

**Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)**

**Building Technologies Proving Ground –
Public Sector Field Validation**

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0002324

FOA Type: Initial

CFDA Number: 81.086

FOA Issue Date:	June 26 th , 2020
Informational Webinar: https://doe.webex.com/doe/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea1fb7a04286dd99e8f1b3fe1fead184a	June 30 th , 2020, 12:00pm ET
Submission Deadline for Concept Papers:	July 27 th , 2020 5:00pm ET
Submission Deadline for Full Applications:	September 28 th , 2020 5:00pm ET
Expected Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments:	November 2 nd , 2020 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications:	January 2021
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:	Early 2021

- Applicants must submit a Concept Paper by 5:00pm ET the due date listed above to be eligible to submit a Full Application.
- To apply to this FOA, applicants must register with and submit application materials through EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>, EERE’s online application portal.

Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment to issue an award. It is imperative that the applicant/selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines. Failure to do so may result in cancelation of further award negotiations and rescission of the selection.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov. Include FOA name and number in subject line.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	ii
I. Funding Opportunity Description	1
A. Background and Context	1
i. Background and Purpose.....	1
ii. Technology Space and Strategic Goals	2
B. Topic Area.....	2
C. Teaming Partner List	5
D. Applications Specifically Not of Interest.....	6
E. Authorizing Statutes.....	6
II. Award Information	6
A. Award Overview	7
i. Estimated Funding.....	7
ii. Period of Performance	7
iii. New Applications Only	7
B. EERE Funding Agreements	7
i. Cooperative Agreements.....	8
ii. Funding Agreements with Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDCs)	8
III. Eligibility Information	8
A. Eligible Applicants	8
B. Cost Sharing.....	9
i. Legal Responsibility	9
ii. Cost Share Allocation.....	9
iii. Cost Share Types and Allowability.....	9
iv. Cost Share Contributions by FFRDCs	11
v. Cost Share Verification	11
vi. Cost Share Payment.....	11
C. Compliance Criteria	11
i. Compliance Criteria	12
D. Responsiveness Criteria.....	12
E. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Full Applications Eligible for Review	12
F. Questions Regarding Eligibility.....	13
IV. Application and Submission Information	13
i. Additional Information on EERE Exchange	14
A. Application Forms	14
B. Content and Form of the Concept Paper	15
i. Concept Paper Content Requirements.....	15
C. Content and Form of the Full Application	17
i. Full Application Content Requirements.....	18
ii. Technical Volume	19
iii. Resumes	25
iv. Letters of Commitment	25
v. Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO)	25
vi. SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance.....	25
vii. Budget Justification Workbook	26
viii. Summary/Abstract for Public Release	26

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name and number in subject line.

ix.	Summary Slide	26
x.	Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable)	27
xi.	SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required)	27
xii.	Waiver Requests: Foreign Entities and Foreign Work (if applicable)	27
xiii.	Data Management Plan (DMP).....	28
D.	Content and Form of Replies to Reviewer Comments	29
E.	Post Selection Information Requests	29
F.	Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)	30
G.	Submission Dates and Times	30
H.	Intergovernmental Review.....	30
I.	Funding Restrictions.....	30
i.	Allowable Costs	30
ii.	Pre-Award Costs	31
iii.	Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver).....	32
iv.	Construction	33
v.	Foreign Travel.....	33
vi.	Equipment and Supplies.....	33
vii.	Domestic Preference – Infrastructure Projects	33
viii.	Lobbying	33
ix.	Risk Assessment.....	34
x.	Invoice Review and Approval	34
V.	Application Review Information	34
A.	Technical Review Criteria	35
i.	Concept Papers.....	35
ii.	Full Applications	35
iii.	Criteria for Replies to Reviewer Comments	37
B.	Standards for Application Evaluation	37
C.	Other Selection Factors	37
i.	Program Policy Factors	37
D.	Evaluation and Selection Process	38
i.	Overview.....	38
ii.	Pre-Selection Interviews.....	38
iii.	Pre-Selection Clarification	39
iv.	Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.....	39
v.	Selection	40
E.	Anticipated Notice of Selection and Award Negotiation Dates	40
VI.	Award Administration Information.....	40
A.	Award Notices	40
i.	Ineligible Submissions.....	40
ii.	Concept Paper Notifications.....	40
iii.	Full Application Notifications.....	41
iv.	Successful Applicants.....	41
v.	Alternate Selection Determinations	41
vi.	Unsuccessful Applicants	42
B.	Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	42
i.	Registration Requirements	42
ii.	Award Administrative Requirements	43
iii.	Foreign National Access Under DOE Order 142.3A, “Unclassified Foreign Visits and Assignments Program”	43
iv.	Subaward and Executive Reporting.....	44

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name and number in subject line.

v.	National Policy Requirements	44
vi.	Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	44
vii.	Applicant Representations and Certifications	44
viii.	Statement of Federal Stewardship	46
ix.	Statement of Substantial Involvement	46
x.	Intellectual Property Management Plan (IPMP).....	47
xi.	Subject Invention Utilization Reporting.....	48
xii.	Intellectual Property Provisions.....	48
xiii.	Reporting	48
xiv.	Go/No-Go Review	49
xv.	Conference Spending.....	49
xvi.	Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements	50
VII.	Questions/Agency Contacts.....	50
VIII.	Other Information	51
A.	FOA Modifications.....	51
B.	Government Right to Reject or Negotiate.....	51
C.	Commitment of Public Funds	51
D.	Treatment of Application Information	51
E.	Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel	52
F.	Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities.....	52
G.	Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability.....	53
H.	Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure	53
I.	Retention of Submissions.....	53
J.	Title to Subject Inventions.....	53
K.	Government Rights in Subject Inventions.....	54
L.	Rights in Technical Data	55
M.	Copyright	55
N.	Export Control	55
O.	Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	56
P.	Annual Independent Audits	56
Q.	Informational Webinar.....	57
	Appendix A – Cost Share Information	58
	Appendix B – Sample Cost Share Calculation for Blended Cost Share Percentage.....	63
	Appendix C – Waiver Requests and Approval Processes	65
	Appendix D – Glossary	67
	Appendix E – Definition of Technology Readiness Levels	69
	Appendix F – List of Acronyms	70
	Appendix G – Top 25 States with Highest Non-Transportation Energy Use per Capita	72

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name and number in subject line.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background and Context

i. Background and Purpose

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.

The DOE Mission is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. Buildings account for approximately 40% of the nation's total energy demand – greater than that for either industry (32%) or transportation (29%) – and about 75% of all electricity use (and even more of peak power demand). The resulting annual national energy bill totals more than \$410 billion, at least 20% of which can be saved through energy efficiency without any reduction in services, productivity or comfort.

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 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. The United States has made significant progress in improving building energy efficiency over the last 30 to 40 years, due in part to the successful efforts of BTO. The Office's funded research has contributed to significant improvement in building energy efficiency.

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. SEP emphasizes the state's role as the decision maker and administrator for program activities within the state that are tailored to their unique resources, delivery capacity, and energy goals. These state-led initiatives improve energy affordability for all U.S. citizens by planning and implementing strategies to meet future energy needs in cost-effective ways, and by decreasing utility bills through efforts to reduce waste by comfortably heating, cooling, and

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

lighting homes and other buildings. State-led efforts also increase resilience by enhancing grid reliability through energy savings technology or distributed generation.

ii. 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 multi-family building efficiency, demand flexibility, and building-to-grid programs. Projects funded through this FOA will have the potential to significantly reduce energy in U.S. commercial buildings (250 Trillion BTU/year) and provide the end use flexibility required to produce power grid efficiencies.

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.

B. 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.

The Building Technologies Office, the State Energy Program and program partners will assist in sharing the results of these projects across service territories and jurisdictions, in order to support and accelerate the voluntary adoption of the validated technologies and solutions.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Requirements for data management and sharing are articulated in detail in Section C.xiii, Data Management Plan.

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/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 savings¹, or yield significant end use energy demand flexibility as compared to the existing building baseline condition.

For proposals that include validation of end use demand flexibility:

Applicants will need to demonstrate underlying experience and background designing, integrating, evaluating and validating flexibility measures to meet grid requirements under real, dynamic operating conditions. These proposals should document how the solution produces load flexibility using the following characteristics:

- timing (time of day and/or year) and frequency (number of times per day, month or year as appropriate);
- anticipated duration (in minutes or hours);
- speed of response (in minutes or hours). If desired, ramp rate (kW per time unit); and
- extent of the response (kilowatt (kW) reduction).

Documentation should include:

- a time series graph (and underlying data) that compares the pre- and post-intervention (projected) load profile²;
- a discussion about why the specific baseline (the pre-intervention load profile) condition was selected, using industry demand response best practices; and
- how the proposed flexibility measure will respond to grid requirements.

DOE recommends that applicants review and incorporate information from the BTO demand flexibility potential study posted here:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/06/f76/bto-geb-potential-062520.pdf>

¹ Energy Savings Calculations: Applicants should develop an energy conservation measure for their proposed approach using BTO's free calculation tool: Scout (<https://scout.energy.gov/>). Calculations of the technical energy savings potential must be conducted over the time period 2020-2050. Applicants may use other tools or methodologies to calculate their technical energy savings potential. However, in all cases the applicant must fully detail their baselines, methodology, and assumptions in determining the energy savings potential such that their calculations can be critiqued for proper validation by BTO.

² The pre-intervention baseline might rely on modeled data, actual direct measured or billed data, or literature on technology performance as appropriate; assumptions should be made transparent

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- Technology areas of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - **Envelope and window** technologies for existing buildings: performance testing for energy savings, comfort and integration with other building energy end uses. For example, wall panels that include Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) and advanced window technologies;
 - Integration of **thermal energy storage**: approaches to install and integrate thermal energy storage including controls and energy management measures such as pre-cooling and pre-heating spaces, to enhance demand flexibility, manage grid requirements and produce resilience benefits. For example, validation of ice storage system performance, cost and other related site requirements such as space and size;
 - Direct use of advanced **natural gas efficiency** technology solutions for end-use building sector applications. For example, natural gas technologies that have a coefficient of performance (COP) greater than 1.0 including heat pump water heaters, or easy-to-install, cost-effective combined heat and power (CHP) systems;
 - Plug load identification, controllability and optimization: to correlate validation data and operational strategies for **plug load management**.
- Teams led by state, local and tribal governments.

