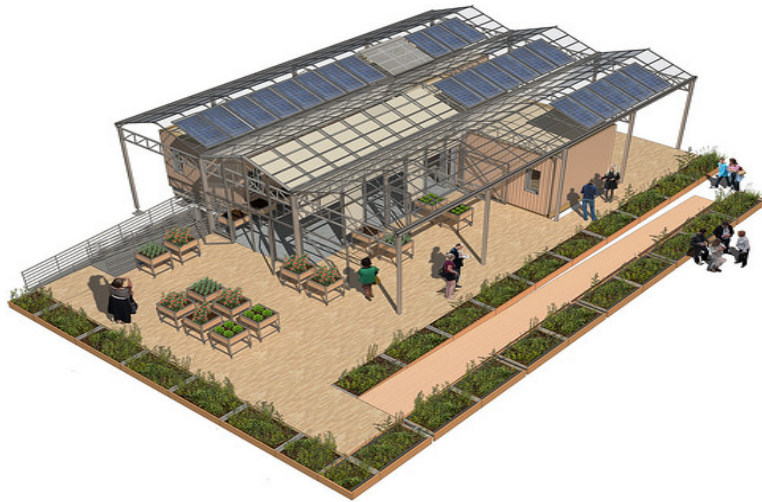


# 2017 SOLAR DECATHLON COLLEGE TEAM COMPETITION NOTICE DE-FOA-0001398

Mod. No.	Date	Description of Modification
DE-FOA-0001398.0001	10/15/2015	Remove Letter of Intent submittal requirement.





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## **IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

### **STEP 1: FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

- Submission Period Begins: Wednesday August 26, 2015
- Informational Webinar: September 2, 2015 12:00 PM EDT:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8952459337482065922>
- Submission Period Ends: Thursday October 29, 2015 5:00 PM ET
- Selections Announced: Early January 2016

### **STEP 2: TEAM ORIENTATION MEETING**

- Teams Orientation: TBD January 2017

# INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) seeks applicants to its Solar Decathlon College Team Competition. This Competition will support the Obama administration's commitment to improving the nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education efforts, and to building a more knowledge-intensive workforce. The Department of Energy (DOE) and EERE are eager to create and support education and workforce development programs that are specific to applied energy, and are essential to carrying out DOE's mission and advancing energy technologies for the future.

One of America's most pressing and technically difficult scientific and engineering challenges is developing new and better technologies to supply clean and renewable energy. As the nation's demand for energy increases and the energy sector grows to meet these needs, the United States faces an impending shortage of the skilled workforce needed to support this sector. An educated and highly-trained workforce is imperative if it is to support today's low-carbon economy as it develops—and lead it to tomorrow. Finding solutions to these challenges is critical today and for America's future. For this reason, DOE's Strategic Plan supports developing and providing educational and technical training opportunities for students and for the workforce.

Since its inception in 2000, the Solar Decathlon has been a high-profile DOE-branded education and workforce development program for university-level students. It culminates in a competition that is a public demonstration of EERE technologies that promotes energy efficiency and increases awareness about residential energy use; fostering greater adoption of clean energy technologies. The competition demonstrates that an aesthetically beautiful and well-designed house can generate enough thermal and electrical energy to meet the needs of a single family household. At the bi-annual Solar Decathlons, first in Washington, D.C. and then in Irvine, California, 65,000-100,000 visitors have toured the houses to see student teams' use of EERE technologies in action. More information about past Solar Decathlons is available at <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>.

The Solar Decathlon's wide audience includes collegiate student teams, the building industry, the sustainable and clean energy industries, homeowners, and general public consumers. The student teams pursue multidisciplinary approaches to meet DOE's requirements in designing, building, and operating energy-efficient, solar-powered houses. The program's technology showcase educates the attending public and industry professionals about the benefits, affordability, and availability of clean energy solutions, with research papers, media coverage, and digital outreach serving as tools to amplify this message.

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 that 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, and that complete a house for the Solar Decathlon. Recipients will receive no Federal funding up front, but will be eligible for prize money upon completion of the competition.

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:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Award</u>
1st	\$300,000
2nd	\$225,000
3rd	\$150,000
4th	\$125,000
5th - 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$100,000
13th - 20th	\$50,000

## SUMMARY OF COMPETITION

This Competition seeks up to 20 collegiate teams to compete in the Solar Decathlon competition. 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.

