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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margo Gorin, Contract Specialist, at go_1&l@nrel.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Solicitation Specifications

Eligibility requirements include the following: (1) Individuals that are U.S. citizens, either native-born or naturalized; (2) small businesses (as defined by the Small Business Administration) that are U.S. owned, as defined in 10 CFR Part 600.501; or (3) institutions of higher learning located in the U.S. Individual inventors and very small businesses (15 or fewer employees) are especially encouraged to participate. More than one application may be submitted by an applicant for different innovations. However, funding will be limited to one award per applicant, per cycle. Also more than one organization may be involved in an application as long as the lead organization and lead financial assistance management responsibilities are defined. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to the I&I Program is 81.036. Cost sharing by applicants and/or cooperating participants is not required but highly encouraged. In addition to direct financial contributions, cost sharing can include beneficial services or items such as manpower, equipment, consultants, and computer time that are allowable in accordance with applicable cost principles.

The Golden Field Office has been assigned the responsibility of issuing the solicitation and administering the awards. Ideas that have a significant energy savings impact and future commercial market potential are chosen for financial support through the competitive solicitation process. The I&I Program will provide financial assistance of up to \$40,000 for Category 1 and up to \$200,000 for Category 2 to applications that fall within the "conceptual" and "developmental" stages of development, respectively. To be considered for a Category 2 award, a bench-scale model and/or other preliminary investigations must be complete. Each award may cover a project period of up to one year for Category 1 and up to two years for Category 2. In addition to financial assistance, the I&I Program offers technical guidance and commercialization support to successful applicants through the Resource Centers for Innovation (RCI).

A selection of former projects funded by the I&I Program that have reached commercial markets include the following:

- Meta-Lax Stress Relief Equipment offers distinct advantages over conventional heat treatment methods. It uses less energy, is portable, can handle any size metal part, and treats metal stress in hours versus days.
- Aero Cylinder Technology replaces conventional cylinders by combining air spring bellows into assemblies for use on machines (such as punch presses) to control motion and large masses. The air springs act as counter balancers and press cushioners to eliminate alignment problems. This proper alignment reduces downtime and compressed air losses, resulting in significant energy savings.
- Electro-Optic Inspection of Heat Exchangers is a laser-based, nondestructive evaluation system for inspecting heat exchanger tubing for internal corrosion, erosion, scale buildup, and deformation. Benefits to petrochemical, pulp and paper, and power-generation plants include reduced downtime and increased efficiency.
- Hydrodynamic Multi-Deflection Pad Bearings optimize bearing operation in high-speed, combined heat and power turbines, high-load electric motors or gear boxes, air or gas compressors, and air conditioning refrigeration equipment. Energy loss due to friction is reduced up to forty-percent by using fluids as a wedge between pads and moving parts.

Availability of Funds for FY 2003

DOE is announcing the availability of up to \$2.7 million dollars in agreement funds for Fiscal Year 2003. The awards will be made through a competitive solicitation. 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 April 29, 2002.

Matthew A. Barron,

Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance, Golden Field Office.

[FR Doc. 02-12098 Filed 5-14-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Number DE-PS36-02GO92009]

Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications; National Industrial Competitiveness Through Energy, Environment, and Economics (NICE³) Program

AGENCY: Golden Field Office, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for financial assistance applications.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies (OIT) is funding a competitive grant program entitled the National Industrial Competitiveness Through Energy, Environment, and Economics (NICE³) Program. The goal of the NICE³ Program is to advance U.S. competitiveness through commercial demonstration of energy efficient and clean production manufacturing and industrial technologies in industry. This is accomplished by providing cost-shared, financial assistance to state and industry partnerships. The following focus industries, which are the dominant energy users and waste generators in the U.S. manufacturing sector, are of particular interest to the DOE program: agriculture, aluminum, chemicals, forest products, glass, metal-casting, mining, petroleum, and steel.

DATES: DOE issued the solicitation on May 1, 2002. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3:00 pm Mountain Time on June 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The formal solicitation document will be disseminated electronically as Solicitation Number DE-PS36-02GO92009, National Industrial Competitiveness Through Energy, Environment, and Economics (NICE³) Program. Access DOE Golden Field Office Home Page at <http://www.golden.doe.gov/businessopportunities.html>, click on "Solicitations", and then access the solicitation number. The Golden Home Page will also provide instructions on registering and submitting applications in the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) web site. The Solicitation can also be obtained directly through IIPS at <http://e-center.doe.gov> by browsing opportunities by Contracting Activity. DOE will not issue paper copies of the solicitation. IIPS provides the medium for disseminating solicitations, receiving financial assistance applications, and evaluating the applications in a paperless environment. Completed applications are required to be submitted via IIPS. Individuals who have the authority to