Preferred application components include:

- Teams that include energy utilities, building owners/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.

The prime applicant must be a state, local or tribal government. For state, territorial and DC governments, preference will be given to those whose populations have above average non-transportation energy consumption per capita, according to Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, listed in Appendix G.

The prime applicant may convene teams to support project implementation and deliverables, and will produce technology performance data that can be shared across states and service territories. To support the collection of performance data, and objective measurement and

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

verification, DOE may provide project support from one or more DOE/NNSA Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and DOE Government-Owned, Government-Operated laboratories (GOGOs)).

All data and outcomes from these projects must be public. Performance data will be made suitable for publication and distribution in order to support and accelerate the voluntary adoption of the validated technologies. Technical data will be used to replicate energy efficiency projects as a part of larger programmatic development efforts, to engage stakeholders and to share best practices. This may include the development of technical specifications.

All work under EERE funding agreements must be performed in the United States. See Section IV.J.iii. and Appendix C.

C. Teaming Partner List

EERE strongly encourages interdisciplinary and cross-sector teams that span organizational boundaries in order to enable and accelerate the achievement of scientific and technological outcomes that were previously viewed as extremely difficult, if not impossible.

EERE is compiling a Teaming Partner List to facilitate the widest possible participation for this FOA. The list allows organizations who may wish to participate in an application, but may not wish to apply as the Prime applicant to the FOA, to express their interest to potential applicants and to explore potential partnerships.

The Teaming Partner List will be available on <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov> under FOA DE-FOA-0002324 during the time of its release through its closing. The Teaming Partner List will be updated at least weekly until the close of the Full Application period, to reflect new Teaming Partners who have provided their information. Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information to the [Teaming List](mailto:TeamingList@ee.doe.gov) email (ProvingGroundTeamingList@ee.doe.gov) with the subject line “Teaming Partner Information”:

Organization Name; one of the following: Generic Organization Contact Email, Web Site Contact-Us URL, or social media URL (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.); Generic Contact Phone; Organization Type; Area of Technical Expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words); and Brief Description of Capabilities (less than 100 words).

By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. EERE requests that each organization create a general e-mail address to receive queries. Direct personal e-mail addresses will not be posted. 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. EERE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

compensate any applicants or requesting organizations for the development of such information.

D. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered (See Section III.D. of the FOA):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in Section I.A. and I.B. of the FOA.
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws 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.

E. Authorizing Statutes

The programmatic authorizing statute is: EAct 2005 911(a)(2)(B).

Additionally, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires the Department of Energy “to develop and disseminate technologies, practices, and policies for the development and establishment of zero net energy commercial buildings for 50% of commercial building stock of the United States by 2040 and all commercial buildings in the United States by 2050.” EISA Title IV Sec. 422(c) DOE implements this requirement through the education of the public about high-performance green buildings, including the demonstration and dissemination of information about technologies that support net-zero energy use.

And, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the Department of Energy to “establish a grant and technical assistance program to support the development of voluntary consensus-based standards for high performance buildings.” EAct 2005 Title IX Sec. 914 (c).

The programmatic authorizing statute for SEP activities is 42 USC §6321.

Awards made under this announcement will fall under the purview of 2 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910.

II. Award Information

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

A. Award Overview

i. **Estimated Funding**

EERE expects to make up to \$10 million of federal funding available for 10-20 new awards under this FOA, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. EERE may issue one, multiple, or no awards. Individual awards may vary up to \$1 million.

EERE may establish more than one budget period for each award and fund only the initial budget period(s). Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed. Before the expiration of the initial budget period(s), EERE may perform a down-select among different recipients and provide additional funding only to a subset of recipients.

ii. **Period of Performance**

EERE anticipates making awards that will run up to 36 months in length, comprised of one or more budget periods. Project continuation will be contingent upon several elements, including satisfactory performance and Go/No-Go decision review. For a complete list, see Section VI.B.xiv. At the Go/No-Go decision points, EERE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, the extent milestone objectives are met, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives. As a result of this evaluation, EERE may, at its discretion, authorize the following actions: (1) continue to fund the project, contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority; (2) recommend redirection of work under the project; (3) place a hold on federal funding for the project, pending further supporting data or funding; or (4) discontinue funding the project because of insufficient progress, change in strategic direction, or lack of funding.

iii. **New Applications Only**

EERE will accept only new applications under this FOA. EERE will not consider applications for renewals of existing EERE-funded awards through this FOA.

B. EERE Funding Agreements

Through cooperative agreements and other similar agreements, EERE provides financial and other support to projects that have the potential to realize the FOA objectives. EERE does not use such agreements to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States government.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

i. Cooperative Agreements

EERE generally uses cooperative agreements to provide financial and other support to prime recipients.

Through cooperative agreements, EERE provides financial or other support to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute. Under cooperative agreements, the government and prime recipients share responsibility for the direction of projects.

EERE has substantial involvement in all projects funded via cooperative agreement. See Section VI.B.ix of the FOA for more information on what substantial involvement may involve.

ii. Funding Agreements with Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDCs)

In most cases, FFRDCs are funded independently of the remainder of the project team. The FFRDC then executes an agreement with any non-FFRDC project team members to arrange work structure, project execution, and any other matters. Regardless of these arrangements, the entity that applied as the prime recipient for the project will remain the prime recipient for the project.

III. Eligibility Information

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

A. Eligible Applicants

The prime applicant must be a state³, 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, listed in Appendix G.

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

³ Applications may be submitted by the State Energy Office (SEO) or other agency responsible for administering the State Energy Program

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

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 sub-recipient.

B. Cost Sharing

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 government 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.

i. Legal Responsibility

Although the cost share requirement applies to the project as a whole, including work performed by members of the project team other than the prime recipient, the prime recipient is legally responsible for paying the entire cost share. If the funding agreement is terminated prior to the end of the project period, the prime recipient is required to contribute at least the cost share percentage of total expenditures incurred through the date of termination.

The prime recipient is solely responsible for managing cost share contributions by the project team and enforcing cost share obligation assumed by project team members in subawards or related agreements.

ii. Cost Share Allocation

Each project team is free to determine how best to allocate the cost share requirement among the team members. The amount contributed by individual project team members may vary, as long as the cost share requirement for the project as a whole is met.

iii. Cost Share Types and Allowability

Every cost share contribution must be allowable under the applicable federal cost principles, as described in Section IV.J.i. of the FOA. In addition, cost share must be verifiable upon submission of the Full Application.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Project teams may provide cost share in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Cost share may be provided by the prime recipient, subrecipients, or third parties (entities that do not have a role in performing the scope of work). Vendors/contractors may not provide cost share. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.

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 the 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.

Project teams may use funding or property received from state or local governments to meet the cost share requirement, so long as the funding was not provided to the state or local government by the federal government.

The prime recipient may not use the following sources to meet its cost share obligations including, but not limited to:

- Revenues or royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the project period;
- Proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity;
- Federal funding or property (e.g., federal grants, equipment owned by the federal government); or
- Expenditures that were reimbursed under a separate federal program.

Project teams may not use the same cash or in-kind contributions to meet cost share requirements for more than one project or program.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the prime recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, the cost share dollars will be scrutinized under the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. 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.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to 2 CFR 200.306 as amended by 2 CFR 910.130 for additional cost sharing requirements.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

iv. Cost Share Contributions by FFRDCs

Because FFRDCs are funded by the federal government, costs incurred by FFRDCs generally may not be used to meet the cost share requirement. FFRDCs may contribute cost share only if the contributions are paid directly from the contractor's Management Fee or another non-federal source.

v. Cost Share Verification

Applicants are required to provide written assurance of their proposed cost share contributions in their Full Applications.

Upon selection for award negotiations, applicants are required to provide additional information and documentation regarding their cost share contributions. Please refer to Appendix A of the FOA.

vi. Cost Share Payment

EERE requires prime recipients to contribute the cost share amount incrementally over the life of the award. Specifically, the prime recipient's cost share for each billing period must always reflect the overall cost share ratio negotiated by the parties (i.e., the total amount of cost sharing on each invoice when considered cumulatively with previous invoices must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated). As FFRDC funding will be provided directly to the FFRDC(s) by DOE, prime recipients will be required to provide project cost share at a percentage commensurate with the FFRDC costs, on a budget period basis, resulting in a higher interim invoicing cost share ratio than the total award ratio.

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. Regardless of the interval requested, the prime recipient must be up-to-date on cost share at each interval. Such requests must be sent to the Contracting Officer during award negotiations and include the following information: (1) a detailed justification for the request; (2) a proposed schedule of payments, including amounts and dates; (3) a written commitment to meet that schedule; and (4) such evidence as necessary to demonstrate that the prime recipient has complied with its cost share obligations to date. The Contracting Officer must approve all such requests before they go into effect.

C. Compliance Criteria

Concept Papers, Full Applications and Replies to Reviewer Comments must meet all compliance criteria listed below or they will be considered noncompliant. EERE will not review or consider noncompliant submissions, including Concept Papers,

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Full Applications, and Replies to Reviewer Comments that were: submitted through means other than EERE Exchange; submitted after the applicable deadline; and/or submitted incomplete. EERE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

i. Compliance Criteria

1. Concept Papers

Concept Papers are deemed compliant if:

- The Concept Paper complies with the content and form requirements in Section IV.B. of the FOA; and
- The applicant successfully uploaded all required documents and clicked the “Submit” button in EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in this FOA.

2. Full Applications

Full Applications are deemed compliant if:

- The applicant submitted a compliant Concept Paper;
- The Full Application complies with the content and form requirements in Section IV.C. of the FOA; and
- The applicant successfully uploaded all required documents and clicked the “Submit” button in EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in the FOA.

3. Replies to Reviewer Comments

Replies to Reviewer Comments are deemed compliant if:

- The Reply to Reviewer Comments complies with the content and form requirements in Section IV.E. of the FOA; and
- The applicant successfully uploaded all required documents to EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in the FOA.

ii. Responsiveness Criteria

All “Applications Specifically Not of Interest,” as described in Section I.C. of the FOA, are deemed nonresponsive and are not reviewed or considered.

iii. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Full Applications Eligible for Review

An entity may submit more than one Concept Paper and Full Application to this FOA, provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

project and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Full Application.

F. Questions Regarding Eligibility

EERE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this FOA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.