Competition designs must be sustainable for one or more of the predominant DOE Building America Climate Zones found within the United States. The six climate zones are based on temperature, precipitation, and heating and cooling degree-days. The six predominant zones are hot-humid, hot-dry, mixed-humid, mixed-dry, marine, and cold. More information can be found at:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/building\\_america/4\\_3a\\_ba\\_innov\\_building\\_science\\_climate\\_maps\\_011713.pdf](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/building_america/4_3a_ba_innov_building_science_climate_maps_011713.pdf).

Any International team wishing to enter the Solar Decathlon is encouraged to team with a U.S. college or university and/or industry partner to facilitate technology transfer. All teams are encouraged to build the house in the United States and to identify a permanent location for the house following the competition, ideally in the United States.

The Solar Decathlon comprises a workforce development and education program. The objective is to give student architects, engineers, business majors, and communicators the opportunity to gain hands-on experience designing and building sustainable housing. This valuable training will help more students enter the clean energy workforce. Therefore, teams are both allowed and

encouraged to collaborate with industry. University leadership is encouraged to look to the private sector when forming a team. Conversely, private businesses and community leaders are encouraged to reach out to their nearest college or university to help form strong, capable teams.

A critical long-range goal of the Solar Decathlon project is developing and demonstrating cost-effective, highly energy efficient solar-powered homes. DOE is soliciting proposals from post-secondary educational institutions that not only address participation in the competition, but also include a description of how the design will help to achieve this critical outcome.

DOE intends to select up to 20 college and university teams that will participate in the Solar Decathlon's 2017 competition. The ability and plan to obtain sponsorships and team support are a part of the evaluation and selection criteria.

The Solar Decathlon 2015 Rules document will be the basis for the 2017 competition, though it will be revised prior to the 2017 event based on lessons learned and technology advancements at the Solar Decathlon 2015. Modifications under consideration include:

1. Changing the size and/or height of the houses
2. Eliminating the Affordability Contest to increase innovation by allowing designs with no cost limitation
3. Allowing batteries for increased load management

Please note these changes may not be adopted for the Solar Decathlon 2017. The current Solar Decathlon rules are posted at <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/rules.html>.

Finally, DOE stresses that creativity and resourcefulness are the keys to success.

## **SOLAR DECATHLON COLLEGE TEAM COMPETITION EMAIL**

For questions about this Notice, please email: [2017SolarDecathlonCompetition@ee.doe.gov](mailto:2017SolarDecathlonCompetition@ee.doe.gov).

# APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

## Eligibility Requirements:

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

## Application Process:

The application process requires the submittal of a Full Application. 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.

## EERE EXCHANGE

All submissions must conform to the following form and content requirements, including maximum page lengths, described below and **must be submitted via EERE Exchange** at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**EERE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, and incomplete submissions.**

EERE will not extend deadlines for Applicants who fail to submit required information and documents due to server/connection congestion. A control number will be issued when an Applicant begins the Exchange application process. This control number must be included with all Application documents, as described below.

The 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.
- 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 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 below, EERE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

Applicants are responsible for meeting each submission deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit Full Applications at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline.** Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline), Applicants should allow at least one hour to submit a Full Application. Once the Application is submitted in EERE Exchange, Applicants may revise or update their application until the expiration of the applicable deadline.

EERE urges Applicants to carefully review their Full Applications and to allow sufficient time for the submission of required information and documents. All Full Applications that pass compliance review will undergo comprehensive technical merit review according to the criteria identified in this Notice.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EERE EXCHANGE**

EERE Exchange is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this NOTICE. The “Apply” and “Submit” buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines. Should applicants experience problems with Exchange, the following information may be helpful: Applicants that experience issues with submission PRIOR to the Notice deadline: In the event that an Applicant experiences technical difficulties with a submission, the Applicant should contact the Exchange helpdesk for assistance ([EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)). The Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist Applicants in resolving issues.

Applicants that experience issue with submissions that result in late submissions: In the event that an Applicant experiences technical difficulties so severe that they are unable to submit their application by the deadline, the Applicant must contact the Exchange helpdesk for assistance ([EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)) by the submission deadline. The Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators ([EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)) will assist the Applicant in resolving all issues (including finalizing submission on behalf of and with the Applicant’s concurrence). PLEASE NOTE, however, that Applicants who are unable to timely submit their application due to their waiting until the last hour when network traffic is at its heaviest to submit their materials will not be able to use this process.



