

## Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0003064

### Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002954

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “WETO Offshore Wind 2023 Centers of Excellence”.

Undergraduate and graduate-level education in wind energy is a key workforce development need for the U.S. wind industry going forward. This is particularly true in offshore wind, where the U.S. industry and university programs are both just beginning to take root. Currently, offshore wind companies look primarily to Europe for research support from universities and for technical staff to fill positions requiring graduate degrees and experience in offshore wind. Europe has a thriving ecosystem of university-led, collaborative offshore wind research and technical education that is closely linked with the offshore wind industry and produces a significant number of students who graduate with high-quality technical skills as well as direct experience working with industry partners. While the Department of Energy has supported efforts such as WindU and the North American Wind Energy Academy (NAWEA), these efforts alone cannot address all the needs to seed such an ecosystem in the U.S.

The primary goal of the FOA is to address these needs.

To that end, EERE anticipates the FOA may include the following Topic Area:

#### **Offshore Wind Centers of Excellence (COE)**

EERE seeks to seed one to three university-led Centers of Excellence to catalyze an education, research, and partnership ecosystem to address technology, deployment, and workforce needs for developing U.S. offshore wind industry leadership. The university-led Centers of Excellence funded through this opportunity are intended to accelerate and maximize the effectiveness, reliability, and sustainability of U.S. offshore wind deployment and operation through partnership with industry participants, including wind project developers and technology manufacturers; other institutions of higher education; other research institutions, such as national laboratories; non-governmental organizations; tribes; and state and local-level governments. The ideal institution will have relevant existing credentials; robust diversity and inclusion strategies; and expansive regional partnerships to excite and supercharge the next generation of the renewable energy workforce. Strong applicants will:

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- Propose a clear education and research mission with a deep understanding of the strategies needed to develop multi-disciplinary educational programming that addresses the technological and human dimensions of issues pertinent to offshore wind,
- Connect their proposed educational programming to the unique nature of challenges associated with offshore wind development in their proposed regional, technology and other areas of focus, and
- Identify how their solutions can support broader national thinking and expertise.

EERE envisions awarding financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. EERE anticipates funding one to three university-led Centers of Excellence. Strong applicants will propose a Center of Excellence structured as a consortium between multiple institutions as noted above. The estimated period of performance for each award will be three 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 on or about April 2023 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:

- Register and create an account in EERE eXCHANGE at <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to apply to any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE eXCHANGE.

To access EERE eXCHANGE, potential applicants will be required to have a [Login.gov](https://login.gov/) account. As part of the eXCHANGE registration process, new users are directed to create an account in [Login.gov](https://login.gov/). Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the Exchange Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the [Manuals section](#) of 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](mailto:EERE-eXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov)

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- 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. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

**NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible.** If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).

- 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](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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