

of findings prior to implementing the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on January 5, 2000.

**James L. Elmore,**

*Alternative Oak Ridge Operations, National Environmental Policy Act, Compliance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Golden Field Office; Supplemental Announcement to the Broad Based Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; University Photovoltaic Research, Education, and Collaboration**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Supplemental announcement 05 to the broad based solicitation for submission of financial assistance applications involving research, development and demonstration DE-PS36-00GO10482.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, is announcing its intention to solicit applications for advancing crystalline silicon solar cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. A financial assistance award issued as a result of this Supplemental Announcement will be a cooperative agreement.

**DATES:** DOE expects to issue the Supplemental Announcement in late January 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Supplemental Announcement, once issued, can be obtained from the Golden Field Office Home page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicitations.html>. It is DOE's intention not to issue hard copies of the Solicitation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE is soliciting Applications from accredited colleges or universities for the advancement of crystalline silicon solar cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. A goal of DOE's National Photovoltaics Program is the advancement of solar photovoltaic energy as a significant electrical energy source for the United States. To achieve this goal, the Department of Energy will support advanced and applied research in crystalline silicon cell technology through a University Research, Education, and Collaboration Program (Program). The Department of Energy

has supported crystalline silicon cell research through the Center of Excellence for Photovoltaics Research and Education in Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The purpose of this Supplemental Announcement is to solicit accredited educational institutions to develop a program to further advance crystalline silicon cell technology. The objectives of the University Research, Education, and Collaboration Program are: to advance the state of technology in crystalline silicon solar cells through research and development; to verify advances in crystalline silicon technology through solar cell fabrication and testing; to educate and train undergraduate and graduate students through courses and laboratory experience; and to collaborate with U.S. crystalline cell manufacturers for improving manufacturing processes, product performance, and cost.

Applications under this Supplemental Announcement must demonstrate the capabilities, commitment, and resources necessary to advance crystalline silicon cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. The ability of the Applicant to fabricate high-efficiency cells on commercial silicon substrates, reduce cell processing time, develop low-cost fabrication processes with the potential for high-throughput, and fabricate silicon cells with highly effective bulk and surface passivation will be major factors in selecting an application for award.

Successful Applications must demonstrate technology transfer through collaboration with industry and advance the understanding of crystalline silicon solar technology through education. As part of the proposed Program, Applicants are discouraged from forming exclusive business relationships or collaborative arrangements with any solar cell manufacturer(s). Technical support and assistance will be provided through the Department of Energy's National Laboratories. Therefore, financial support of DOE's National Laboratories through a particular Application will not be considered.

Only Applications from accredited colleges or universities will be considered for an award. Educational organizations are not subject to the eligibility requirements of EPAct. However, to be eligible for award, the project must be determined to be in the economic interest of the United States. (See the Broad Based Solicitation, DE-PS36-00GO10482, Section II.F, EPAct Eligibility Requirements.)

An award under this Supplemental Announcement will be a Cooperative Agreement with a term of up to five years. Subject to funding availability, the total DOE funding anticipated for this Supplemental Announcement is \$2,500,000 or \$500,000 per year. The DOE anticipates selecting one application for award under this Supplemental Announcement. No cost share is required in order to be considered for an award under this solicitation. However, cost share will be considered in selecting an application for an award. Solicitation Number DE-PS36-00GO10482, in conjunction with Supplemental Announcement 05, will include complete information on the program including technical aspects, funding, application preparation instructions, application evaluation criteria, and other factors that will be considered when selecting projects for funding. Responses to the Supplemental Announcement will be due approximately 60 days following issuance of the Supplemental Announcement.

Questions should be submitted in writing to: Ruth E. Adams, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393; transmitted via facsimile to Ruth E. Adams at (303) 275-4788; or electronically to [ruth\\_adams@nrel.gov](mailto:ruth_adams@nrel.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth E. Adams, Contracting Officer, at 303-275-4722, e-mail [ruth\\_adams@nrel.gov](mailto:ruth_adams@nrel.gov).

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on January 6, 2000.

**Jerry L. Zimmer,**

*Procurement Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Reimbursement for Costs of Remedial Action at Active Uranium and Thorium Processing Sites**

**AGENCY:** Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of the acceptance of claims and the availability of funds for reimbursement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Department of Energy's acceptance of claims for reimbursement. Approximately \$30 million in funds for fiscal year 2000 are available for reimbursement of certain costs of remedial action at eligible active uranium and thorium processing sites pursuant to Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.