## APPLICATION FORMS

The application forms and instructions are available on EERE Exchange. To access these materials, go to <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov> and select the appropriate funding opportunity number.



## CONTENT AND FORM OF THE FULL APPLICATION

Applicants must submit a Full Application by the specified due date for consideration to enter this competition. Applicants must complete the following application forms found on the EERE Exchange website at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>, in accordance with the instructions.

All Full Application documents must be marked with the Control Number issued to the Applicant. Applicants will receive a control number when they create an application and should include that control number in the file name of their Full Application submission (i.e., Control Number\_Applicant Name\_Full Application).

## FULL APPLICATION CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Full Applications.

Each Full Application must be limited to a single project.

Full Applications must conform to the following requirements:

SUBMISSION	COMPONENTS	FILE NAME (IF NECESSARY)
Full Application (PDF, unless stated otherwise)	Technical Volume (PDF format; see Chart for details and page limits)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_TechnicalVolume
	Statement of Project Objectives (10 page limit, Microsoft Word format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SOPO
	SF-424 Application for Federal Financial Assistance (no page limit; PDF format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_App424
	Budget Justification (EERE 335) (no page limit, Microsoft Excel format. Applicants must use the template available in EERE Exchange)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget_Justification
	Summary for Public Release (1 page limit; PDF format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Summary
	Summary Slide (1 page limit, Microsoft PowerPoint format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Slide
	Subaward Budget Justification (if applicable; EERE 335) (no page limit, Microsoft Excel format. Applicants must use the template available in EERE Exchange)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Subawardee_Budget_Justification

**Note:** The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the EERE Exchange website is 10MB. Files in excess of 10MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 10MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the NOTICE it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Project\_Part\_1**

**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Project\_Part\_2**, etc.

**EERE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 10MB.**

EERE provides detailed guidance on the content and form of each component below.

## **TECHNICAL VOLUME**

The Technical Volume must be submitted in Adobe PDF format. The Technical Volume must conform to the following content and form requirements, including maximum page lengths. If Applicants exceed the maximum page lengths indicated below, EERE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages. This volume must address the Merit Review Criteria as discussed in this Notice. Save the Technical Volume in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title:

**“ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_TechnicalVolume”.**

Applicants must provide sufficient citations and references to the primary research literature to justify the claims and approaches made in the Technical Volume. EERE and reviewers may review primary research literature in order to evaluate applications. However, EERE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources (e.g., internet websites).

The Technical Volume to the Full Application may not be more than 20 pages, including the cover page, table of contents, and all citations, charts, graphs, maps, photos, or other graphics, and must include all of the information in the table below. The applicant should consider the weighting of each of the evaluation criteria listed in this Notice when preparing the Technical Volume.

<b>SECTION/PAGE LIMIT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Cover Page / 1 page</b>	The cover page should include the project title, both the technical and business points of contact, names of all team member organizations, and any statements regarding confidentiality.

<p><b>Project Overview</b> (This section should constitute approximately 10% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Project Overview should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> The Applicant should discuss the background of their organization, including the history, successes, and current research and development status (i.e., the technical baseline) relevant to the technical topic being addressed in the Full Application.</li> <li>• <b>Project Goal:</b> The Applicant should explicitly identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal.</li> <li>• <b>Impact:</b> The Applicant should discuss the impact that this innovative design will have on the current state of the technology in this area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact</b> (This section should constitute approximately 30% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Technical Description should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Relevance and Outcomes:</b> The Applicant should provide a detailed description of the project. This section should describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the Notice, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets or other relevant performance targets. The Applicant should clearly specify the expected outcomes of the project.</li> <li>• <b>Feasibility:</b> The Applicant should demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed project and capability of achieving the anticipated performance targets, including a description of previous work done and prior results.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation and Impacts:</b> The Applicant should describe the current state of the art in the applicable field, the specific innovation of the proposed project, and the overall impact on advancing the state of the art/technical baseline if the project is successful.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workplan</b> (This section should constitute approximately 40% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Workplan should include a summary of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, Work Breakdown Structure, Milestones, Go/No-Go Decision Points, and Project Schedule. A detailed Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) is separately requested. The Workplan should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Objectives:</b> The applicant should provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Technical Scope Summary:</b> The applicant should provide a summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the objective(s). The overall work scope is to be divided by performance periods that are separated by discrete, approximately annual decision points (see below for more information on go/no-go decision points). The applicant should describe the specific expected end result of each performance period.</li> <li>• <b>Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and Task Description Summary:</b> The Workplan should describe the work to be accomplished and how the applicant will achieve the milestones, will accomplish the final project</li> </ul>

