

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001370

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0001371

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Technology-to-Market Team in the Office of Strategic Programs, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Solar Decathlon Program Administrator and College Team Selection.” Please note that no applications will be accepted through this Notice of Intent.

The planned FOA will support the Obama administration’s commitment to improving the nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education efforts, and to building a more knowledge-intensive workforce. The Department of Energy (DOE) and EERE are eager to create and support education and workforce development programs that are specific to applied energy, and are essential to carrying out DOE’s mission and advancing energy technologies for the future.

The Solar Decathlon is a high-profile DOE-branded education and workforce development program for university-level students. The two-year program culminates in a competition among 20 solar-powered, high efficiency houses designed and built by multidisciplinary collegiate teams. The competition also serves as a public demonstration of EERE technologies. It promotes energy efficiency and increases awareness about residential energy use, fostering greater adoption of clean energy technologies. The competition demonstrates that an aesthetically beautiful and well-designed house can generate enough thermal and electrical energy to meet the needs of a single-family household. Held bi-annually since 2002—first in Washington, D.C. and then in Irvine, California—65,000-100,000 people visit the Solar Decathlon to tour the houses and see student teams’ use of EERE technologies in action. More information about past Solar Decathlons is available at <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>.

Under Topic 1 of the planned two-topic FOA, DOE intends to select one recipient to receive \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 to organize, manage, and conduct the Solar Decathlon competitions in 2017 and 2019. This Solar Decathlon Program Administrator will disperse \$2,000,000 in prize money to the selected 2017 competitors. Under Topic 2 of the planned FOA, DOE intends to select 20 new collegiate teams to enter the 2017 Solar Decathlon and compete for the \$2,000,000 in prizes.

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. EERE may issue a FOA as described herein, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or EERE may not issue a FOA at all.

It is anticipated that the FOA may include the following Areas of Interest:

Topic 1: Solar Decathlon Program Administrator Selection

DOE intends to select one recipient to organize, manage, and conduct the Solar Decathlon competitions in 2017 and 2019. This includes identifying and providing the competition location/venue, soliciting sponsorships, hosting the competitions, awarding prize money to the competitors, and promoting the mission and goals of DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy through educational programs and outreach. A key near-term requirement will be to identify a new location/venue for the Solar Decathlon.

The successful Program Administrator applicant will promote the educational, economic, and energy security benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy by demonstrating that the technology can be deployed effectively in the host community and elsewhere. By showcasing EERE technologies, this event should help launch additional workforce development and renewable energy activities both nationally and in the area that hosts the Decathlon. In addition to increasing public awareness, this event should stimulate the local economy by attracting visitors to the event.

Topic 2: Solar Decathlon Team Selection

The planned Funding Opportunity Announcement will seek up to 20 collegiate teams to compete in the Solar Decathlon competition. The challenge to the teams competing in the Solar Decathlon is, in less than 24 months, to safely and effectively design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The winner of the competition is the team that best blends affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. There is no financial assistance provided for selected applicants under Topic 2. Prizes will be awarded to the Teams completing the competition as described below.

DOE is inviting collegiate teams of creative designers and innovators to enter the competition. For the first time in a Solar Decathlon competition, DOE intends to offer monetary prizes. For the Solar Decathlon 2017, DOE will award up to \$2,000,000 in prizes to teams that are selected to participate via the FOA, and that bring an eligible house to the Solar Decathlon competition. The prizes will be awarded to the same 20 lead organizational entities that submit applications to DOE under Topic 2 and are selected by DOE to compete.

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The structure of the Solar Decathlon 2017 minimum prize purse is:

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

The Prize money is open to all collegiate teams in the United States and around the world, but the focus is on design solutions for the United States. For more information about the competition, please visit <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>.

EERE envisions making one financial assistance award in the form of a cooperative agreement under Topic 1. Under Topic 2, EERE anticipates selecting 20 teams to participate in the Solar Decathlon, and to compete for its prize money. There will be no financial assistance to teams under Topic 2. The estimated period of performance for the Solar Decathlon Program Administrator Selection (Topic 1) award will be approximately four years. The estimated period of performance for the Solar Decathlon Teams (Topic 2) award will be approximately two years.

This Notice serves to make interested parties aware of EERE's intention to issue the "Solar Decathlon Program Administrator and College Team Selection" FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA in late August 2015 via the EERE Exchange website (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>). If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this planned FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are 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. Submit questions about registering and using EERE Exchange to EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.

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

Please note that no applications will be accepted through this NOI. Please do not submit questions or respond to this NOI. Prospective applicants to the planned FOA should begin developing partnerships, formulating ideas, and gathering data in anticipation of the issuance of this FOA. It is anticipated that this FOA will be posted to the EERE Exchange website in late August 2015.