IV. Application and Submission Information

The application process will include two phases: a Concept Paper phase and a Full Application phase. **Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper 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 Section III of the FOA. EERE will not review or consider submissions that do not meet the eligibility requirements of Section III. 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, or 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 EERE Exchange application process. This control number must be included with all application documents, as described below.

The Concept Paper, Full Application, and Reply to Reviewer Comments 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;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- 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; and
- Each submission 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 their Concept Papers and 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 1 hour to submit a Concept Paper, Full Application, or Reply to Reviewer Comments. Once the Concept Paper, Full Application, or Reply to Reviewer Comments is submitted in EERE Exchange, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit the Concept Paper, Full Application, or Reply to Reviewer Comments before the applicable deadline.

EERE urges applicants to carefully review their Concept Papers, and Full Applications and to allow sufficient time for the submission of required information and documents. All Full Applications that pass the initial eligibility review will undergo comprehensive technical merit review according to the criteria identified in Section V.A.ii. of the FOA.

i. Additional Information on EERE Exchange

EERE Exchange is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this FOA. The “Apply” and “Submit” buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines. Should applicants experience problems with EERE Exchange, the following information may be helpful.

Applicants that experience issues with submission PRIOR to the FOA deadline: In the event that an applicant experiences technical difficulties with a submission, the applicant should contact the EERE Exchange helpdesk for assistance (EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov). The EERE Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

A. 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.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the EERE Exchange website is 20MB. Files in excess of 20MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 20MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the FOA, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Project_Part_1

ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Project_Part_2

B. Content and Form of the Concept Paper

To be eligible to submit a Full Application, applicants must submit a Concept Paper by the specified due date and time.

i. Concept Paper Content Requirements

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Concept Papers (see Section III of the FOA).

Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology. Unrelated concepts and technologies should not be consolidated into a single Concept Paper.

The Concept Paper must conform to the following content requirements:

Section	Page Limit	Description
Cover Page	1 page maximum	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.
Technical Description and Impacts	2 pages maximum	<p>Applicants are required to describe succinctly:</p> <p>Solution Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The solution: any relevant technologies, operating principles and interactions with other building systems; • Applicable building sector(s): office, multifamily, retail, food service, hospitality, healthcare, etc.; • National energy savings or flexibility potential: taking into account solution-specific energy savings and documenting demand flexibility assumptions and baseline characteristics for the applicable building sector/market (see Section 1.B “Topic Area” for guidance); • Cost-effectiveness: positive return on investment or less than 10 year payback as verified or calculated; • Any previous validations of the solution, including relevant references and outcomes. <p>Validation Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the selected validation objectives are unique and innovative; • The potential impact that the proposed project would have to de-risk the solution; • How the proposed validation will overcome existing shortcomings, limitations, challenges; • Key technical risks/issues associated with the proposed technology validation plan; • Host site information for pre-identified or ideal building(s) including climate zone, building type, occupancy, capacity, configuration, etc.; • Available/existing distribution and outreach channels referencing existing stakeholder networks and other channels to be leveraged by the project team to identify host sites and disseminate outcomes, resources and data developed under the project; • Data collection and dissemination needed to inform program design, the study framework and any required data, anticipated metrics and the timeline; and • The impact that EERE funding would have on the proposed project.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Addendum	1 page maximum	<p>Applicants are required to describe succinctly the qualifications, experience, and capabilities of the proposed project team, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the Principal Investigator (PI) and project team have the skill and expertise needed to successfully execute the project plan, especially in the case of validation of flexibility measures; • Whether the applicant has prior experience that demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity; • Whether the applicant has worked together with its teaming partners on prior projects or programs; and • Whether the applicant has adequate access to equipment and facilities necessary to accomplish the effort, including host site commitments, or clearly explain how the applicant intends to obtain access to the necessary equipment and facilities within the duration of the potential award. <p>Applicants may provide graphs, charts, or other data to supplement their Technical Description.</p>
-----------------	----------------	---

EERE makes an independent assessment of each Concept Paper based on the criteria in Section V.A.i. of the FOA. EERE will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Full Applications. Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Full Application. An applicant who receives a “discouraged” notification may still submit a Full Application. EERE will review all eligible Full Applications. However, by discouraging the submission of a Full Application, EERE intends to convey its lack of programmatic interest in the proposed project in an effort to save the applicant the time and expense of preparing an application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.

EERE may include general comments provided from reviewers on an applicant’s Concept Paper in the encourage/discourage notification posted on EERE Exchange at the close of that phase.

C. Content and Form of the Full Application

Applicants must submit a Full Application by the specified due date and time to be considered for funding under this FOA. Applicants must complete the following application forms found on the EERE Exchange website at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>, in accordance with the instructions.

Applicants will have approximately 30 days from receipt of the Concept Paper Encourage/Discourage notification on EERE Exchange to prepare and submit a Full Application. Regardless of the date the applicant receives the

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Encourage/Discourage notification, the submission deadline for the Full Application remains the date and time stated on the FOA cover page.

All Full Application documents must be marked with the Control Number issued to the applicant. Applicants will receive a control number upon clicking the “Create Concept Paper” button in EERE Exchange, and should include that control number in the file name of their Full Application submission (i.e., *Control number_Applicant Name_Full Application*).

i. Full Application Content Requirements

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Full Applications (see Section III. of the FOA).

Each Full Application shall be limited to a single concept or technology. Unrelated concepts and technologies shall not be consolidated in a single Full Application. Full Applications must conform to the following requirements:

Submission	Components	File Name
Full Application (PDF, unless stated otherwise)	Technical Volume (PDF format. See Chart in Section IV.C.ii.)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Technical Volume
	Resumes (PDF format. 1 page maximum per person)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Resumes
	Letters of Commitment, if applicable (PDF format. 1 page maximum per letter)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_LOCs
	Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) (Microsoft Word format. 10 page limit)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SOPO
	SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (PDF format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_App424
	Budget Justification (Microsoft Excel format. Applicants must use the template available in EERE Exchange)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget_Justification
	Summary for Public Release (PDF format. 1 page limit)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Summary
	Summary Slide (Microsoft PowerPoint format. 1 page limit)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Slide
	Subrecipient Budget Justification, if applicable (Microsoft Excel format. Applicants must use the template available in EERE Exchange)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Subrecipient_Budget_Justification
	SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (PDF format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SF-LLL
	Foreign Entity and Foreign Work waiver requests, if applicable (PDF format)	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Waiver

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the EERE Exchange website is 20MB. Files in excess of 20MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 20MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the FOA it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_TechnicalVolume_Part_1

ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_TechnicalVolume_Part_2

EERE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 20MB.

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

ii. **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 Section V.A.ii. of the FOA. 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. However, EERE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources.

The Technical Volume to the Full Application may not be more than 10 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 (see Section V.A.ii of the FOA) when preparing the Technical Volume.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

The Technical Volume should clearly describe and expand upon information provided in the Concept Paper. The Technical Volume must conform to the following content requirements:

SECTION/PAGE LIMIT	DESCRIPTION
Cover Page	The cover page should include the project title, the specific solution being addressed, confirmed partners (both the technical and business points of contact), names of additional team member organizations, host site commitments and any statements regarding confidentiality.
Project Overview (This section should constitute approximately 10% of the Technical Volume)	<p>The Project Overview should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team: The Applicant should include a list of project members and evidence that the prime applicant is a state, local or tribal government. • Background: The applicant should briefly discuss the background of their organization, including the history, successes, and any past or current validation projects underway and relevant to the technology being addressed in the Full Application. If the application includes the validation of load flexibility measures, the applicant should discuss experience and background designing, integrating evaluating and validating flexibility measures under real, dynamic operating conditions. • Validation Objectives: The applicant should explicitly identify the targeted solution and associated performance objectives at the time of application (including energy efficiency and building flexibility metrics), the target market sector and application, and the critical success factors in achieving the objectives of the validation. • DOE Impact: The applicant should discuss the impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to de-risk the technology.

<p>Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact (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"> • Relevance and Outcomes: The Applicant should provide a concise introduction outlining the following project information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a detailed description of the technology solution to be validated; ○ preliminary energy savings calculations and methodology used to determine that the technology or solution package can achieve 250 TBtu national energy savings if widely adopted or produce end use flexibility as compared to the existing building baseline condition (see section 1.B “Topic Area” for guidance); ○ pre-determined host site description or applicable host site criteria: building sectors/types, markets, optimal building size, regional preference or climate zones; ○ schedule and discussion of how the validation will de-risk voluntary integration in existing commercial and multi-family buildings. • Costs/Savings: The applicant should show calculations for determining the cost/savings scenario including facility attributes and assumptions, projected return on investment or payback, and any non-energy benefits included in the calculation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Describe the potential of the validation to meet cost-effectiveness criteria for future integration into energy efficiency programs, or to overcome commercial cost-effectiveness thresholds. • Feasibility: The Applicant should discuss the probability that the technology solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ will perform as intended when installed in an occupied, operational building, ○ will be found acceptable by facilities staff and building occupants, and ○ how, if applicable, the validation will inform additional research and development to grow the body of knowledge associated with the technology area. Discussion should include tactics used or planned to overcome risks. • Innovation and Impact: The applicant should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the current state-of-the-shelf for the applicable technology solution, ○ the specific desired performance outcomes of the validation project, ○ the advantages and non-technical benefits of the proposed technology solution over current and emerging technologies, and ○ the overall impact on de-risking and advancing the state-of-the-technology if the project is successful.
<p>Workplan and Technology Transition Plan (This section should constitute</p>	<p>The Workplan should include a <i>summary</i> of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Milestones, Go/No-Go</p>

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

<p>approximately 40% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>Decision Points, and Project Schedule. A detailed SOPO is separately requested. The Workplan should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Objectives: 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. • Technical Scope Summary: 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. • WBS and Task Description Summary: The Workplan should describe the work to be accomplished and how the applicant will achieve the milestones, will accomplish the final project 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 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 FOA. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. The SOPO will contain a more detailed description of the WBS and tasks. • Milestone Summary: The applicant should provide a summary of appropriate milestones throughout the project to demonstrate success. A milestone may be either a progress measure (which can be activity based) or a SMART technical milestone. SMART milestones should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely, and must demonstrate a technical achievement rather than simply completing a task. Unless otherwise specified in the FOA, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one milestone per quarter for the duration of the project with at least one SMART technical milestone per year (depending on the project, more milestones may be necessary to comprehensively demonstrate progress). The applicant should also provide the means by which the milestone will be verified. The summary provided should be consistent with the Milestone Summary Table in the SOPO. • Go/No-Go Decision Points: The applicant should provide a summary of project-wide SMART 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
---	---

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

in future phases or periods of performance is evaluated, prior to actually beginning the execution of future phases. At a minimum, 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. See Section VI.B.xiv. The applicant should also provide the specific technical criteria to be used to evaluate the project at the Go/No-Go decision point. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. Go/No-Go decision points are considered “SMART” and can fulfill the requirement for an annual SMART milestone.

