

(2) Address the program priorities for the particular program competition;

(3) Address an important problem or need;

(4) Represent an improvement upon, or important departure from, existing practice;

(5) Involve learner-centered improvements;

(6) Achieve far-reaching impact through improvements that will be useful in a variety of ways and in a variety of settings; and

(7) Increase the cost-effectiveness of services.

(b) *Feasibility.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its feasibility by determining the extent to which—

(1) The proposed project represents an appropriate response to the problem or need addressed;

(2) The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) The applicant's understanding of the problem or need;

(ii) The quality of the project design, including objectives, approaches, and evaluation plan;

(iii) The adequacy of resources, including money, personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies;

(iv) The qualifications of key personnel who would conduct the project; and

(v) The applicant's relevant prior experience;

(3) The applicant and any other participating organizations are committed to the success of the proposed project, as evidence by, for example—

(i) Contribution of resources by the applicant and by participating organizations;

(ii) Their prior work in the area; and

(iii) The potential for continuation of the proposed project beyond the period of funding (unless the project would be self-terminating); and

(4) The proposed project demonstrates potential for dissemination to or adaptation by other organizations, and shows evidence of interest by potential users.

(c) *Appropriateness of funding projects.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether support of the proposed project by the Secretary is appropriate in terms of availability of other funding sources for the proposed activities.

In accordance with 630.32, the Secretary announces the methods that will be used in applying the selection criteria.

The Secretary gives equal weight to the selection criteria on significance, feasibility, and appropriateness. Within

each of these criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the subcriteria listed above. In applying the criteria, the Secretary first analyzes a preapplication or application in terms of each individual criterion and subscription. The Secretary then bases the final judgment of an application on an overall assessment of the degree to which the applicant addresses all selection criteria.

#### For Applications or Information Contact

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: (202) 708-5750 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, to order applications or for information. Individuals may request applications by submitting their name and postal mailing address to the e-mail address #FIPSE@ED.GOV. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135a-3.

Dated: March 20, 1995.

**David A. Longanecker,**  
*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

#### Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI); Presolicitation Conference on Draft Statement of Work for the Regional Educational Laboratories Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of presolicitation conference on draft statement of work for the Regional Educational Laboratories Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Educational Research and Improvement will conduct

a pre-proposal conference to discuss a draft of the proposed statement of work to guide the activities of the regional educational laboratories during the 1995-2000 contract period. At this time the Office of Educational Research and Improvement wishes to offer both potential sources and parties interested in the work of the regional educational laboratories an opportunity to review a draft of the proposed statement of work and to attend a meeting to discuss the content of that statement of work prior to issuance of a Request for Proposal.

**MEETING INFORMATION:** The conference will be held on April 12, 1995, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the auditorium of the General Services Administration Regional Office Building, Seventh and D Streets SW., Washington DC (entrance on the D Street side). Persons unable to attend the conference who wish to provide comments on the draft statement of work may submit those comments by telefax or mail no later than April 26 to the contact listed below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 31, 1994 President Clinton signed Pub. L. 103-227, Goals 2000: Educate America Act. Title IX of that legislation, known as the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994, includes new authorizing legislation for the Regional Educational Laboratory program which will be implemented through the recompetition of the regional educational laboratories. The laboratory competition will be announced later this fiscal year, with awards to be made in fiscal year 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laverne Reddick, U.S. Department of Education, Grants and Contracts Service, 7th and D Streets SW., GSA Building, ROB-3, Room 3660, Washington, DC 20202-4724. Telephone: (202) 708-8222. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

The draft document is available on bulletin board at (202) 260-9950 which is an 8 data, 1 stop, no parity bulletin board. The document will be listed under the "OERI Regional Educational Laboratories" menu. Questions regarding only the electronic bulletin board should be telephoned to George Wagner at (202) 708-7811. Those who cannot interact electronically or telefax (202) 260-0525 for a copy of this document should write to the U.S. Department of Education, Grants and

Contracts Service, 7th and D Streets, SW., GSA Building, ROB-3, Room 3660, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-4724, Attention: Laverne Reddick, Contract Specialist.

Dated: March 20, 1995.

**Sharon P. Robinson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 95-7282 Filed 3-23-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy/Renewable Energy Commercialization—Geothermal Power**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office.

