



Request for Information DE-FOA-0002819
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Request for Information (RFI) DE-FOA-0002819
Floating Offshore Wind Energy Mooring and Anchoring

DATE: October 18, 2022
SUBJECT: Request for Information (RFI)

Description

This is a Request for Information issued by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO), on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The intent of this RFI is to obtain public input regarding a potential new mooring and anchoring R&D program as well as the process and structure of a potential DOE award opportunity to fund research, development, demonstration and commercialization activities on floating offshore wind substructure mooring systems, materials, and components, in accordance with section 41007(b)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.¹ Specifically, this RFI seeks input on:

- Priority Mooring and Anchoring Research Questions and Data Needs
- Mooring and Anchoring Technology Development
- Mooring and Anchoring Supply Chain Development
- Potential Solicitation Process and Funding Opportunity Structure
- Equity, Environmental and Energy Justice (EEEJ) Priorities
- Market Adoption and Industry/Sector Sustainability

Information collected from this RFI may be used by DOE for planning purposes to develop a potential new R&D program and potential award opportunity. The information collected will not be published.

Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, State and local coalitions, labor unions, community-based organizations (CBOs),² other stakeholders, and Tribal councils on issues related to floating offshore wind substructure systems. DOE is specifically interested in information on mooring technologies and methods. In this RFI, "mooring technologies" means any equipment to permanently secure a full-scale floating support structure in position within a deep water (60m+) offshore wind

¹ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58 (November 15, 2021), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684>

² Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are public or private not-for-profit resource hubs that provide specific services to the community or targeted population within the community.

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energy array including mooring lines, anchors, and all associated components. DOE is seeking information on state-of-the-art and state of the practice. DOE is also seeking input on needs and aspirational targets to help meet deployment goals. DOE is additionally seeking input to prioritize research areas. This is solely a request for information and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). EERE is not accepting applications at this time.

BIL Background

On November 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which provides the backbone for a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy through enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the world, diversifying regional economies to include supply chain and manufacturing industries, creating good union jobs, and ensuring stronger access to economic and other benefits for underserved communities. The BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to DOE to ensure the clean energy future delivers true economic prosperity to the American people by:

- Investing in American manufacturing and workers, including good-paying jobs with the right to join a union, and effective workforce development to upskill incumbent and dislocated workers.
- Expanding access to energy efficiency and clean energy for families, communities, and businesses.
- Delivering reliable, clean, and affordable power to more Americans.
- Building the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

As part of this effort, section 41007(b)(1) of the BIL appropriated \$60 million to carry out activities under section 3003(b)(2) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 USC 16237(b)(2)) for the four-year period encompassing fiscal years (FYs) 2022 through 2025. Section 3003(b)(2) of the Energy Act of 2020 directs DOE to “carry out research, development, demonstration, and commercialization activities” on certain enumerated wind energy areas, including “floating substructure systems, materials, and components.” (42 USC 16237(b)(2)(B)(iv)(I)). As part of this directive, DOE is considering the issuance of an award opportunity that would allocate approximately \$2.5 million under this BIL provision to advance research, development, demonstration, and commercialization for floating offshore wind mooring systems and is seeking public comment on the most appropriate investment activities to accomplish that goal. This RFI is not a FOA and DOE is not accepting applications at this time. If DOE ultimately issues an award opportunity, the actual funding amount available for awards could be more or less.

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Successful research conducted through this potential funding opportunity would advance floating offshore wind energy systems toward cost-effective commercialization and industry scale-up. Floating offshore wind energy will be a key contributor to Federal and state offshore wind deployment targets and to supplying clean energy to coastal cities. DOE's Floating Offshore Wind Energy Shot³ seeks to harness untapped renewable energy potential above the sea, promote an equitable clean energy transition, and create jobs and economic opportunities for U.S. communities. This will support the Biden Administration's goal to achieve a carbon-free electric grid by 2035 and a net zero emissions economy by 2050.⁴