- For the first budget period, the applicant should include a Go/No-Go decision point based on the identification and solidification of appropriate host site(s).
- For the second budget period, the applicant should include a Go/No-Go decision point based on the successful installation of the measure to be validated as well as the capability of the 3rd party verifier to collect and analyze data from the measure.
- **End of Project Goal:** The applicant should provide a summary of the end of project goal(s). At a minimum, each project must have one SMART end of project goal. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO.
- **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.
- **Project Management:** The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan, including the following:
 - The overall approach to and organization for managing the work
 - The roles of each project team member
 - Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among project team members
 - The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices
 - The approach to project risk management
 - A description of how project changes will be handled
 - If applicable, the approach to Quality Assurance/Control
 - How communications will be maintained among project team members
- **Technology Transition Plan:** The applicant should provide a technology transition plan, including the following:
 - Identification of application criteria including site characteristics (a description of ideal or pre-identified host sites), roles of partners in disseminating outcomes to spur adoption, timeline, case study development and marketing, legal/regulatory considerations including

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

	<p>intellectual property, infrastructure requirements, data dissemination, and product distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A strategy for data development and dissemination to inform future incorporation into efficiency and building flexibility programs, including anticipated field test size and design, the anticipated project outputs and deliverables and an approach to share data with additional jurisdictions and territories.
<p>Technical Qualifications and Resources (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"> ● The project team’s unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key subrecipients. ● The project team’s existing host site commitments, 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. ● Any relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and a description of how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives. ● The time commitment of the key team members to support the project. ● Describe succinctly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The roles and the work to be performed by each PI and Key Participant ○ Business agreements between the applicant and each PI and Key Participant ○ How the various efforts will be integrated and managed ○ Process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction ○ Publication arrangements ○ Intellectual Property issues ○ Communication plans
<p>FOA-Specific Requirements (1 page)</p>	<p>Provide one separate page overviewing the project with short answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the technology solution and how does the validation approach de-risk integration of the solution in existing commercial and multi-family buildings? ● Has the solution been validated previously? What additive value would this project provide? Please cite previous field studies and specific barriers. ● What is the target application and building sector for this solution? ● Have all proposed, included technologies achieved applicable and relevant certifications? ● What is the manufacturing capacity for each technology/product/solution?

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the potential energy and cost savings, taking into account the applicable building sector/market? Please describe how the project will address cost-effectiveness criteria. • What are the data collection requirements necessary to de-risk the technology solution and support further voluntary program development? • What are additional non-energy benefit streams associated with the technology?
--	--

iii. Resumes

Applicants are required to submit one-page resumes for key participating team members. Multi-page resumes are not allowed. Save the resumes in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Resumes”.

iv. Letters of Commitment

Submit letters of commitment from all subrecipient and third party cost share providers. If applicable, also include any letters of commitment from partners/end users (1 page maximum per letter). Save the letters of commitment in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_LOCs”.

v. Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO)

Applicants are required to complete a 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”.

vi. 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”.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

vii. Budget Justification Workbook

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. Applicants should include costs associated with required annual audits and incurred cost 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”.

viii. 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 identifies 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 (e.g., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as DOE 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 12 point. Save the Summary for Public Release in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Summary”.

ix. 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 technology summary;
- A description of the technology’s energy savings and performance targets;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- Proposed validation objectives;
- Any key graphics (illustrations, charts and/or tables);
- Host site criteria;
- Project title, prime recipient, Principal Investigator, and Key Participant information; and
- Requested EERE funds and proposed applicant cost share.

x. Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable)

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient 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 subrecipient budget justification in a Microsoft Excel file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Subrecipient_Budget_Justification”.

xi. SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required)

Prime recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Prime recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities”

(<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

Save the SF-LLL in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SF-LLL”.

xii. Waiver Requests: Foreign Entities and Foreign Work (if applicable)

1. Foreign Entity Participation:

As set forth in Section III.A.iii., all prime recipients receiving funding under this FOA must be incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the Full

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Application. Appendix C lists the necessary information that must be included in a request to waive this requirement.

2. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)

As set forth in Section IV.J.iii., all work under EERE funding agreements must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment, so a waiver is not required for foreign purchases of these items. However, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States.

Appendix C lists the necessary information that must be included in a foreign work waiver request.

Save the Waivers in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Waiver”.

xiii. Data Management Plan (DMP)

Applicants who’s Full Applications are selected for award negotiations will be required to submit a DMP during the award negotiations phase.

An applicant may select one of the template Data Management Plans (DMP) listed below. Alternatively, instead of selecting one of the template DPMs below, an applicant may submit another DMP provided that the DMP, at a minimum, (1) describes how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of the results from the proposed work, how the results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved and (2) has a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed work digitally accessible at the time of publications. DOE Public Access Plan dated July 24, 2014 provides additional guidance and information on DPMs.

For any publication that includes results of the project, the underlying research data will be made available according to the policies of the publishing media. Where no such policy exists, the recipient must indicate on the publication a means for requesting and digitally obtaining the underlying research data. This includes the research data necessary to validate any results, conclusions, charts, figures, images in the publications.

In addition, DMPs should confirm that the purchase of the near commercial or emerging technology will provide teams with sufficient intellectual property and data rights to perform the testing and data dissemination objectives of this FOA, e.g., to ensure that performance data can be published and distributed in order to support and accelerate the voluntary adoption of the validated technologies.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Save the DMP in a single Microsoft Word file using the following convention for the title “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_DMP”.

D. Content and Form of Replies to Reviewer Comments

EERE will provide applicants with reviewer comments following the evaluation of all eligible Full Applications. Applicants will have a brief opportunity to review the comments and to prepare a short Reply to Reviewer Comments responding to the comments however they desire or supplementing their Full Application. The Reply to Reviewer Comments is an optional submission; applicants are not required to submit a Reply to Reviewer Comments. EERE will post the Reviewer Comments in EERE Exchange. The expected submission deadline is on the cover page of the FOA; however, it is the applicant’s responsibility to monitor EERE Exchange in the event that the expected date changes. The deadline will not be extended for applicants who are unable to timely submit their reply due to failure to check EERE Exchange or relying on the expected date alone. Applicants should anticipate having approximately three (3) business days to submit Replies to Reviewer Comments.

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Replies to Reviewer Comments (see Section III of the FOA). EERE will review and consider each eligible Full Application, even if no Reply is submitted or if the Reply is found to be ineligible.

Replies to Reviewer Comments must conform to the following content and form requirements, including maximum page lengths, described below. If a Reply to Reviewer Comments is more than three (3) pages in length, EERE will review only the first three (3) pages and disregard any additional pages.

SECTION	PAGE LIMIT	DESCRIPTION
Text	2 pages max	Applicants may respond to one or more reviewer comments or supplement their Full Application.
Optional	1 page max	Applicants may use this page however they wish; text, graphs, charts, or other data to respond to reviewer comments or supplement their Full Application are acceptable.

E. Post Selection Information Requests

If selected for award, EERE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information regarding the following (non-exhaustive list):

- Indirect cost information;
- Other budget information;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- Commitment Letters from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Share, if applicable;
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5);
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable; and
- Environmental Questionnaire.

F. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR §25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR §25.110(d)) is required to: (1) Be registered in the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov> before submitting its application; (2) provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE is ready to make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

G. Submission Dates and Times

Concept Papers, Full Applications, and Replies to Reviewer Comments must be submitted in EERE Exchange no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the dates provided on the cover page of this FOA.

H. Intergovernmental Review

Technology Office not subject to Executive Order 12372

This FOA is not subject to Executive Order 12372 – Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

I. Funding Restrictions

i. Allowable Costs

All expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Refer to the following applicable federal cost principles for more information:

- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for For-Profit entities; and
- 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

ii. **Pre-Award Costs**

Selectees must request prior written approval to charge pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and **only** with the written approval of the federal awarding agency, through the Contracting Officer assigned to the award.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and Analysis.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the selectee's risk. EERE is not obligated to reimburse costs: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the selectee anticipated.

1. **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements Related to Pre-Award Costs**

EERE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA is subject to NEPA. Applicants should carefully consider and should seek legal counsel or other expert advice before taking any action related to the proposed project that would have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to EERE completing the NEPA review process.

EERE does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse pre-award costs incurred prior to receiving written authorization from the Contracting Officer. If the applicant elects to undertake activities that DOE determines may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Contracting Officer, the applicant is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding for their project and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share. Nothing contained in the pre-award cost reimbursement regulations or any pre-award costs approval letter from the Contracting

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Officer override these NEPA requirements to obtain the written authorization from the Contracting Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Likewise, if an application is selected for negotiation of award, and the prime recipient elects to undertake activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the Contracting Officer in advance of EERE completing a NEPA review, the prime recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

iii. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)

1. Requirement

All work performed under EERE awards must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment; however, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States. The prime recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

2. Failure to Comply

If the prime recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, EERE may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the United States and such costs may not be recognized as allowable recipient cost share. The prime recipient is responsible should any work under this award be performed outside the United States, absent a waiver, regardless of whether the work is performed by the prime recipient, subrecipients, contractors or other project partners.

3. Waiver

There may be limited circumstances where it is in the interest of the project to perform a portion of the work outside the United States. To seek a foreign work waiver, the applicant must submit a written waiver request to EERE. Appendix C lists the necessary information that must be included in a request for a foreign work waiver.

The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of EERE that a waiver would further the purposes of the FOA and is in the economic interests of the United States. EERE may require additional information before considering a waiver request. Save the waiver request(s) in a single PDF file titled "ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Waiver". The applicant does not have the right to appeal EERE's decision concerning a waiver request.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

iv. Construction

Recipients are required to obtain written authorization from the Contracting Officer before incurring any major construction costs.

v. Foreign Travel

Foreign travel costs are not allowable under this FOA.

vi. Equipment and Supplies

To the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available under this FOA should be American-made. This requirement does not apply to used or leased equipment.

Property disposition will be required at the end of a project if the current fair market value of property exceeds \$5,000. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth at 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316.

vii. Domestic Preference – Infrastructure Projects

As appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, Applicants shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, iron and aluminum as well as steel, cement, and other manufactured products (items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber) used in the proposed project shall be produced in the United States. This requirement shall flow down to all sub-awards including all contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders for work performed under the proposed project.

viii. Lobbying

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

ix. Risk Assessment

Prior to making a federal award, the DOE is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as SAM Exclusions and “Do Not Pay.”

In addition, DOE evaluates the risk(s) posed by applicants before they receive federal awards. This evaluation may consider: results of the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility; the quality of the application; financial stability; quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part; history of performance; reports and findings from audits; and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-federal entities.

In addition to this review, DOE must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR 180, and must require non-federal entities to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal programs or activities.

x. Invoice Review and Approval

DOE employs a risk-based approach to determine the level of supporting documentation required for approving invoice payments. Recipients may be required to provide some or all of the following items with their requests for reimbursement:

- Summary of costs by cost categories;
- Timesheets or personnel hours report;
- Invoices/receipts for all travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs;
- UCC filing proof for equipment acquired with project funds by for-profit recipients and subrecipients;
- Explanation of cost share for invoicing period;
- Analogous information for some subrecipients; and
- Other items as required by DOE.

V. Application Review Information

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

A. Technical Review Criteria

i. Concept Papers

Concept Papers are evaluated based on consideration the following factors. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following sub-criteria:

- The project will verify energy savings of at least 250 TBtu/yr. or yields significant end use energy demand flexibility, and clearly describes and documents 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; and
- The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the FOA.

ii. Full Applications

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following sub-criteria:

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; and
- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the applicant will de-risk the state-of-the-technology.

Impact of Technology Validation

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- 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, and
- 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 (30%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

Approach, Workplan and SOPO

- The strength of the quantifiable metrics, milestones, and a mid-point deliverables defined in the application, such that meaningful interim progress will be made;
- 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; and
- 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;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- 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; and
- The reasonableness of the budget and spend plan for the proposed project and objectives.

iii. **Criteria for Replies to Reviewer Comments**

EERE has not established separate criteria to evaluate Replies to Reviewer Comments. Instead, Replies to Reviewer Comments are attached to the original applications and evaluated as an extension of the Full Application.

B. Standards for Application Evaluation

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this FOA, by the standards set forth in EERE's Notice of Objective Merit Review Procedure (76 Fed. Reg. 17846, March 31, 2011) and the guidance provided in the "DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance," effective April 14, 2017, which is available at: <https://energy.gov/management/downloads/merit-review-guide-financial-assistance-and-unsolicited-proposals-current>.

C. Other Selection Factors

i. **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 award negotiations:

- 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;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- 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/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; and
- 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.

D. Evaluation and Selection Process

i. Overview

The evaluation process consists of multiple phases; each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews of eligible submissions 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, in determining which applications to select.

ii. Pre-Selection Interviews

As part of the evaluation and selection process, EERE may invite one or more applicants to participate in Pre-Selection Interviews. Pre-Selection Interviews are distinct from and more formal than pre-selection clarifications (See Section V.D.iii of the FOA). 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.

EERE will arrange to meet with the invited applicants in person at EERE's offices or a mutually agreed upon location. EERE may also arrange site visits at certain applicants' facilities. In the alternative, EERE may invite certain applicants to participate in a one-on-one conference with EERE via webinar, videoconference, or conference call.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

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 obtain additional information through Pre-Selection Interviews that will be used to make a final selection determination. 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.

iii. Pre-Selection Clarification

EERE may determine that pre-selection clarifications are necessary from one or more applicants. Pre-selection clarifications are distinct from and less formal than Pre-Selection Interviews. These pre-selection clarifications will solely be for the purposes of clarifying the application, and will be limited to information already provided in the application documentation. The pre-selection clarifications may occur before, during or after the merit review evaluation process. Information provided by an applicant that is not necessary to address the pre-selection clarification question will not be reviewed or considered. Typically, a pre-selection clarification will be carried out through either written responses to EERE's written clarification questions or video or conference calls with EERE representatives.

The information provided by applicants to EERE through pre-selection clarifications is incorporated in their applications and contributes to the merit review evaluation and EERE's selection decisions. If EERE contacts an applicant for pre-selection clarification purposes, it does not signify that the applicant has been selected for negotiation of award or that the applicant is among the top ranked applications.

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

iv. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

DOE, prior to making a federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.

v. Selection

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Federal Consensus Board's recommendations, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA.

E. Anticipated Notice of Selection and Award Negotiation Dates

EERE anticipates notifying applicants selected for negotiation of award and negotiating awards by the dates provided on the cover page of this FOA.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

i. Ineligible Submissions

Ineligible Concept Papers and Full Applications will not be further reviewed or considered for award. The Contracting Officer will send a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in EERE Exchange. The notification letter will state the basis upon which the Concept Paper or the Full Application is ineligible and not considered for further review.

ii. Concept Paper Notifications

EERE will notify applicants of its determination to encourage or discourage the submission of a Full Application. EERE will post these notifications to EERE Exchange.

Applicants may submit a Full Application even if they receive a notification discouraging them from doing so. By discouraging the submission of a Full Application, EERE intends to convey its lack of programmatic interest in the proposed project. Such assessments do not necessarily reflect judgments on the

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

merits of the proposed project. The purpose of the Concept Paper phase is to save applicants the considerable time and expense of preparing a Full Application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.

A notification encouraging the submission of a Full Application does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. Please refer to Section IV.J.ii. of the FOA for guidance on pre-award costs.

iii. Full Application Notifications

EERE will notify 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 will inform the applicant whether or not its Full Application was selected for award negotiations. Alternatively, EERE may notify one or more applicants that a final selection determination on particular Full Applications will be made at a later date, subject to the availability of funds or other factors.

iv. Successful Applicants

Receipt of a notification letter selecting a Full Application for award negotiations does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment by EERE to issue an award. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Contracting Officer executes the funding agreement, accessible by the prime recipient in FedConnect.

The award negotiation 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 award negotiations. The applicant must be responsive during award negotiations (i.e., provide requested documentation) and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the applicant fails to do so or if award negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, EERE will cancel the award negotiations and rescind the Selection. EERE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please refer to Section IV.J.ii. of the FOA for guidance on pre-award costs.

v. Alternate Selection Determinations

In some instances, an applicant may receive a notification that its application was not selected for award and EERE designated the application to be an alternate. As an alternate, EERE may consider the Full Application for federal funding in the future. A notification letter stating the Full Application is designated as an alternate does not authorize the applicant to commence

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

performance of the project. EERE may ultimately determine to select or not select the Full Application for award negotiations.

vi. Unsuccessful Applicants

EERE shall promptly notify in writing each applicant whose application has not been selected for award or whose application cannot be funded because of the unavailability of appropriated funds.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

i. Registration Requirements

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. These requirements are as follows:

1. EERE Exchange

Register and create an account on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>.

This account will then 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. Applicants should also designate backup points of contact so they may be easily contacted if deemed necessary. **This step is required to apply to this FOA.**

The EERE Exchange registration does not have a delay; however, **the remaining registration requirements below could take several weeks to process and are necessary for a potential applicant to receive an award under this FOA.**

2. DUNS Number

Obtain a DUNS number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

3. System for Award Management

Register with the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called a Marketing Partner ID Number (MPIN) are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

4. FedConnect

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.

5. Grants.gov

Register in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that Concept Papers and Full Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

6. Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents

Submission of an application and supplemental information under this FOA through electronic systems used by the DOE, including EERE Exchange and FedConnect.net, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

ii. Award Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910.

iii. Foreign National Access Under DOE Order 142.3A, "Unclassified Foreign Visits and Assignments Program"

All applicants selected for an award under this FOA may be required to provide information to DOE in order to satisfy requirements for foreign nationals' access to DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs or personnel. A foreign national is defined as any person who is not a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization. If a selected applicant (including any of its subrecipients, contractors or vendors) anticipates involving foreign nationals in the performance of its award, the selected applicant may be required to provide DOE with specific information about each foreign national to ensure compliance with the requirements for access approval. National laboratory personnel already cleared for site access may be excluded. Access approval for foreign nationals from countries identified on the U.S. Department of State's list of [State Sponsors of Terrorism](#) must receive final approval authority from the Secretary of Energy or the Secretary's assignee before they commence any work under the award.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

iv. Subaward and Executive Reporting

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR Part 170. Prime recipients must register with the new FFATA Subaward Reporting System database and report the required data on their first tier subrecipients. Prime recipients must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

v. National Policy Requirements

The National Policy Assurances that are incorporated as a term and condition of award are located at: <http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>.

vi. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

EERE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA is subject to NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website, at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all recipients selected for an award will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their proposed project. If DOE determines certain records must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process (e.g., biological evaluations or environmental assessments), the recipient may be required to prepare the records and the costs to prepare the necessary records may be included as part of the project costs.

vii. Applicant Representations and Certifications**1. Lobbying Restrictions**

By accepting funds under this award, the prime recipient agrees that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence Congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. §1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

2. Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Representations

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

In submitting an application in response to this FOA, the applicant represents that:

- a. It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any federal law within the preceding 24 months; and
- b. It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations the following definitions apply:

A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

3. **Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations**

In submitting an application in response to this FOA the applicant represents that:

- a. It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.
- b. It **does not and will not** use any federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:
 - (1) *“These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling*

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”

- (2) The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312 Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement (<https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/sf312.pdf>), Form 4414 Sensitive Compartmented Information Disclosure Agreement (<https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/intel/sf4414.pdf>), or any other form issued by a federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

viii. Statement of Federal Stewardship

EERE will exercise normal federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under EERE awards. Stewardship Activities include, but are not limited to, conducting site visits; reviewing performance and financial reports; providing assistance and/or temporary intervention in unusual circumstances to correct deficiencies that develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the project objectives have been accomplished.

ix. Statement of Substantial Involvement

EERE has substantial involvement in work performed under awards made as a result of 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:

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

1. EERE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.
 2. 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.
 3. EERE may redirect or discontinue funding the project based on the outcome of EERE's evaluation of the project at the Go/No-Go decision point(s).
 4. EERE participates in major project decision-making processes.
- x. Intellectual Property Management Plan (IPMP)**

Within 30 days of selection, applicants must submit an executed IPMP between the members of the consortia or team.