	<p>goal(s), and will produce all deliverables. The Workplan is to be structured with a hierarchy of performance period (approximately annual), task and subtasks, which is typical of a standard work breakdown structure (WBS) for any project. The Workplan shall contain a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project. The description shall be a full explanation and disclosure of the project being proposed (i.e., a statement such as “we will then complete a proprietary process” is unacceptable). It is the applicant’s responsibility to prepare an adequately detailed task plan to describe the proposed project and the plan for addressing the objectives of this NOTICE. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. The SOPO will contain a more detailed description of the WBS and tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go/No-Go Decision Points: The applicant should provide a summary of project-wide go/no-go decision points at appropriate points in the Workplan. A go/no-go decision point is a risk management tool and a project management best practice to ensure that, for the current phase or period of performance, technical success is definitively achieved and potential for success in future phases or periods of performance is evaluated, prior to actually beginning the execution of future phases. Unless otherwise specified in the NOTICE, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one project-wide go/no-go decision point for each budget period (12 to 18-month period) of the project. The Applicant should also provide the specific technical criteria to be used to make the go/no-go decision. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO.</li> <li>• Project Schedule (Gantt Chart or similar): The applicant should provide a schedule for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, milestones, and go/no-go decision points.</li> <li>• Project Management: The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The overall approach to and organization for managing the work</li> <li>○ The roles of each Project Team member</li> <li>○ Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among Project Team members</li> <li>○ The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices</li> <li>○ The approach to project risk management</li> <li>○ A description of how project changes will be handled</li> <li>○ If applicable, the approach to Quality Assurance/Control</li> <li>○ How communications will be maintained among Project Team members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Technical Qualifications and Resources</b> (Approximately 20% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Technical Qualifications and Resources should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the Project Team’s unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key Subrecipients.</li> <li>• Describe the Project Team’s existing equipment and facilities that will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed project; include a justification of any new equipment or facilities requested as part of the project.</li> <li>• This section should also include relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives.</li> <li>• Describe the time commitment of the key team members to support the project.</li> <li>• Attach one-page resumes for key participating team members as an appendix. Resumes do not count towards the page limit. Multi-page resumes are not allowed.</li> <li>• Describe the technical services to be provided by DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, if applicable.</li> <li>• Attach letters of commitment from all Subrecipient/third party cost share providers as an appendix. Letters of commitment do not count towards the page limit.</li> <li>• Attach any letters of support from partners/end users as an appendix (1 page maximum per letter). Letters of support do not count towards the page limit.</li> <li>• For multi-organizational or multi-investigator projects, describe succinctly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The roles and the work to be performed by each PI and Key Participant;</li> <li>○ Business agreements between the applicant and each PI and Key Participant;</li> <li>○ How the various efforts will be integrated and managed;</li> <li>○ Process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction;</li> <li>○ Publication arrangements;</li> <li>○ Intellectual Property issues; and</li> <li>○ Communication plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Concept and Design Elements</p>	<p>Provide graphics, e.g., sketches, drawings, diagrams, etc., and a one-page 500-word maximum narrative summarizing the most important elements of the conceptual design solution. Refer to the Solar Decathlon rules at <a href="http://www.solardecathlon.gov/rules.html">http://www.solardecathlon.gov/rules.html</a> for additional information.</p>

### **SF-424: APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances in Field 21 can be found at <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>, under Certifications and Assurances. Note: The dates and dollar amounts on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase or other subset of the project period. Save the SF-424 in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_App424”.

