

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



RECIPIENT: University of Delaware

STATE: DE

PROJECT TITLE : Sensable, Manageable, Adaptable, Reusable Tooling (SMARTooling) for Lightweight Composite Automotive Components

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FOA-0002553	DE-EE0010205	GFO-0010205-001	

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 the University of Delaware to design, develop, fabricate, and test a machine tooling system for the production of lightweight composite automotive components. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs) with a Go/No-Go decision point between each BP. This NEPA determination is applicable to all three BPs.

3D coupon samples with built-in heating elements and sensors would be printed. Mechanical properties, thermal stability, and face-sheet durability would be characterized to achieve tooling requirements. Composite tooling equipment with built in heating and sensor functions would be completed and used to fabricate, monitor, and characterize composite parts. Tool life would be evaluated by extensive and repeatable production cycles and the tooling design would be optimized. A techno-economic analysis (TEA), life cycle assessment (LCA), and technology to market plan would be completed. The project would result in a composite additive manufacturing automation system, a sensor system, and 1-meter by .5-meter by .5-meter composite tool.

Proposed project activities by location are listed below:

University of Delaware Center for Composite Materials – Newark, DE

- Design, development, fabrication, and testing of 3D printers, tooling sensors, process modeling, and tooling testing.

Temple University – Philadelphia, PA

- Tooling geometry design and simulation to optimize mechanical-thermal stability of composite tool structures.

Northeastern University – Boston, MA

- Thermally conductive coating materials development.

Missouri University of Science and Technology – Rolla, MO

- Fiber path planning and pre-fabrication of tool parts and testing.

CarbonForm Inc – Newark, DE

- Technology-to-market plan, LCA, and TEA of technology.

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 various hazardous materials. Any risks associated with the handling of these materials would be mitigated through adherence to established health and safety policies and procedures, which would include personnel training, the use of personal protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, oversight, and internal assessments. All waste products would be disposed of by licensed waste management service providers. University of Delaware and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Manufacturing Office
Review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 8/5/22.

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/5/2022

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