The award will set forth the treatment of and obligations related to intellectual property rights between EERE and the individual members. The IPMP should describe how the members will handle intellectual property rights and issues between themselves while ensuring compliance with federal intellectual property laws, regulations, and policies (see Sections VIII.K.-VIII.N. of this FOA for more details on applicable federal intellectual property laws and regulations). Guidance regarding the contents of IPMP is available from EERE upon request.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of items that the IPMP may cover:

- The treatment of confidential information between members (e.g., the use of NDAs);
- The treatment of background intellectual property (e.g., any requirements for identifying it or making it available);
- The treatment of inventions made under the award (e.g., any requirements for disclosing to the other members on an application, filing patent applications, paying for patent prosecution, and cross-licensing or other licensing arrangements between the members);
- The treatment of data produced, including software, under the award (e.g., any publication process or other dissemination strategies, copyrighting strategy or arrangement between members);
- Any technology transfer and commercialization requirements or arrangements between the members;
- The treatment of any intellectual property issues that may arise due to a change in membership of the consortia or team; and

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- The handling of disputes related to intellectual property between the members.

xi. Subject Invention Utilization Reporting

In order to ensure that prime recipients and subrecipients holding title to subject inventions are taking the appropriate steps to commercialize subject inventions, EERE may require that each prime recipient holding title to a subject invention submit annual reports for ten (10) years from the date the subject invention was disclosed to EERE on the utilization of the subject invention and efforts made by prime recipient or their licensees or assignees to stimulate such utilization. The reports must include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the prime recipient, and such other data and information as EERE may specify.

xii. Intellectual Property Provisions

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at <http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

xiii. Reporting

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement. Awards issued under this FOA will follow the DOE Reporting Requirements for the State Energy Program located at https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/04/f61/Reporting%20guidance%20package_3-25-19_w%20blank%20page.pdf.

Quarterly Reporting to DOE via Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy (PAGE) system.

PAGE (www.page.energy.gov) is the online system that provides all recipients with the ability to electronically submit and manage grant performance and financial information. New users should contact the PAGE Helpdesk at page-hotline@ee.doe.gov to obtain access. Training tools to familiarize users with PAGE are readily accessible.

Prime recipients are responsible for accurate and timely reporting, even if no funds were expended or no progress was made during the reporting period on a quarterly basis. All quarterly reports are required to be submitted to DOE via PAGE no later than the 30th day of the month following the end of the reporting period. Note that the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) and Federal Financial Report (FFR) are reviewed and compared simultaneously, and neither will be approved until they are

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

both submitted. Other reporting requirements are outlined in the Terms and Conditions of each grant.

xiv. Go/No-Go Review

Each project selected under this FOA will be subject to a periodic project evaluation referred to as a Go/No-Go Review. At the Go/No-Go decision points, EERE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, meeting milestone objectives, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the EERE program goals and objectives. Federal funding beyond the Go/No-Go decision point (continuation funding) is contingent upon (1) availability of federal funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program; (2) the availability of future-year budget authority; (3) recipient's technical progress compared to the Milestone Summary Table stated in Attachment 1 of the award; (4) recipient's submittal of required reports; (5) recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the award; (6) EERE's Go/No-Go decision; (7) the recipient's submission of a continuation application; and (8) written approval of the continuation application by the Contracting Officer.

As a result of the Go/No-Go Review, DOE may, at its discretion, authorize the following actions: (1) continue to fund the project, contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority; (2) recommend redirection of work under the project; (3) place a hold on federal funding for the project, pending further supporting data or funding; or (4) discontinue funding the project because of insufficient progress, change in strategic direction, or lack of funding.

The Go/No-Go decision is distinct from a non-compliance determination. In the event a recipient fails to comply with the requirements of an award, EERE may take appropriate action, including but not limited to, redirecting, suspending or terminating the award.

xv. Conference Spending

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the United States government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States government would otherwise exceed \$20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

xvi. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements

Per 2 CFR 910.360 (Real Property and Equipment) when a piece of equipment is purchased by a for-profit recipient or subrecipient with federal funds, and when the federal share of the financial assistance agreement is more than \$1,000,000, the recipient or subrecipient must:

Properly record, and consent to the Department's ability to properly record if the recipient fails to do so, UCC financing statement(s) for all equipment in excess of \$5,000 purchased with project funds. These financing statement(s) must be approved in writing by the Contracting Officer prior to the recording, and they shall provide notice that the recipient's title to all equipment (not real property) purchased with federal funds under the financial assistance agreement is conditional pursuant to the terms of this section, and that the government retains an undivided reversionary interest in the equipment. The UCC financing statement(s) must be filed before the Contracting Officer may reimburse the recipient for the federal share of the equipment unless otherwise provided for in the relevant financial assistance agreement. The recipient shall further make any amendments to the financing statements or additional recordings, including appropriate continuation statements, as necessary or as the Contracting Officer may direct.

VII. Questions/Agency Contacts

Upon the issuance of a FOA, EERE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process as described below. Specifically, questions regarding the content of this FOA must be submitted to: BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov. Questions must be submitted not later than three (3) business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on EERE Exchange at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>. **Please note that you must first select this specific FOA Number in order to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA.** EERE will attempt to respond to a question within three (3) business days, unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

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

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

VIII. Other Information

A. FOA Modifications

Amendments to this FOA will be posted on the EERE Exchange website and the Grants.gov system. However, you will only receive an email when an amendment or a FOA is posted on these sites if you register for email notifications for this FOA in Grants.gov. EERE recommends that you register as soon after the release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any amendments or other FOAs.

B. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate

EERE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this FOA and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

C. Commitment of Public Funds

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by anyone other than the Contracting Officer, either express or implied, is invalid.

D. Treatment of Application Information

Applicants should not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the FOA. Applicants are advised to not include any critically sensitive proprietary detail

If an application includes trade secrets or information that is commercial or financial, or information that is confidential or privileged, it is furnished to the Government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, EERE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for merit review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Concept Papers, Full Applications, Replies to Reviewer Comments, and other submissions containing confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The U.S. Government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information, and may use or disclose such information for any purpose.

The cover sheet of the Concept Paper, Full Application, Reply to Reviewer Comments, or other submission must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information:

Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:

Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance or loan agreement between the submitter and the Government. The Government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source. [End of Notice]

The header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as follows: “Contains Trade Secrets, Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure.” In addition, each line or paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting.

E. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Go/No-Go Reviews and Peer Reviews, the government may seek the advice of qualified non-federal personnel as reviewers. The government may also use non-federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities, including EERE contractors. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-federal reviewers/administrators. Non-federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest (COI) and non-disclosure acknowledgements (NDA) prior to reviewing an application. Non-federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign an NDA.

F. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities under this FOA include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

G. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability

EERE reserves the right to conduct an independent third party review of financial capability for applicants that are selected for negotiation of award (including personal credit information of principal(s) of a small business if there is insufficient information to determine financial capability of the organization).

H. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure

Applicants are required to make a full and complete disclosure of all information requested. Any failure to make a full and complete disclosure of the requested information may result in:

- The termination of award negotiations;
- The modification, suspension, and/or termination of a funding agreement;
- The initiation of debarment proceedings, debarment, and/or a declaration of ineligibility for receipt of federal contracts, subcontracts, and financial assistance and benefits; and
- Civil and/or criminal penalties.

I. Retention of Submissions

EERE expects to retain copies of all Concept Papers, Full Applications, Replies to Reviewer Comments, and other submissions. No submissions will be returned. By applying to EERE for funding, applicants consent to EERE's retention of their submissions.

J. Title to Subject Inventions

Ownership of subject inventions is governed pursuant to the authorities listed below:

- Domestic Small Businesses, Educational Institutions, and Nonprofits: Under the Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. § 200 et seq.), domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits may elect to retain title to their subject inventions;
- All other parties: The federal Non-Nuclear Energy Act of 1974, 42. U.S.C. 5908, provides that the government obtains title to new inventions unless a waiver is granted (see below);
- Class Patent Waiver:
DOE has issued a class waiver that applies to this FOA. Under this class waiver, domestic large businesses may elect title to their subject inventions similar to the right provided to the domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits by law. In order to avail itself of the class waiver,

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

a domestic large business must agree that any products embodying or produced through the use of a subject invention first created or reduced to practice under this program will be substantially manufactured in the United States, unless DOE agrees that the commitments proposed in the U.S. Manufacturing Plan, if applicable, are sufficient.

- **Advance and Identified Waivers:** Applicants, i.e. state, local and tribal governments, may request a patent waiver that will cover subject inventions that may be invented under the award, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if an advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver for identified inventions, i.e., individual subject inventions that are disclosed to EERE within the timeframes set forth in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784; and

K. Government Rights in Subject Inventions

Where prime recipients and subrecipients retain title to subject inventions, the U.S. government retains certain rights.

1. Government Use License

The U.S. government retains a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the United States any subject invention throughout the world. This license extends to contractors doing work on behalf of the government.

2. March-In Rights

The U.S. government retains march-in rights with respect to all subject inventions. Through "march-in rights," the government may require a prime recipient or subrecipient who has elected to retain title to a subject invention (or their assignees or exclusive licensees), to grant a license for use of the invention to a third party. In addition, the government may grant licenses for use of the subject invention when a prime recipient, subrecipient, or their assignees and exclusive licensees refuse to do so.

DOE may exercise its march-in rights only if it determines that such action is necessary under any of the four following conditions:

- The owner or licensee has not taken or is not expected to take effective steps to achieve practical application of the invention within a reasonable time;

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

- The owner or licensee has not taken action to alleviate health or safety needs in a reasonably satisfied manner;
- The owner has not met public use requirements specified by federal statutes in a reasonably satisfied manner; or
- The U.S. manufacturing requirement has not been met.

Any determination that march-in rights are warranted must follow a fact-finding process in which the recipient has certain rights to present evidence and witnesses, confront witnesses and appear with counsel and appeal any adverse decision. To date, DOE has never exercised its march-in rights to any subject inventions.