**ACTION:** Solicitation for Financial Assistance: Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy/Renewable Energy Commercialization—Geothermal Power.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Public Law 93-577, Federal Non-nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974; Public Law 93-410, Geothermal Energy Research, Development and Demonstration; and Section 2306 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT); the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for cost-shared research, development and demonstration of geothermal power. A minimum 50% non-federal cost share for the project is required. This notice is solicitation document DE-PS07-95ID13349.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Hallum, Contract Specialist, telephone (208) 526-5545, facsimile (208) 526-5548. The Contracting Officer is Brad Bauer, (208) 526-0090.

**DATES:** The effective date of this solicitation is March 24, 1995. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3 p.m. MDT, May 16, 1995. Late applications will be handled in accordance with 10 CFR 600.13.

Prospective applicants should request the application package by March 30, 1995 (which includes necessary forms, assurances and certifications), by writing to the DOE Contract Specialist. Facsimile requests are authorized. Questions regarding this solicitation should be submitted in writing to the DOE Contract Specialist no later than April 10, 1995. Questions and answers will be issued in writing as an amendment to this solicitation. Preproposal conferences may be available if a sufficient number of

applicants request one. Preproposal conference requests should be made no later than April 10, 1995.

DOE anticipates that this solicitation will result in the award of one or more cooperative agreements. Substantial involvement by DOE is anticipated. Selections for negotiations are expected to be made on or about June 28, 1995. All awards are expected to be made prior to September 30, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications shall be submitted to: Procurement Services Division; Attention: SOL DE-PS07-95ID13349 (Hallum/Bauer); U.S. DOE, Idaho Operations Office; 850 Energy Drive, MS 1221; Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.087.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects entered into by both the public and private sectors are the cornerstone of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy. The purpose of various Energy Partnerships programs is to strengthen the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In support of this objective, DOE, in collaboration with the geothermal industry and the electric utilities, has developed an initiative for furthering the commercialization of geothermal power. A primary strategy of the initiative is the acceleration of geothermal development through cost-shared projects.

This solicitation requests applications from industry for one or more collaborative efforts to support the development of new geothermal power generation. These efforts are to promote the commercialization of this energy source, and result in a near-term increase in the amount of electrical power generated from geothermal energy for sale to an end user in the United States. The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Utility Technologies will provide \$800,000 in funding for one or more projects. The DOE funds may be utilized only for activities directly related to the applicant's power plant. Applications are solicited which will result in the sale in the United States of new electrical power generated from geothermal energy by the end of 1997.

**Objectives**

The objectives of this solicitation are to promote the commercialization of geothermal energy for the production of electrical power, and to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in the United States. By accomplishing these

objectives, it is anticipated that jobs will be created and that the nation's geothermal industry will be better positioned to compete and win in the global marketplace. The sale of the new power generated by the cost-shared project(s) and further growth of the geothermal industry will off-set the use of fossil fuels to generate electrical power, thereby reducing the nation's emissions of greenhouse gases.

**Priorities**

To promote the commercialization of geothermal energy, DOE's geothermal power initiative identified the utilization of previously undeveloped geothermal resources and the use of innovative technologies in power plants to convert the geothermal energy to electrical power as specific areas for emphasis in the solicitation of applications for new geothermal power capacity.

**Scope**

All applications that can demonstrate an existing or pending sales agreement for the power generated, and result in a net increase in geothermal power generation, will be accepted and considered. Applications that address either of the following two areas will receive a higher technical ranking than applications that utilize currently developed geothermal resources and/or conventional power plant energy conversion system technologies.

1. Installation of a plant that initiates the commercial power production from a new geothermal resource, accelerating the development of this new resource.

2. Retrofitting existing plants and/or constructing new plants to incorporate innovative improvements in power plant technology that will increase power generation from geothermal resources.

In order to differentiate from the expansion of an existing resource, for the purpose of this solicitation, a new geothermal resource is the first utilization of a geothermal reservoir for the production of electrical power.

The application(s) selected for award will be subject to the quarterly reporting requirements normally associated with DOE financial assistance awards. If the selected application uses an innovative power plant technology, the quarterly Technical Progress Report shall contain data and calculations which detail the performance of this technology during the progress reporting period. Any other use of the technology by the geothermal industry is also to be reported. If the selected application is the first production of power from a new geothermal resource, the quarterly