

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Dissigno International, Inc.

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Solar Float Designed to Leverage US Contract Manufacturing

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002378	DE-EE0009837	GFO-0009837-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**A9  
Information  
gathering,  
analysis, and  
dissemination**

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**B3.6 Small-  
scale  
research and  
development,  
laboratory  
operations,  
and pilot  
projects**

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Dissigno International, Inc to develop and test a floating solar racking system. The project would be completed over one Budget Period (BP). The field test site for task 6.3 is yet to be determined. Activities in task 6.2 would identify and secure a location for installation. As such this NEPA determination applies to all activities through 6.2. Tasks 6.3 through 6.5 will be subject to further NEPA review when the test site has been identified and sufficient information is available to complete a meaningful review.

The floating solar racking system would be designed along with the system subcomponents to ensure consistent buoyancy. Off-the-shelf components would be used where possible for racking and mounting hardware. Dissigno International would engage with stakeholders and partners to create a viable product. These would include materials suppliers, manufacturers, and engineering firms. Letters of intent would be signed with a contract manufacturer. All subcomponents would be gathered and assembled into a complete demonstration system and a location for installation would be secured.

Proposed project activities would include computer modeling, stakeholder engagement, and prototype racking system design and fabrication. Design and prototyping of various components of the floating solar racking system would occur at Dissigno's prototype lab in Mill Valley, CA and at a contractor's prototype lab in Petaluma, CA. No changes in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required as part of this project and no additional permits would be required in order to conduct any of the work activities.

Project activities would involve the use and handling of power tools and compressed air systems. Any risks associated with these activities would be mitigated through adherence to established health and safety policies and procedures which would include personnel training and following Occupational Safety and Health Administration best practices. All waste products would be disposed of by licensed waste management service providers. Dissigno International Inc. and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[Task 1-5: All subtasks](#)  
[Subtasks 6.1 - 6.2](#)

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[Subtasks 6.3 - 6.5](#)

Notes:

[Solar Energy Technologies Office](#)  
[This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.](#)  
[Review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 12/16/21.](#)

## FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

## SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/16/2021

## FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required  
 Field Office Manager review required

## BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager