailto:BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov).

All Q&As related to this FOA will be posted on EERE Exchange.

You must select this specific FOA number in order to view Q&As. That FOA number is DE-FOA-0002324.

EERE will attempt to respond to a question within three business days, unless a similar Q&A is already posted on the website.

If you have problems logging into EERE Exchange or uploading and submitting application documents with EERE Exchange, you can email [EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov). Please include FOA name and number in subject line.

All questions asked during this presentation will be posted on EERE Exchange and associated with this FOA.

This now concludes the presentation. Thank-you all very much for joining, and good luck.