

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001340

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001679

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Industrial Assessment Centers Technical Field Manager.”

This FOA supports EERE AMO technical assistance activities.

As background, the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program is a resource conservation and workforce development initiative of AMO based in the engineering departments of universities nationwide. IACs conduct assessments and provide site-specific recommendations to small manufacturers on opportunities to improve productivity, reduce waste, and save energy. The program also provides engineering students with invaluable hands-on experience in energy engineering and energy management.

Through the FOA referenced above, EERE intends to fund the activities for an IAC Technical Field Manager. The IAC Technical Field Manager plays a critical role in the IAC program. The Technical Field Manager is a liaison between the AMO Technology Manager and the individual IACs, provides technical assistance and outreach to individual centers, and is the principle mechanism for ensuring the 28 individual IACs and their associated satellite centers perform at the highest possible level and that their activities support the achievement of AMO goals. The Technical Field Manager’s core responsibilities include the following:

- Providing technical assistance for quality control of Center operations, assessments, and outreach activities;
- Providing technical reviews and feedback on all of the IAC assessment reports;
- Integrating DOE priorities around practices and technologies into IAC operations;
- Providing training and technical assistance to the IAC staff and students and external stakeholders;
- Maintaining and upgrading the IAC websites and databases;
- Developing technical and informational resources for IAC clients and small and medium-sized manufacturers nationwide;

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- Advancing the deployment of an accredited energy efficiency engineering degree; and
- Extending IAC program impacts beyond manufacturers and students immediately engaged by the Centers.

Through this announcement, DOE is seeking detailed applications for a Technical Field Manager who will provide these core activities, as well as respond to new program innovations and priorities from DOE. Examples of the Technical Field Manager’s potential new or expanded activities include:

- Training IACs on cybersecurity improvements, water sector assessments, energy management systems and smart manufacturing;
- Coordinating IAC student and alumni activities, including social media, to highlight career achievements;
- Moving to online reporting for assessments;
- Developing readily accessible resources around critical energy areas relevant to small and medium manufacturers, especially those not receiving IAC assessments; and
- Developing online best practice resources for industrial sector-specific energy saving and productivity improvements.

EERE envisions awarding one financial assistance award in the form of a cooperative agreement. The estimated period of performance for the award will be five years.

Eligibility Restrictions:

Eligibility is restricted to the following types of entities: a U.S. college or school of engineering that is an integral part of its institutional structure and that has at least one of its four year undergraduate programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission or the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or equivalent. The Technical Field Manager must be located in the engineering department that holds the programmatic ABET or equivalent accreditation. The U.S. college or school of engineering must be physically located in the U.S.

If an eligible Applicant has an existing EERE IAC award or has been selected for award negotiations for an IAC award, the Applicant must also clearly state in its application how the Applicant intends to separate the functions of the IAC and the Technical Field Manager so that each can effectively and independently perform their functions and avoid any conflicts of interest.

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This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA in December 2016 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 register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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