Principles of equity and justice will guide BIL implementation, consistent with the Biden Administration's commitments to ensure that overburdened, underserved, and underrepresented individuals and communities have access to federal resources pursuant to EO 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities; EO 14020, Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council; and EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Implementation efforts shall support the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative, or Justice40).⁵ Also these investments should not exacerbate existing inequalities, including disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and harms. Moreover, the BIL implementation process should advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Strengthening prosperity—by expanding good, safe union jobs and supporting job growth through investments in domestic manufacturing—is a key goal set by President Biden and is discussed in depth in his Executive Orders (EOs) on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers (EO 14005), Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (EO 14008), Worker Organizing and Empowerment (EO 14025), and Promoting Competition in the American Economy (EO 14036). The research and development activities to advance floating substructure systems, materials, and components will support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, the incorporation of strong labor

³ Floating Offshore Wind Shot <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/floating-offshore-wind-shot>

⁴ FACT SHEET: President Biden sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁵ The Justice40 initiative, established by E.O. 14008, establishes a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments should flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs). [DOE's definition of DACs disadvantaged communities, which should be used to determine benefits calculations, is available here](#). *This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.*

standards, and high-road workforce development, especially registered apprenticeship and quality pre-apprenticeship.^{6,7}

RFI Background

The mission of WETO, located within EERE, is to accelerate widespread U.S. deployment of clean, affordable, and reliable wind power to promote energy security, economic growth, and environmental quality. WETO is committed to supporting technological innovations that facilitate the growth of the domestic wind energy industry. For more information about WETO, please visit our website at <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/wind-energy-technologies-office>.

In contributing to the 2050 national net-zero greenhouse gas target, floating offshore wind energy developers are likely to face unprecedented technology, supply chain, and siting challenges. Mooring and anchoring systems for commercial scale floating offshore wind energy arrays must be safe, cost-effective, readily available, and deployed responsibly. Successful research conducted through this potential R&D program would reduce risk, lower cost, enable domestic supply chain, and improve coexistence of floating offshore wind energy arrays.

An offshore wind mooring and anchoring R&D program would support objectives from the recently announced Floating Offshore Wind Energy Shot to develop a robust domestic supply chain and reduce technology costs. About two-thirds of U.S. offshore wind energy potential

⁶ Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAPs) are a proven model of job preparation, registered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) or a DOL-recognized State Apprenticeship Agency, which employ workers and combine paid On-the-Job Learning (also referred to as On-the-Job Training) with Related Instruction to progressively increase workers' skill levels and wages. RAPs are also a business-driven model that provides an effective way for employers to recruit, train, and retain highly skilled workers. RAPs allow workforce partners, educators, and employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs, thereby increasing the quality of the workforce and workforce productivity. RAPs offer job seekers immediate employment opportunities that pay sustainable wages and offer advancement along a career path as they complete their training. Registered Apprentice graduates receive industry-recognized certificates of completion leading to long-term career opportunities. For more information on RAPs, please visit www.apprenticeship.gov.

⁷ DOL has developed a framework for Quality Pre-Apprenticeship Programs:

- Training and curriculum based on industry standards, approved by the Registered Apprenticeship sponsor with whom the pre-apprenticeship program is partnering. Strategies that increase Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged and under-represented individuals that will allow the participant to meet the entry requirements for a Registered Apprenticeship program upon completion. These involve:
 - » Strong recruitment efforts for populations under-represented in Registered Apprenticeship programs, and
 - » Educational and pre-vocational services that prepare participants to meet the minimum qualifications for entry into a Registered Apprenticeship program.

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exists over waters too deep for today's fixed-bottom wind turbine foundations, and instead require floating platforms. Floating offshore wind energy is key to transitioning dense population centers on our coasts to clean energy, and would also mean thousands of high-skilled, high-quality jobs in wind manufacturing, installation, and operations. The United States has a narrow window of opportunity to become a world leader in floating offshore wind energy system design, deployment, and manufacturing. Efforts under the Shot will also seek to benefit underserved communities and minimize impacts on ocean co-users and marine wildlife.