L. Rights in Technical Data

Data rights differ based on whether data is first produced under an award or instead was developed at private expense outside the award.

“Limited Rights Data”: The U.S. government will not normally require delivery of confidential or trade secret-type technical data developed solely at private expense prior to issuance of an award, except as necessary to monitor technical progress and evaluate the potential of proposed technologies to reach specific technical and cost metrics.

Government Rights in Technical Data Produced under Awards: The U.S. government retains unlimited rights in technical data produced under government financial assistance awards, including the right to distribute to the public. One exception to the foregoing is that invention disclosures may be protected from public disclosure for a reasonable time in order to allow for filing a patent application.

M. Copyright

The prime recipient and subrecipients may assert copyright in copyrightable works, such as software, first produced under the award without EERE approval. When copyright is asserted, the government retains a paid-up nonexclusive, irrevocable worldwide license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and to perform publicly and display publicly the copyrighted work. This license extends to contractors and others doing work on behalf of the government. In addition, for those awards requiring distribution of software as Open-Source Software (OSS), the additional information in Appendix D must be addressed in the application.

N. Export Control

The U.S. government regulates the transfer of information, commodities, technology, and software considered to be strategically important to the U.S. to

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

protect national security, foreign policy, and economic interests without imposing undue regulatory burdens on legitimate international trade. There is a network of federal agencies and regulations that govern exports that are collectively referred to as “Export Controls”. To ensure compliance with Export Controls, it is the prime recipient’s responsibility to determine when its project activities trigger Export Controls and to ensure compliance.

Export Controls may apply to individual projects, depending on the nature of the tasks. When Export Controls apply, the recipient must take the appropriate steps to obtain any required governmental licenses, monitor and control access to restricted information, and safeguard all controlled materials. Under no circumstances may foreign entities (organizations, companies or persons) receive access to export controlled information unless proper export procedures have been satisfied and such access is authorized pursuant to law or regulation.

Applicants are advised that some of the results of the research conducted under this FOA are expected to be restricted for proprietary reasons and not published or shared broadly within the scientific community.

O. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

All information provided by the applicant must to the greatest extent possible exclude PII. The term “PII” refers to information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name. (See OMB Memorandum M-07-16 dated May 22, 2007, found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2007/m07-16.pdf>

By way of example, applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails. **Under no circumstances should Social Security Numbers (SSNs) be included in the application.** Federal agencies are prohibited from the collecting, using, and displaying unnecessary SSNs. (See, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec 18, 2014; 44 U.S.C. §3551).

P. Annual Independent Audits

If a for-profit entity is a prime recipient and has expended \$750,000 or more of DOE awards during the entity's fiscal year, an annual compliance audit performed by an independent auditor is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 C.F.R. § 910.501 and Subpart F.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

If an educational institution, non-profit organization, or state/local government is a prime recipient or subrecipient and has expended \$750,000 or more of federal awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year, then a Single or Program-Specific Audit is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.501 and Subpart F.

Applicants and subrecipients (if applicable) should propose sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated with the audit. EERE will share in the cost of the audit at its applicable cost share ratio.

Q. Informational Webinar

EERE will conduct one informational webinar during the FOA process. It will be held after the initial FOA release but before the due date for Concept Papers.

Attendance is not mandatory and will not positively or negatively impact the overall review of any applicant submissions. As the webinar will be open to all applicants who wish to participate, applicants should refrain from asking questions or communicating information that would reveal confidential and/or proprietary information specific to their project. Specific dates for the webinar can be found on the cover page of the FOA.

APPENDIX A – COST SHARE INFORMATION

Cost Sharing or Cost Matching

The terms “cost sharing” and “cost matching” are often used synonymously. Even the DOE Financial Assistance Regulations, 2 CFR 200.306, use both of the terms in the titles specific to regulations applicable to cost sharing. EERE almost always uses the term “cost sharing,” as it conveys the concept that non-federal share is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. An exception is the State Energy Program Regulation, 10 CFR 420.12, State Matching Contribution. Here “cost matching” for the non-federal share is calculated as a percentage of the federal funds only, rather than the Total Project Cost.

How Cost Sharing Is Calculated

As stated above, cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs. The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with \$1,000,000 in federal funds with a minimum 20% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

- Formula: Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost
Example: \$1,000,000 divided by 80% = \$1,250,000
- Formula: Total Project Cost (\$) minus federal share (\$) = Non-federal share (\$)
Example: \$1,250,000 minus \$1,000,000 = \$250,000
- Formula: Non-federal share (\$) divided by Total Project Cost (\$) = Non-federal share (%)
Example: \$250,000 divided by \$1,250,000 = 20%

What Qualifies For Cost Sharing

While it is not possible to explain what specifically qualifies for cost sharing in one or even a couple of sentences, in general, if a cost is allowable under the cost principles applicable to the organization incurring the cost and is eligible for reimbursement under an EERE grant or cooperative agreement, then it is allowable as cost share. Conversely, if the cost is not allowable under the cost principles and not eligible for reimbursement, then it is not allowable as cost share. In addition, costs may not be counted as cost share if they are paid by the federal government under another award unless authorized by federal statute to be used for cost sharing.

The rules associated with what is allowable as cost share are specific to the type of organization that is receiving funds under the grant or cooperative agreement, though are generally the same for all types of entities. The specific rules applicable to:

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

-
- FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities, (48 CFR Part 31); and
 - 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

In addition to the regulations referenced above, other factors may also come into play such as timing of donations and length of the project period. For example, the value of ten years of donated maintenance on a project that has a project period of five years would not be fully allowable as cost share. Only the value for the five years of donated maintenance that corresponds to the project period is allowable and may be counted as cost share.

Additionally, EERE generally does not allow pre-award costs for either cost share or reimbursement when these costs precede the signing of the appropriation bill that funds the award. In the case of a competitive award, EERE generally does not allow pre-award costs prior to the signing of the Selection Statement by the EERE Selection Official.

General Cost Sharing Rules on a DOE Award

- 1. Cash Cost Share** – encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s), for costs incurred and paid for during the project. This includes when an organization pays for personnel, supplies, equipment for their own company with organizational resources. If the item or service is reimbursed for, it is cash cost share. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project.
- 2. In-Kind Cost Share** – encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s) that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent donated items or services. In-Kind cost share items include volunteer personnel hours, donated existing equipment, donated existing supplies. The cash value and calculations thereof for all In-Kind cost share items must be justified and explained in the Cost Share section of the project Budget Justification. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project. If questions exist, consult your DOE contact before filling out the In-Kind cost share section of the Budget Justification.
- 3. Funds from other federal sources MAY NOT be counted as cost share.** This prohibition includes FFRDC subrecipients. Non-federal sources include any source not originally derived from federal funds. Cost sharing commitment letters from subrecipients must be provided with the original application.
- 4. Fee or profit, including foregone fee or profit, are not allowable as project costs** (including cost share) under any resulting award. The project may only incur those costs that are allowable and allocable to the project (including cost share) as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

DOE Financial Assistance Rules 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910

As stated above, the rules associated with what is allowable cost share are generally the same for all types of organizations. Following are the rules found to be common, but again, the specifics are contained in the regulations and cost principles specific to the type of entity:

(A) Acceptable contributions. All contributions, including cash contributions and third party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the prime recipient's cost sharing if such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

- (1)** They are verifiable from the recipient's records.
- (2)** They are not included as contributions for any other federally-assisted project or program.
- (3)** They are necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives.
- (4)** They are allowable under the cost principles applicable to the type of entity incurring the cost as follows:
 - a.** For-profit organizations. Allowability of costs incurred by for-profit organizations and those nonprofit organizations listed in Attachment C to OMB Circular A-122 is determined in accordance with the for-profit cost principles in 48 CFR Part 31 in the FAR, except that patent prosecution costs are not allowable unless specifically authorized in the award document. (v) Commercial Organizations. FAR Subpart 31.2—Contracts with Commercial Organizations; and
 - b.** Other types of organizations. For all other non-federal entities, allowability of costs is determined in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E.
- (5)** They are not paid by the federal government under another award unless authorized by federal statute to be used for cost sharing or matching.
- (6)** They are provided for in the approved budget.

(B) Valuing and documenting contributions

- (1)** Valuing recipient's property or services of recipient's employees. Values are established in accordance with the applicable cost principles, which mean that amounts chargeable to the project are determined on the basis of costs incurred. For real property or equipment used on the project, the cost principles authorize depreciation or use charges. The full value of the item may be applied when the item will be consumed in the performance of the award or fully depreciated by the end of

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

the award. In cases where the full value of a donated capital asset is to be applied as cost sharing or matching, that full value must be the lesser or the following:

- a. The certified value of the remaining life of the property recorded in the recipient's accounting records at the time of donation; or
 - b. The current fair market value. If there is sufficient justification, the Contracting Officer may approve the use of the current fair market value of the donated property, even if it exceeds the certified value at the time of donation to the project. The Contracting Officer may accept the use of any reasonable basis for determining the fair market value of the property.
- (2) Valuing services of others' employees. If an employer other than the recipient furnishes the services of an employee, those services are valued at the employee's regular rate of pay, provided these services are for the same skill level for which the employee is normally paid.
- (3) Valuing volunteer services. Volunteer services furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor may be counted as cost sharing or matching if the service is an integral and necessary part of an approved project or program. Rates for volunteer services must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the recipient's organization. In those markets in which the required skills are not found in the recipient organization, rates must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market in which the recipient competes for the kind of services involved. In either case, paid fringe benefits that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable may be included in the valuation.
- (4) Valuing property donated by third parties.
 - a. Donated supplies may include such items as office supplies or laboratory supplies. Value assessed to donated supplies included in the cost sharing or matching share must be reasonable and must not exceed the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation.
 - b. Normally only depreciation or use charges for equipment and buildings may be applied. However, the fair rental charges for land and the full value of equipment or other capital assets may be allowed, when they will be consumed in the performance of the award or fully depreciated by the end of the award, provided that the Contracting Officer has approved the charges. When use charges are applied, values must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting policies of the recipient, with the following qualifications:
 - i. The value of donated space must not exceed the fair rental value of comparable space as established by an independent appraisal of

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

comparable space and facilities in a privately-owned building in the same locality.