enter their company into a legally binding contract/agreement and intend to submit proposals/applications via the IIPS system must register and receive confirmation that they are registered prior to being able to submit an application on the IIPS system. An IIPS "User Guide for Contractors" can be obtained by going to the Golden Field Office Homepage at <http://www.golden.doe.gov/businessopportunities.html>. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov or call the help desk at (800) 683-0751.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margo Gorin, Contract Specialist, at go_1&I@nrel.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Solicitation Specifications: To be eligible to apply for this financial assistance program, applicants must be a state agency in partnership with an industry partner(s) or an industry partner(s) who has coordinated state agency endorsement. Endorsement, here, refers to the act of a state(s): (1) Recommending the proposed technology demonstration, (2) waiving its role as the primary applicant, and (3) assigning that role to industry via signature on the "State Endorsement Form." The "State Endorsement Form" must be reprinted on official state agency letterhead for signature by a state official, in cases where state agencies decline to be the primary applicant. State agencies include state energy, state environmental, state business development, or any state agency as defined by 10 CFR 600.202. In addition to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the U.S., and all federally-recognized Indian tribes are eligible as described in 10 CFR 600.202. Applicants are not limited in the number of applications they can submit, provided that multiple applications are not submitted for the same project. Also more than one organization may be involved in an application, as long as the lead organization and lead financial assistance management responsibilities are defined. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to the NICE³ Program is 81.105. Non-federal cost share from a combination of state and industrial partner sources for

a single award must be at least 50% of the total cost of the project (if \$500,000 in federal funding is requested, cost-share must equal at least \$500,000. Cash, equipment, labor, and in-kind contributions are all allowable as cost share as defined in 10 CFR 600.123 and 600.224).

The Golden Field Office has been assigned the responsibility of issuing the solicitation, and the awards will be administered by DOE's Regional Offices. The Program's intent is to encourage highly leveraged funding to get an innovative project commercially demonstrated in industry by the end of the award period. The NICE³ Program will provide financial assistance for the first production-scale, commercial demonstration of an industrial process. To be ready for commercial demonstration, all research and development activities must already be completed with successful test results. By the end of the financial assistance project period, an industrial scale, commercial demonstration must be completed in the U.S. At the end of the project, the technology/process must be ready for commercialization. Grants range up to \$525,000. A 50% cost share is required. DOE anticipates awarding up to 4 awards, and each award may cover a project period of up to 3 years. No additional funding of applications for continuation of work beyond the award period is envisioned or planned by DOE.

A selection of former projects funded by the NICE³ Program include the following:

- AAP St. Mary's in Ohio is improving cost of sales and reducing waste and pollution by recycling aluminum on-site.
- Beta Control Systems in Oregon has developed a closed loop hydrochloric acid recovery system for small to mid-size steel companies by integrating innovative materials with automatic controls.
- Brittany Dyeing & Printing in Massachusetts has developed a new process that increases productivity and energy efficiency in fabric finishing.
- Caterpillar in Illinois is recycling paint overspray in heavy construction equipment.
- ChemStone Inc. of South Carolina is demonstrating a newly developed patented chemistry for the pulp and paper industry that results in better fiber

breakdown, higher pulp yields, and cleaner pulp when added to the pulping process.

Availability of Funds for FY 2003: DOE is announcing the availability of up to \$2 million dollars in grant agreement funds for Fiscal Year 2003. The awards will be made through a competitive solicitation process. 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 1, 2002.

Matthew A. Barron,

Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance, Golden Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket Nos. 02-14-NG, 02-16-NG, 02-17-NG, 02-21-NG, 02-22-NG, 00-80-NG, 95-27-NG, 02-24-NG, 02-18-NG]

Office of Fossil Energy; New York State Electric & Gas Corporation, et. al.; Orders Granting and Vacating Authority To Import and Export Natural Gas

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of orders.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy gives notice that during April 2002, it issued Orders granting and vacating authority to import and export natural gas. These Orders are summarized in the attached appendix and may be found on the FE Web site at <http://www.fe.doe.gov> (select gas regulation), or on the electronic bulletin board at (202) 586-7853. They are also available for inspection and copying in the Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum Import & Export Activities, Docket Room 3E-033, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9478. The Docket Room is open between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 9, 2002.

Yvonne Caudillo,

Acting Manager, Natural Gas Regulation, Office of Natural Gas & Petroleum, Import & Export Activities, Office of Fossil Energy.

Appendix—Orders Granting and Vacating Import/Export Authorizations

Order No.	Date issued	Importer/exporter Fe docket No.	Import volume	Export volume	Comments
1764	4-1-02	New York State Electric & Gas Corporation—02-14-NG.	50 Bcf		Import and export a combined total of natural gas from and to Canada, beginning on July 1, 2002, and extending through June 30, 2004.