DOE's Draft Strategy for BIL Implementation

This section provides a high-level draft plan for DOE's current vision to meet the BIL requirements by potentially conducting a solicitation to advance floating offshore wind substructure systems, specifically mooring technologies, pursuant to Section 41007(b)(1) of the BIL. Please note this is a preliminary plan and it will likely evolve as DOE gathers feedback through the RFI and other stakeholder processes, if undertaken.

As part of establishing a potential floating offshore wind mooring and anchoring R&D program, DOE is considering the issuance of a funding opportunity under Section 41007(b)(1) of the BIL. For a potential BIL funding opportunity, DOE is considering four specific areas of interest: (1) compatible strategies for mooring, cabling, and coexistence; (2) mass-producible, high-reliability moorings; (3) novel station keeping components; and (4) monitoring and inspection systems for moorings. Consideration may also be given to combinations of these areas of interest and to other areas of floating offshore wind array mooring.

DOE is requesting information on potential roles, interests and perspectives of existing ocean users, disadvantaged communities, Tribal communities and communities with environmental justice concerns, and communities facing the transition away from fossil fuel economies, as well as labor unions and other key stakeholders. This would allow teams to gather input during the in-depth planning and design of the BIL implementation, including value proposition and benefits analyses, as well as the potential role of communities and community engagement throughout the project.

(1) Compatibility strategies for mooring, cabling, and coexistence

In this draft strategy, this area of interest would likely include collaboration with the fishing industry, other ocean users, ecologists, or other environmental experts to seek jointly developed approaches to subsea component configurations, technologies, and methods that maximize mutually beneficial opportunities for ocean co-use and minimize or offset impacts where needed.

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(2) Mass-producible, high-reliability moorings

The objective of this area of interest would be to enable domestic fabrication of mooring components at the scale needed to supply 500MW+ floating array projects. Cost-effective components would meet the load requirements of commercial scale floating offshore wind energy systems. The components and full systems would meet the reliability requirements of the industry.

(3) Novel stationkeeping systems and components

This area of interest would likely include research, development, demonstration, or commercialization of technology to reduce loads, prevent failures, decrease costs, improve performance, or increase the capacity of floating offshore wind energy mooring systems.

(4) Monitoring and inspection technologies for moorings

This area of interest would likely include developing sensor systems, remote inspection methods, maintenance strategies, data collection and data processing approaches that can better evaluate the health and reliability of subsea components within a maintenance scheme for commercial scale floating wind energy arrays.

Questions

The following is a list of questions on which DOE is requesting information and comment. In providing responses, please use the bolded Category numbers and sub-numbers as headings in your response to the greatest extent possible and refer to the questions (C1.1a, C2.12 etc.) in the body of your responses. This helps save time both for the responder and the reviewers. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

Specifically, DOE is requesting input on the following categories and questions:

Category 1: Priority Mooring and Anchoring Research Questions and Data Needs

This category is broad in scope and requests information on the highest priority mooring research and data that is most relevant to standing up a successful United States floating offshore wind energy industry. Respondents are encouraged to frame responses in the form of questions believed to be most crucial to furthering the goal of sustainable, equitable, and timely development of floating offshore wind energy. Responses also may provide insights into

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data gaps and assessments critical for addressing priority research questions. Please include explanation of why these research areas and data are high priority.

