



Date: March 21, 2013

Subject: **FY14 Technology Innovation (TI) Funding Opportunity Announcement BPA-0002617 – Questions and Answers**

The following questions have been provided to the Financial Assistance Officer (FAO) as of the date indicated above either in writing or at the pre-conference on March 15, 2013 with answers available at this time. All questions that are not clearly answered within the announcement will be provided separately on the TI Funding Opportunity Exchange website for applicants review. Questions should be submitted in writing to the FAO Matt DeLong at mldelong@bpa.gov. Additional questions that have been submitted are in the process of being answered and will be posted by March 30th.

Questions and Answers are separated by category; General, Focus Area, and Transmission Roadmap. Please scroll through each section to determine whether your application may be affected.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Q. Are there any issues with having international subcontractors as part of team?

A. Use of non-U.S. citizens on the project team is generally allowable but may have some limitations depending on the nature of the project and the location where work is performed. Non-U.S. citizen access to BPA facilities may be limited and require additional lead time. The applicant should indicate any requirement for this in their submittal.

2. Q. If we have funding from ARPA-E or NSF can we use this award as part of the 50% cost share?

A. This is acceptable to BPA to use DOE or NSF funding as cost share, however, confirmation from ARPA-E or NSF would be required to ensure they support use of those dollars as cost share for other projects. This confirmation should be provided during Phase 2.

3. Q. We would like to do a demonstration project on a BPA site, would that be acceptable? What about an independent site?

A. The answer depends on a lot of variables such as the sensitivity of the site proposed, security clearance of project partners, and BPA resources available to support it. Applicants should list all the resources required of BPA staff and facilities in their application. Additionally, if alternative options exist, that should be included so that multiple options could be evaluated for feasibility and likelihood of project success.

4. Q. Can spending prior to the start of the project be accepted for cost share?

A. No, all cost share will be tracked from the beginning of the project. It's possible the project could be approved to start earlier (Aug/Sept) but unlikely. Cost share should be planned for accrual beginning no sooner than October.

5. Q. We have substantial investment in equipment, software, etc... which we would like to use for cost share. How about if it was donated from a third party? Would that be acceptable?

A. Generally no. Project cost share must be contributed during the life of the project. The only acceptable costs for purchases already made would be through approved indirect cost rates for depreciation, maintenance, etc...For partners, if they have published billing rates for the use of that



service/equipment, and the prime would have to pay for it otherwise, it would likely be considered acceptable. However, if a unique circumstance applies that you would like specific review of, please send me an e-mail with a detailed question.

The most common type of cost share is in-kind labor (donated time from the prime or subs) which is accepted at cost rates (actual salary, plus fringe and approved indirect costs) and cash (contributed from the prime, sub-recipients, or partners).

6. Q. How are internal vs. external projects balanced in selection?

A. The Technology Innovation office has no hard metrics for dictating the balance of awarded projects between external and internal. We do value a balance of both but internal projects are evaluated against the same criteria (with the exception of cost share) and selections are made considering all that are qualified and support a balanced portfolio. The mix in the past has tended to be roughly 50% but there is no requirement that this needs to stay the same.

7. Q. Is there a percentage of projects that will be awarded in each roadmap/focus area?

A. No. There is no specific percentage of projects required to be awarded in any roadmap or focus area. We will try to limit any large amount of projects in one particular area but will not fund lesser qualified projects just to address a certain area. If no highly evaluated projects are submitted for certain areas, it is likely there will be no projects in that area awarded.

8. Q. What happens to purchased equipment after a project ends?

A. Title to equipment purchased with BPA funds will vest with the recipient; however, BPA may want to negotiate further usage rights with certain equipment. Title to equipment purchased with recipient funds will always stay vested with the recipient.

9. Q. Is there a requirement that research take place within the BPA region?

A. There is no requirement that projects take place within the region. However, all projects must show application to BPA and the region as they will be evaluated for specific benefits to BPA and the Pacific Northwest.

10. Q. Are stage gates required at multiple times throughout the project and during each subsequent year of a multiple year project?

A. Yes. Every project should have at least two stage gates per year, aligned with natural decision points in the project.

11. Q. Phase 1 and 2 requires references to be submitted for similar projects. How many are required and what if they are for different types of project work?

A. The maximum number of references to provide is three, and applicants are encouraged to provide references for any work they've done if prior work on similar topics is not available.

12. Q. May we submit an offer against the Physical Security or Energy Efficiency Roadmaps that were posted previously?

A. No. Applications will only be accepted for projects addressing this years Focus Areas or the Transmission Roadmap.



13. Q. Can principal investigators, organization project leaders, partners, or participants change or be added between the phase 1 and 2 applications?

A. Yes. Project team members and partners may change between Phase 1 and Phase 2, but the qualifications/experience of the parties provided in Phase 1 would be expected to be matched with any changes.



FOCUS AREA QUESTIONS

FOCUS AREA #1 – TRANSMISSION POWER FLOW CONTROLS

1. Q. What is the reference to 282 on p.4?

A. 282 is referencing the BPA Technology Innovation project number 282 which is titled *Transmission Power Flow Controls for Bulk Grid Optimization*. This project will test the hypotheses that a well planned transmission upgrade adding power flow controls to the main grid can provide an increase to operating transfer capability and total transfer capability, while maintaining or increasing reliability and operating flexibility, at a better benefit/cost ratio than a new line build addressing the same constraints. The final goal is to provide a list of projects that have tested results and are available for Transmission Planning to move into the Planning Process, as determined appropriate. The duration of the project is planned from 10/01/12 to 06/30/14.

The list of options referred to in the proposal guidance is a list of several locations on the BPA transmission grid to install power flow controls. Project 282 is currently performing simulation studies on those locations with theoretically installed power flow control devices. These locations and devices have been chosen by BPA based on traditional studies and experience. BPA is soliciting innovative optimization methods/algorithms/software/tools that could “uncover” or identify other valuable locations to place power flow controls that BPA would not identify using traditional studies and experience.

2. Q. Does the subject RFP, as explained in section C.2 Technology Innovation Focus Areas item 1 and / or item 2 disqualify visibility and reporting technologies from this specific RFP?

A. The focus areas item 1 and/or item 2 do not disqualify technologies that deliver grid intelligence and predictive fault reporting. For further proposal guidance about BPA research interest areas review the transmission technology roadmap located at www.bpa.gov/ti. In particular, pages 28-31 are specific to Intelligent Alarms.

FOCUS AREA #2 - SYNCHROPHASOR DATA INTELLIGENCE

1. Q. Will it be possible to get access to synchrophasor data sets during phase 1 and 2 of the proposal process?

A. At this time BPA is not able to provide this data or similar information during the application process.

FOCUS AREA #3 – DEMAND RESPONSE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

1. Q. What is the difference between an INC and a DEC?

A. DEC Resource: A generating plant or a Dispatchable Load that a Self-Supplying Entity has qualified as available to decrease generation or increase load at the request of the Self-Supplying Entity. An On Demand Resource may be qualified as a DEC Resource. From a demand side perspective, this is a dispatchable increase of load.

INC Resource: A generating plant or a Dispatchable Load that a Self-Supplying Entity has qualified as available to increase generation or drop load at the request of the Self-Supplying Entity. An On



Demand Resource may be qualified as an INC Resource. From a demand side perspective, this is a dispatchable decrease of load.

2. **Q. Will project applications be accepted that address items noted on pg. 9 (Pilots addressing Dispatchable INCs/DECs), or only pgs. 10-11 (TI Focus Areas 1-4)?**
 - A. Applicants may address demand response needs identified on pg 9 and/or the focus area topics identified on pgs. 10-11.

FOCUS AREA #4 – CLIMATE CHANGE STREAMFLOW MODELING

No questions.

FOCUS AREA #5 – HYDRO OPERATQION FORECASTING OF SINGULAR WEATHER USAGE READINGS AND REGIONAL LOADS

No questions.

TRANSMISSION ROADMAP QUESTIONS

No questions.