- ii. The value of loaned equipment must not exceed its fair rental value.

(5) Documentation. The following requirements pertain to the recipient's supporting records for in-kind contributions from third parties:

- a. Volunteer services must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the recipient for its own employees.
- b. The basis for determining the valuation for personal services and property must be documented.

APPENDIX B – SAMPLE COST SHARE CALCULATION FOR BLENDED COST SHARE PERCENTAGE

The following example shows the math for calculating required cost share for a project with \$2,000,000 in federal funds with four tasks requiring different non-federal cost share percentages:

Task	Proposed Federal Share	Federal Share %	Recipient Share %
Task 1 (R&D)	\$1,000,000	80%	20%
Task 2 (R&D)	\$500,000	80%	20%
Task 3 (Demonstration)	\$400,000	50%	50%
Task 4 (Outreach)	\$100,000	100%	0%

Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Task Cost

Each task must be calculated individually as follows:

Task 1

\$1,000,000 divided by 80% = \$1,250,000 (Task 1 Cost)

Task 1 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share

\$1,250,000 - \$1,000,000 = \$250,000 (non-federal share)

Task 2

\$500,000 divided 80% = \$625,000 (Task 2 Cost)

Task 2 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share

\$625,000 - \$500,000 = \$125,000 (non-federal share)

Task 3

\$400,000 / 50% = \$800,000 (Task 3 Cost)

Task 3 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share

\$800,000 - \$400,000 = \$400,000 (non-federal share)

Task 4

Federal share = \$100,000

Non-federal cost share is not mandated for outreach = \$0 (non-federal share)

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

The calculation may then be completed as follows:

Tasks	\$ Federal Share	% Federal Share	\$ Non-Federal Share	% Non-Federal Share	Total Project Cost
Task 1	\$1,000,000	80%	\$250,000	20%	\$1,250,000
Task 2	\$500,000	80%	\$125,000	20%	\$625,000
Task 3	\$400,000	50%	\$400,000	50%	\$800,000
Task 4	\$100,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$100,000
Totals	\$2,000,000		\$775,000		\$2,775,000

Blended Cost Share %

Non-federal share (\$775,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 27.9% (non-federal)

Federal share (\$2,000,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 72.1% (federal)

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

APPENDIX C – WAIVER REQUESTS AND APPROVAL PROCESSES:

1. FOREIGN ENTITY PARTICIPATION AS THE PRIME RECIPIENT; AND 2. PERFORMANCE OF WORK IN THE UNITED STATES (FOREIGN WORK WAIVER)

1. Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation as the Prime Recipient

As set forth in Section III.A.iii., all prime recipients receiving funding under this FOA must be incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States and have a physical location for business operations in the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, an applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the Full Application.

Overall, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of EERE that it would further the purposes of this FOA and is otherwise in the economic interests of the United States to have a foreign entity serve as the prime recipient. A request to waive the *Foreign Entity Participation as the prime recipient* requirement must include the following:

- Entity name;
- The rationale for proposing a foreign entity to serve as the prime recipient;
- Country of incorporation and the extent, if any, the entity is state owned or controlled;
- A description of the project’s anticipated contributions to the US economy;
- How the project will benefit U.S. research, development and manufacturing, including contributions to employment in the U.S. and growth in new markets and jobs in the U.S.;
- How the project will promote domestic American manufacturing of products and/or services;
- A description of how the foreign entity’s participation as the prime recipient is essential to the project;
- A description of the likelihood of Intellectual Property (IP) being created from the work and the treatment of any such IP; and
- Countries where the work will be performed (Note: if any work is proposed to be conducted outside the U.S., the applicant must also complete a separate request for waiver of the Performance of Work in the United States requirement).

EERE may require additional information before considering the waiver request.

The applicant does not have the right to appeal EERE’s decision concerning a waiver request.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

2. Waiver for Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)

As set forth in Section IV.J.iii., all work under EERE funding agreements must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment, so a waiver is not required for foreign purchases of these items. However, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States. There may be limited circumstances where it is in the interest of the project to perform a portion of the work outside the United States. To seek a waiver of the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the Full Application. A separate waiver request must be submitted for each entity proposing performance of work outside of the United States.

Overall, a waiver request must demonstrate to the satisfaction of EERE that it would further the purposes of this FOA and is otherwise in the economic interests of the United States to perform work outside of the United States. A request to waive the *Performance of Work in the United States* requirement must include the following:

- The rationale for performing the work outside the U.S. (“foreign work”);
- A description of the work proposed to be performed outside the U.S.;
- An explanation as to how the foreign work is essential to the project;
- A description of the anticipated benefits to be realized by the proposed foreign work and the anticipated contributions to the US economy;
- The associated benefits to be realized and the contribution to the project from the foreign work;
- How the foreign work will benefit U.S. research, development and manufacturing, including contributions to employment in the U.S. and growth in new markets and jobs in the U.S.;
- How the foreign work will promote domestic American manufacturing of products and/or services;
- A description of the likelihood of Intellectual Property (IP) being created from the foreign work and the treatment of any such IP;
- The total estimated cost (DOE and recipient cost share) of the proposed foreign work;
- The countries in which the foreign work is proposed to be performed; and
- The name of the entity that would perform the foreign work.

EERE may require additional information before considering the waiver request.

The applicant does not have the right to appeal EERE’s decision concerning a waiver request.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

APPENDIX D – GLOSSARY

Applicant – The lead organization submitting an application under the FOA.

Continuation application – A non-competitive application for an additional budget period within a previously approved project period. At least ninety (90) days before the end of each budget period, the Recipient must submit to EERE its continuation application, which includes the following information:

- i. A report on the Recipient’s progress towards meeting the objectives of the project, including any significant findings, conclusions, or developments, and an estimate of any unobligated balances remaining at the end of the budget period. If the remaining unobligated balance is estimated to exceed 20 percent of the funds available for the budget period, explain why the excess funds have not been obligated and how they will be used in the next budget period.
- ii. A detailed budget and supporting justification if there are changes to the negotiated budget, or a budget for the upcoming budget period was not approved at the time of award.
- iii. A description of any planned changes from the negotiated Statement of Project Objectives and/or Milestone Summary Table.

Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) – a contractual agreement between a national laboratory contractor and a private company or university to work together on research and development. For more information, see <https://www.energy.gov/gc/downloads/doe-cooperative-research-and-development-agreements>

Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) - FFRDCs are public-private partnerships which conduct research for the United States government. A listing of FFRDCs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.

Go/No-Go Decision Points – A decision point at the end of a budget period that defines the overall objectives, milestones and deliverables to be achieved by the recipient in that budget period. As of a result of EERE’s review, EERE may take one of the following actions: 1) authorize federal funding for the next budget period; 2) recommend redirection of work; 3) discontinue providing federal funding beyond the current budget period; or 4) place a hold on federal funding pending further supporting data.

Project – The entire scope of the cooperative agreement which is contained in the recipient’s Statement of Project Objectives.

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

Recipient or “Prime Recipient” – A non-federal entity that receives a federal award directly from a federal awarding agency to carry out an activity under a federal program. The term recipient does not include subrecipients.

Subrecipient – A non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other federal awards directly from a federal awarding agency. Also, a DOE/NNSA and non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC may be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity’s application. See section III.E.ii.

APPENDIX E – DEFINITION OF TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS

TRL 1:	Basic principles observed and reported
TRL 2:	Technology concept and/or application formulated
TRL 3:	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept
TRL 4:	Component and/or breadboard validation in a laboratory environment
TRL 5:	Component and/or breadboard validation in a relevant environment
TRL 6:	System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment
TRL 7:	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment
TRL 8:	Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstrated
TRL 9:	Actual system proven through successful mission operations

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

APPENDIX F – LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFDD	Automated Fault Detection Diagnostics
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
BEM	Building Energy Modeling
BTO	Building Technologies Office
Btu	British thermal unit
COI	Conflict of Interest
COP	Coefficient of Performance
Cx	Commissioning
DEC	Determination of Exceptional Circumstances
DMP	Data Management Plan
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
EERE	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
EIA	U.S. Energy Information Administration
EUI	Energy Use Intensity
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FFATA	Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006
FOA	Funding Opportunity Announcement
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
IPMP	Intellectual Property Management Plan
GEB	Grid-interactive Efficient Building
HIL	Hardware-in-the-Loop
HPWH	Heat Pump Water Heater
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning
IECC	International Energy Conservation Code
IPMP	Intellectual Property Management Plan
LED	Light-Emitting Diode
lm/w	lumens per watt
M&O	Management and Operating
M&V	Measurement and Verification
MPIN	Marketing Partner ID Number
MYPP	Multi-Year Program Plan
NDA	Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGHP	Natural Gas Heat Pump
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Agency
OLED	Organic Light-Emitting Diode
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OSTI	Office of Scientific and Technical Information
PCM	Phase Change Material

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

PII	Personal Identifiable Information
R&D	Research and Development
RD&D	Research, Development and Demonstration
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposal
S&C	Sensors and Controls
SAM	System for Award Management
SSL	Solid State Lighting
SOPO	Statement of Project Objectives
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
TIA	Technology Investment Agreement
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TSV	Time-sensitive Valuation
UCC	Uniform Commercial Code
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure
WP	Work Proposal

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.

APPENDIX G – TOP 25 STATES WITH HIGHEST NON-TRANSPORTATION ENERGY USE PER CAPITA

U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION 2017⁴

Rank	State	Million Btu
1	Louisiana	793.2
2	Wyoming	686.6
3	North Dakota	662.5
4	Alaska	601.6
5	Iowa	400.6
6	Texas	352.9
7	Nebraska	351.3
8	South Dakota	328.6
9	West Virginia	321.7
10	Indiana	313.2
11	Oklahoma	295.2
12	Montana	288.7
13	Alabama	287.3
14	Kansas	277
15	Kentucky	266.6
16	Arkansas	257.1
17	Minnesota	246.2
18	Mississippi	245.1
19	Wisconsin	238.3
20	Ohio	233
21	South Carolina	231.1
22	Idaho	229.8
23	Tennessee	228.1
24	Illinois	224
25	Pennsylvania	223.4

⁴ https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/data.php?incfile=/state/seds/sep_sum/html/rank_use_capita.html&sid=US

Questions about this FOA? Email BTOProvingGroundFOA@ee.doe.gov.

Problems with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov Include FOA name & number in subject line.