GFO-18-502

Natural Gas Infrastructure Safety and Integrity Seismic Risk Assessment and Enhanced Training
California Energy Commission
Pre-Application Workshop: January 10, 2019

Pre-Application Questions, Answers, and Clarifications

State of California
California Energy Commission
http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html
Please note that where an answer mentions certain requirements, those requirements are in addition to all other requirements in the GFO.

Administrative/General

1. **Q:** Do sub awardees need to be registered with the secretary of state?
   
   **A:** Subcontractors who will be working in California are required to register with California Secretary of State. In addition, any subcontractors registered with the California Secretary of State must be in good standing. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Office via its website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

2. **Q:** What is the minimum match funds required for the five points?
   
   **A:** The minimum amount of match funds committed in the proposal in order for applicants to receive the five points is dependent on the amount of PIER Natural Gas funds being requested. Applicants should go to Section IV. F – Application Scoring of the Solicitation Manual for the breakdown of points and requirement for this criterion.

3. **Q:** Is a hard copy required if the application is submitted electronically?
   
   **A:** No, you can submit the application either electronically or by mailing hard copy.

4. **Q:** I’d like to confirm if the indirect cost rate for this GFO is 25%? (from a UC)
   
   **A:** We interpret your question as asking about the University of California’s negotiated indirect cost rate. The negotiated rate for indirect costs between the California Energy Commission and the University of California is 25%. Please refer to the University of California terms and conditions, at [http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/pier.html#terms](http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/pier.html#terms).

5. **Q:** Are points awarded for inclusion of women owned businesses and/or small businesses?
   
   **A:** Preference points are not awarded to small businesses or women owed businesses for this grant solicitation.

6. **Q:** Are points awarded for performing part of the work in a disadvantaged community?
   
   **A:** A project is eligible for additional points if all test or demonstration sites are located in disadvantaged communities as identified by CalEnviroScreen 3.0 or later and the applicant justifies how the project will benefit the disadvantaged community.

7. **Q:** Do funds spent by in-state workers on out of state costs (airfare, hotel, food, and car rental) count as “funds spent in California”?


8. **Q:** Does the CEC have a way to put the various experts required for this solicitation in contact with each other so they could team-up and provide technically stronger and broader applications?

**A:** The Energy Commission has created a user-driven LinkedIn group page to help potential applicants connect, collaborate, and partner on proposals for research funding opportunities. Participants may subscribe to the “California Energy Commission Networking Hub” by clicking on this link [https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6925861/profile](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6925861/profile) or searching LinkedIn. By subscribing you can connect with new colleagues and peers. We strongly encourage you to team up with other experts to develop a broad range of expertise and address the major problems more completely.

**Group 1: Seismic Risk Assessment and Management of Natural Gas Storage and Pipeline Infrastructure**

9. **Q:** The scope includes a wide range of infrastructures for the gas including distribution lines, transmission lines and storage. Are the proposals required to cover all the three areas or are proposals requesting less funds allowed to focus on a specific area such as pipelines, without really addressing the others? Could one entity for example, cover underground storage and another entity cover aboveground?

**A:** All proposals meeting the screening criteria will be considered and evaluated by the scoring committee. Proposals are not required to cover all areas. However, this is a competitive solicitation and proposals addressing all areas of existing infrastructure may be evaluated more favorably.

10. **Q:** There are two distinct sides to this solicitation. Bringing to bear the best seismic science to understand what happens in an earthquake event, and then there is the synthesis of that seismic science information into how it impacts a natural gas infrastructure where there are many interacting threads [threats]. That’s a very complicated task to do and they are completely separate in terms of the kinds of effort to bring to bear a good solution which is usable to the end user. Where is the balance or the preponderance of the weight in the proposal? On the seismic science area, or synthesizing the information from the seismic sciences into providing a useful tool or set of tools?

**A:** There is no requirement on balance between seismic science and synthesis of seismic information. However, competitive proposals should demonstrate depth of expertise in both seismic risk assessment and natural gas infrastructure, show how the infrastructure is impacted...
by seismic activities based on thorough analysis, and suggest methods to mitigate or prevent hazards.

11. Q: Would the CEC consider a more geologically focused proposal to map and characterize the subsurface and surface faults in all of California's gas storage fields, surface gas pipelines fault crossings, and debris flow and landslide hazards? This proposed work would locate and determine the activity (history) of the various geologic hazards to the natural gas system in the subsurface and on the surface. As you know identification and characterization of hazards is the first, and often the most important, phase of a complete impact, risk, and mitigation analysis of systems and facilities.

A: Successful proposals should validate the risk assessment and management model in real world situations, by using data collected from pipeline/storage facilities located in California and data representing the geological features of the locations. Mapping and characterizing faults may provide useful data for model validation, but are not the main purpose of this solicitation.

Group 2: Enhanced Training and Tools for CPUC Inspectors

12. Q: The audience for the training and those who are going to use and receive the final product are the CPUC supervisors and inspectors. Would that also include as a deliverable a training for other utilities and other stakeholders, or is it only focused on the CPUC?

A: The goal is to provide training and tools for CPUC engineers and inspectors. There could be benefits to others, such as as the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and the utilities. Applicants may develop a solution that would expand the user base, but the applicant should ensure that the project meets the CPUC’s needs first.

13. Q: Is it a requirement to have the broader audience (DOGGR and utilities)?

A: It is not a requirement to have the broader audience, but it may be an advantage to have the broader audience. The more deployable the product, the more successful the project would be. Please see Answer 12 above.

14. Q: Would you entertain proposals for Group 2 that address improvements to pipeline NDE inspection tools requesting less than the stated minimum of $1M? I imagine that this would require funding multiple projects for Group 2 (as opposed to funding only one project as it currently appears from the Funding table in the solicitation). Is that an option?

A: For this competitive solicitation, applicants should address the primary needs highlighted in the solicitation manual. Applications that request funds outside the minimum or maximum range will be scored down. Please refer to Section IV.F - Scoring Criterion #5: Budget and Cost-Effectiveness.