1. What are the highest priority mooring and anchoring research needs or specific research questions to be addressed by 2035?
2. What are the highest priority mooring and anchoring research needs to achieve the Floating Offshore Wind Energy Shot goal of reducing the cost of floating offshore wind energy by at least 70% to \$45 per megawatt-hour by 2035 for deep sites far from shore?
3. What research is needed to accelerate adoption of novel mooring components, materials, or methods that can lower costs or improve performance?
4. What research is needed to understand load conditions of floating wind energy mooring systems?
5. Under what conditions would technology vendors or offshore wind energy developers participate in mooring system field studies?
6. Under what conditions would technology vendors or offshore wind energy developers share data related to mooring systems?
7. What research is needed to improve the coexistence of floating offshore wind mooring systems with existing ocean users? (e.g., advancing strategies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts)
8. What research is needed to improve the coexistence of floating offshore wind mooring systems with marine life? (e.g., advancing strategies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts)
9. What mooring and anchoring research is needed to improve the likelihood of successfully permitting floating offshore wind projects in U.S. waters?
 - a. What known challenges require solutions?
 - b. What unknown effects are perceived as high risk?
10. What research is needed to inform industry standards and best practices for floating offshore wind mooring systems, including standards that enhance resilience to extreme weather events and other hazards?
11. What data, tools, or modeling practices have previously been applied to understanding floating offshore wind mooring systems, and are critical to future floating offshore wind research? Are there existing data relevant to floating offshore wind that have not yet been used in this context?
12. What relevant literature exists related to mooring and anchoring large offshore systems that may help address key gaps in foundational knowledge related to floating offshore wind energy mooring systems? Please provide information on this research as part of your response. Literature may include research focus areas with relevance to floating

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offshore wind systems including offshore oil and gas, aquaculture, maritime, marine spatial planning, or defense.

Category 2: Mooring and Anchoring Technology Development

This category requests information on mooring technology gaps.

13. What are the highest priority mooring and anchoring technology gaps to be addressed by 2035?
14. What innovative technologies and methods, potentially already used in other industries or internationally, are most applicable to U.S. floating offshore wind energy mooring systems?
15. What models, tools, and communication methods are most important to consider for improving technology development programs?
16. What technologies or methods will improve the coexistence of floating offshore wind mooring systems with existing ocean users?
17. What technologies or methods will improve the coexistence of floating offshore wind mooring systems with marine life?
18. What technologies or methods will improve the installation of mooring systems? What technologies or methods will improve the operation of connecting floating offshore wind hulls to their permanent mooring system?
19. What types of monitoring or inspection systems and tools need to be developed for mooring systems?
20. What types of systems and tools need to be developed to maintain or replace mooring components in operational wind arrays?
21. What technologies or methods will improve the operation of disconnecting and reconnecting floating offshore wind hulls from their permanent mooring system? What technologies or methods will improve the removal or decommissioning of mooring systems?
22. How should mooring systems integrate with other floating offshore wind energy subsystems (e.g., electrical power cables or turbine controls)?
23. What are the load capacities or structural properties of offshore mooring components available today? (e.g., strength, fatigue, stiffness properties)
24. What are the prices of offshore mooring components today? What are the installation and maintenance costs?
25. What is the design life of offshore mooring components?
26. What other metrics are important for floating offshore wind array mooring systems?
27. What aspirational 2035 targets should be set for mooring systems? Targets may include capacity, structural properties, price, installation or maintenance costs, installation rate,

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design life, or other considerations. How do you envision the industry achieving your recommended target?

28. What novel stationkeeping technology is under development for use in floating offshore wind arrays? What research is needed to advance that novel technology?
29. What type of demonstration is needed to validate a novel stationkeeping technology? (e.g., site conditions, adjacent subsystems, duration of test)
30. What novel stationkeeping technology is needed to reduce risk in floating systems?
31. What novel stationkeeping technology is needed to reduce cost in floating systems? Cost reductions may be achieved through a variety of objectives including—but not limited to— material reduction, using lower cost components, efficient installation techniques, reducing vessel requirements, lifetime extension, and increased energy production.

Category 3: Mooring and Anchoring Supply Chain Development

This category focuses on developing a domestic mooring supply chain that supports sustainable, equitable, cost-effective, and timely development of commercial scale floating offshore wind energy projects. Among other goals, the Floating Offshore Wind Energy Shot aims to establish the United States as a global manufacturing leader.

