

for financial and technical support through this competitive solicitation process. Additionally, DOE will provide awardees with non-financial support by assisting them with business development and commercialization planning through a network of national and regional resource providers.

This grant program is managed by the DOE Golden Field Office in support of OIT. The following OIT focus industries, dominant energy users and waste generators in the U.S. manufacturing sector, are of particular interest to this program: Agriculture, Aluminum, Chemicals, Forest Products, Glass, Metalcasting, Mining, Petroleum, and Steel. Emphasis will be placed on funding inventions consistent with OIT focus industries' visions and roadmap documents. Please visit the OIT website at www.oit.doe.gov for the vision/roadmap of each focus industry. While emphasis will be given to industrial manufacturing technologies with a focus on the target sectors identified previously, applications that are within the overall Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) transportation, buildings and power missions and areas of concern will also be considered for award. Please refer to www.eren.doe.gov for additional information on each EERE sector.

DOE will provide financial assistance for two categories of projects. The first category (Category 1) will fund up to \$40,000 per award for applications which fall within the first two stages of development (conceptual and technical feasibility). United States individual inventors, small businesses (profit or not-for-profit with less than 500 employees), universities, and not for profit research institutes may apply for Category 1 Applications. The second category (Category 2) will fund up to \$200,000 per award for applications which fall within the last two stages of development (development and commercial validation or demonstration). U.S. individual inventors and small businesses (profit or not-for-profit with less than 500 employees) may apply for Category 2 Applications. A "U.S. individual inventor" is an inventor who retains U.S. citizenship. A "U.S. business" is either (i) a corporation that is incorporated in the U.S. and whose parent company (if applicable) is not of foreign origin; or (ii) a business entity, other than a corporation, that is owned substantially by U.S. citizens. Individual inventors and very small businesses (15 or fewer employees) are especially encouraged to participate. DOE laboratories are not eligible to

receive DOE funding as an awardee or subawardee in this program.

The awards will be made through a competitive process. Each award may cover a project period of up to two (2) years for Category 1 Applications and three (3) years for Category 2 Applications. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the proposals submitted in response to this notice.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on May 14, 1999.

Beth H. Peterman,

Acting Chief, Procurement, Golden Field.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Technology Center; Notice of Intent To Issue a Federal Assistance Solicitation (PS)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue a PS No. DE-PS26-99FT40497 entitled "Novel Methods for Natural Gas Upgrading." The PS will solicit the submission of innovative techniques, systems, and processes to assist industry in demonstration and implementation in order to develop economic natural gas upgrading technologies in order to raise low-quality raw natural gas to pipeline quality. Through this solicitation DOE is seeking to support projects that are demonstrating and implementing new and innovative techniques for natural gas upgrading. Specifically, the objective of the procurement is to target, but not be limited to, the removal of nitrogen, water, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide from on-shore and off-shore (continental United States) low quality natural gas and associated gas reservoirs, including coal beds and landfill locations. DOE realizes that considerable advances have been made with the application of membranes for natural gas upgrading, and plans to select projects that demonstrate and implement new processes to include, but not be limited to, chemical solvents, membranes, or complexing agents with membrane technology to be applied mainly to associated gas for recovery of natural gas liquids.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on DOE/FETC's Internet address at <http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business>. Prospective offerors who would like to be notified as soon as the solicitation is

available should register at <http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/index.html>. Provide your e-mail address and click on the "Oil and Gas" technology choice located under the heading "Fossil Energy." Once you subscribe, you will receive an announcement by e-mail that the solicitation has been released to the public. Telephone requests, written requests, e-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will not be accepted and/or honored. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

ADDRESSES: Acquisition and Assistance Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raymond R. Jarr, Contract Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880; Telephone 304/285-4088.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE anticipates multiple cooperative agreement awards resulting from this solicitation and no fee or profit will be paid to a Recipient or subrecipient under the awards. Solicitations will not be distributed in paper form or on diskette. It is anticipated that the solicitation will be available on or about June 4, 1999. The exact date and time for the submission of proposals will be indicated in the solicitation. However, at least a thirty day response time is currently planned. It is DOE's desire to encourage the widest participation included the involvement of individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations, small and small disadvantaged businesses, educational institutions, and state or local governments or other entities. This particular program is covered by Section 3001 and 3002 of the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct), 42 U.S.C. 13542 for financial assistance awards. EPAAct 3002 requires a cost share commitment of 20 percent from non-Federal sources for research and development (Phase I of the project) and 50 percent from non-Federal sources for demonstration (Phase II of the project). The Government's obligation under this award is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for award purposes can be made.

Issued: May 18, 1999.

Raymond R. Jarr,

Contract Specialist, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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