### **BUDGET JUSTIFICATION WORKBOOK (EERE 335)**

Applicants are required to complete the Budget Justification Workbook. This form is available on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>. Prime Recipients must complete each tab of the Budget Justification Workbook for the project as a whole, including all work to be performed by the Prime Recipient and its Subrecipients and Contractors, and provide all requested documentation (e.g., a Federally-approved forward pricing rate agreement, Defense Contract Audit Agency or Government Audits and Reports, if available). Applicants should include costs associated with required annual audits and incurred costs proposals in their proposed budget documents. The “Instructions and Summary” included with the Budget Justification Workbook will “auto-populate” as the Applicant enters information into the Workbook. Applicants must carefully read the “Instructions and Summary” tab provided within the Budget Justification Workbook. Save the Budget Justification Workbook in a single Microsoft Excel file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Budget\_Justification”.

### **SUMMARY/ABSTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

Applicants are required to submit a one-page summary/abstract of their project. The project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identified the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as the Department may make it available to the public after selections are made. The project summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 11 point. Save the Summary for Public Release in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Summary”.

## SUMMARY SLIDE

Applicants are required to provide a single PowerPoint slide summarizing the proposed project. The slide must be submitted in Microsoft PowerPoint format. This slide is used during the evaluation process. Save the Summary Slide in a single file using the following convention for the title **“ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Slide”**.

The Summary Slide template requires the following information:

- A project Summary;
- A description of the project impact;
- Proposed project goals;
- Any key graphics (illustrations, charts and/or tables);
- The project’s key idea/takeaway;
- Project title, Prime Recipient, Principal Investigator, and Key Participant information

## SUBAWARD BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (EERE 335)

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification, EERE 335 (i.e., budget justification for each budget year and a cumulative budget) for each subawardee that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$250,000 or 25 percent of the total work effort (whichever is less). The budget justification must include the same justification information described in the “Budget Justification” section, above. Save each subaward budget justification in a Microsoft Excel file using the following convention for the title **“ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Subawardee\_Budget\_Justification”**.

## STATEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES (SOPO)

Applicants are required to complete a Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO). A SOPO template is available on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>. The SOPO, including the Milestone Table, must not exceed 10 pages when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12 point. Save the SOPO in a single Microsoft Word file using the following convention for the title **“ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_SOPO”**.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation process consists of multiple phases that each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of this Notice. Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors, in determining which applications to select.

## **Evaluation Criteria: Solar Decathlon College Team Competition**

### **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

### **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

### **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

### **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

### **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.



## OTHER SELECTION FACTORS

### *PROGRAM POLICY FACTORS*

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Full Applications to select for the Competition:

- The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to commercialize energy or related technologies;
- Technical, market, organizational, and environmental risks associated with the project;
- Whether the proposed project is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States;
- Whether 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;
- Whether the proposed project will advance the goals of the Climate Action Champion initiative, as committed to by the designated Champion pursuant to its designation agreement. The Climate Action Champion\* initiative goals include improving climate resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Geographic and/or Technological Diversity.

## NOTIFICATION OF SELECTIONS:

### SELECTION NOTICES

EERE anticipates notifying applicants of its decisions by early January 2016.

### REJECTED SUBMISSIONS

Ineligible Full Applications are rejected by the Contracting Officer and are not reviewed or considered. The Contracting Officer sends a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the Applicant in EERE Exchange. The notification letter states the basis upon which the Full Application was rejected.

### FULL APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS

EERE notifies Applicants of its determination via a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the Applicant in EERE Exchange. The notification letter may inform the Applicant that its Full Application was selected for the competition, or not selected. Alternatively, EERE may notify one or more Applicants that a final

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\* For more information on DOE's Climate Action Champion Initiative visit: [Climate Action Champion site](#)

selection determination on particular Full Applications will be made at a later date, subject to the programmatic or other factors.

### **SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

A notification letter selecting a Full Application for the competition does not authorize the Applicant to commence performance of the project. If an application is selected for the competition, it is not a commitment to issue an award. Applicants are not officially accepted into the competition until DOE negotiations are complete.

The competition acceptance process will take approximately 60 days. Applicants must designate a primary and a backup point-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate to conduct negotiations. The Applicant must be responsive during negotiations (e.g., provide requested documentation) and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the Applicant fails to do so or negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, EERE will cancel negotiations and rescind the Selection. EERE reserves the right to terminate negotiations at any time for any reason.

### **UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

EERE shall promptly notify in writing each applicant whose application has not been selected for the competition. If the application was not selected, the written notice shall explain why the application was not selected.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Selectees must continue to comply with all terms and conditions of these Official Rules, and receiving a prize is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements contained herein.