32. What are the highest priority mooring and anchoring supply chain gaps to be addressed by 2035?
33. What scale of production is needed to supply commercial scale floating wind energy plants?
34. What technologies or methods need to be developed to enable domestic production of high-quality mooring components to supply commercial scale floating wind energy plants?
35. What research and analyses are needed to inform infrastructure and manufacturing investments that support mooring system manufacturing, deployment, or operation?
36. What research and analyses are needed to inform workforce development or labor standards for mooring system manufacturing, deployment, and maintenance?
37. What existing workforce education and training efforts (e.g., specific registered apprenticeship programs, labor management training programs, community college or technical school programs, etc.) are preparing workers for this industry?
38. What infrastructure from existing industries, including offshore oil and gas, aquaculture, maritime, marine spatial planning, or defense, can be repurposed for floating offshore wind mooring system design, development, permitting, fabrication, installation, maintenance, or decommissioning?

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39. What skills from existing industries can transfer to floating offshore wind mooring system design, development, permitting, fabrication, installation, maintenance, or decommissioning?
 40. Please identify any iron, steel, manufactured goods, or construction materials that will be crucial for building out the floating offshore wind mooring systems that would not typically be procured domestically, and any potential barriers to domestic procurement, such as lack of availability or cost.
 41. What incentives/programs exist or can be put in place to encourage and foster U.S. manufacturing? What potential challenges or opportunities might exist to meet the new Buy American requirements in the BIL?⁸
 42. What information should be requested as part of the application process so that DOE can evaluate a project's potential for domestic manufacturing and export?

Category 4: Potential Solicitation Process and Funding Opportunity Structure

43. What activities or efforts can applicants conducting research under the proposed structure above contribute to the Administration's Justice40 initiative? How best can a technology R&D program support underserved communities and minority communities?
44. How best can a technology R&D program support creation of high-quality jobs and access to those jobs?
45. What environmental reviews and permitting challenges might floating offshore wind mooring R&D encounter? Where can approaches be developed and incentivized to reduce impact? Please provide examples of how community consultation, consent-based siting, and community benefits agreements or good neighbor agreements can successfully be included in the environmental and permitting review process.
46. Based on EAct 2005, Section 988, the cost share requirement for demonstration and commercial application projects is 50% cash and/or in-kind and must come from non-Federal resources (i.e., the total project cost includes both a 50% DOE share and a 50% recipient cost share). For example, a \$5M award will require \$2.5M in matching non-Federal cost share to the \$2.5M Federal share. Is it feasible for projects to meet this 50% cost share requirement on an invoice-by-invoice basis?
47. What types of cross-cutting support (e.g., technical assistance) would be valuable from the DOE/national laboratories, and/or from other federal agencies, to provide in project execution? Are there other entities that DOE could fund to provide technical assistance for the advancing floating offshore wind mooring systems?

⁸ New Buy American requirements are located in Division G – Other Authorizations; Title IX – Build America, Buy America of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Public Law 117-58, which was enacted into law on November 15, 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684>
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Category 5: Equity, Environmental and Energy Justice (EEEJ) Priorities

EEEJ principles and priorities will be central to the successful implementation of the BIL. Equity requires the consideration of existing barriers underserved and underrepresented individuals and communities face when accessing Federal resources. Environmental and energy justice principles include procedural justice, distributive justice, recognition justice, and restorative justice. BIL-funded projects are expected to contribute to the President's goal that 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative). It is not expected that every project will meet or exceed the goal, but will at least contribute in some manner. EEEJ elements are prioritized in project selection as part of DOE's implementation of Justice40 and as required by statute (42 USC 16237(b)(2)(C)).

Equity:

Ensuring that traditionally underserved populations, including Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American people, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural or remote areas; persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), MSIs, and Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), have access to Departmental programs and opportunities.

48. What information do communities, State governments, other stakeholders or Tribal governments need to engage with the Department on floating offshore wind mooring systems?
49. What organizations, universities, or communities should the Department consider partnering with to develop floating offshore wind mooring systems?
50. What are the key equity-aligned review criteria that DOE should use to evaluate and select floating offshore wind mooring system award recipients?

Environmental Justice and Energy Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys: (1) the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and (2) equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice).

Energy justice refers to the goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic

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participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those disproportionately harmed by the energy system. Initiative for Energy Justice (2019).

Procedural Justice

51. How can mooring system research activities ensure community-based stakeholders/organizations are engaged and included in the planning, decision-making, and implementation processes (e.g., including community-based organizations on the program/project/activity team)?
52. What barriers exist, if any, for deeper economic and other engagement with communities impacted by floating offshore wind energy mooring systems?

Distributive Justice

53. Please describe any issues that should be addressed to enable the equitable implementation of the floating offshore wind mooring system research, development, demonstration, and commercialization under Section 41007(b) of the BIL including the following: fishing industry coexistence, concerns of other ocean users and coastal communities, environmental and energy justice.
54. What equity, energy and environmental justice concerns or priorities are most relevant for mooring system research, development, demonstration, and commercialization? How have/can these concerns or priorities been/be addressed?
55. How are adverse impacts of floating offshore wind mooring systems currently measured or monitored, and which materials/processes/components result in the largest environmental impact? What opportunities exist to minimize impacts?
56. Describe possible human health, environmental or ecological considerations, both positive and negative (e.g., are there any air quality impacts, sensitive ecosystems, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues, environmental justice communities, other considerations) in connection with implementation of this provision.

Recognition Justice

57. What factors should be considered when identifying and selecting the location of mooring system research, development, demonstration, and commercialization (e.g., economic considerations, policy considerations, environmental and energy justice considerations, geology, workforce availability and skills, relevant infrastructure, industry partners, minority-serving institutions (MSIs), minority-owned businesses, regional-specific resources, security of supply, climate risk, etc.)?

Category 6: Market Adoption and Industry Sustainability

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58. What role/actions can DOE take to support reliable supply and demand for potential producers and customers relevant to floating offshore wind mooring systems?
 59. What role/actions can DOE take to support transition of skills from existing industries to floating offshore wind mooring systems?
 60. If DOE asks for a market analysis as part of the application process, what should the analysis include so that DOE can be confident that a proposed project will be successful?
 61. What can DOE provide/do that would be helpful to a project to facilitate its collaborations with potential financing partners?
 62. How can DOE support the applicants in working together to increase competitiveness and scale?
 63. The DOE's goal is for the clean energy technology to be sustainable beyond the BIL funding (i.e., without additional government funding). How should the solicitation and project (once awarded) be structured to ensure this outcome?

Category 7: Other

64. Please provide any additional information or input not specifically requested in the questions above that you believe would be valuable to help DOE develop a potential floating offshore wind mooring and anchoring program, including any specific criteria that DOE may take into consideration in implementing Section 41007(b)(1) of the BIL.

Disclaimer and Important Notes

This RFI is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA); therefore, EERE is not accepting applications at this time. EERE may issue a FOA in the future based on or related to the content and responses to this RFI; however, EERE may also elect not to issue a FOA. There is no guarantee that a FOA will be issued as a result of this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential applicants if EERE chooses to issue a FOA regarding the subject matter. Final details, including the anticipated award size, quantity, and timing of EERE funded awards, will be subject to Congressional appropriations and direction.

Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. EERE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request. EERE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that EERE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind EERE to any further actions related to this topic.

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Confidential Business Information

Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or hand delivery two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked “confidential” including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked “non-confidential” with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email, if feasible. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

Evaluation and Administration by Federal and Non-Federal Personnel

Federal employees are subject to the non-disclosure requirements of a criminal statute, the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC 1905. The Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The respondents, by submitting their response, consent to EERE providing their response to non-Federal parties. Non-Federal parties given access to responses must be subject to an appropriate obligation of confidentiality prior to being given the access. Submissions may be reviewed by support contractors and private consultants.

Request for Information Response Guidelines

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to WindEnergyRFI@ee.doe.gov no later than 5:00pm (ET) on December 19. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) or PDF attachment to the email, and no more than 10 pages in length, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted.

For ease of replying and to aid categorization of your responses, **please copy and paste the RFI questions, including the question numbering, and use them as a template for your response.**

Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

EERE will not respond to individual submissions or publish publicly a compendium of responses. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

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- Company / institution name
 - Company / institution contact
 - Contact's address, phone number, and e-mail address.

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