**Request for Information (RFI) on Defense Production Act**

**ACTION:** Request for information

**DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Manufacturing & Energy Supply Chains (MESC) and Office of Policy (OP) request information to inform how authority under Title III of the Defense Production Act (DPA) provided to DOE through Presidential Determinations could best be used as a tool to accelerate manufacturing and deployment of energy technologies to bolster national defense, tackle climate change and environmental injustice, strengthen energy security and reliability, and improve employment opportunities and broader economic prosperity for Americans. This RFI invites public comment on general use of Title III of the Defense Production Act as well as on transformers and critical electric grid components and three other technology areas announced by the President on June 6, 2022: solar photovoltaics; insulation materials; and electrolyzers, platinum group metals, and fuel cells for clean hydrogen. Consistent with the intent of Congress, the DOE plans to use $250 million of funds appropriated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support the fifth technology area for which the President issued a determination under the Defense Production Act on June 6, 2022, electric heat pumps. Thus, the use of DPA Title III for heat pumps will be addressed in a separate, forthcoming DOE announcement for which public input will be sought.

**DATES:** Responses will be reviewed and considered on a rolling basis but are due no later than 5:00 p.m. (ET) on November 30th, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties are to submit comments electronically to dpaenergy@hq.doe.gov and include “RFI: Defense Production Act” in the subject line. See Response Preparation and Transmittal Instructions below for complete information on comment submission. Please refer to the Disclaimer and Important Note section at the end of the RFI on how to submit business sensitive and/or confidential information.

**Background**

Securing energy technology supply chains to ensure grid reliability and support the transition to clean energy is critical to current and future U.S. national security. The urgency of this need has been apparent in recent months. For instance, in the electricity sector, an unprecedented combination of global supply chain challenges, Russia’s war in Ukraine, and climate-exacerbated heat waves, wildfires, and storms have threatened utilities’ ability to deliver energy cleanly, reliably, and affordably, and to restore power quickly in the event of outages. In light of these challenges, and in response to Executive Order 14017 on America’s Supply Chains,[[1]](#footnote-2) in February 2022, DOE laid out the federal government’s first-ever comprehensive strategy for securing U.S. energy supply chains, with technology-specific reports focused on challenges in electric grid supply chains, solar PV, platinum group metals, and more.[[2]](#footnote-3)

In the past year, Congress has adopted a number of policies focused on building and strengthening America’s energy sector supply chains and manufacturing base. Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL),[[3]](#footnote-4) which invests over $22 billion in several clean energy supply chains, including technologies such as batteries, carbon capture, clean hydrogen, and nuclear energy, as well as critical minerals used in multiple clean energy technologies. Most recently, Congress passed significant investments in clean energy supply chains through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)[[4]](#footnote-5) and the CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS Act).[[5]](#footnote-6) IRA energy investments total approximately $369 billion over the next 10 years,[[6]](#footnote-7) including $250 million for DPA Title III to support electric heat pumps, which will help drive deployment and manufacturing of cleaner and efficient energy technologies.

The actions laid out in the BIL, IRA, and CHIPS Act are a significant step in strengthening domestic manufacturing and U.S. supply chains, while addressing the climate crisis, creating good-paying jobs for American families and economic opportunities for underserved and minority communities. But more must be done to address the remaining challenges and opportunities described in DOE’s new energy supply chain strategy and build the U.S. supply chains fit for a secure and strong United States of America in the 21st century.

In June 2022, President Biden issued Presidential Determinations to utilize DPA authority to accelerate domestic manufacturing and deployment of five key energy technologies.[[7]](#footnote-8),[[8]](#footnote-9),[[9]](#footnote-10),[[10]](#footnote-11),[[11]](#footnote-12) This request for information (RFI) seeks input from all stakeholders involved or interested in the use of DPA Title III authority for transformers and critical electric grid components; solar photovoltaics; insulation materials; and electrolyzers platinum group metals, and fuel cells for clean hydrogen.6 DOE seeks information on how DPA Title III tools may be used across the full supply chain, including raw materials, processed materials, subcomponents, final products, end-of-life material recovery and recycling, and deployment. Additionally, DOE seeks information on ways in which DPA actions may impact and benefit local communities and provide opportunities to invest in the American workforce. The stakeholder input will inform the Department on designing potential DPA actions that help to scale up the domestic supply of electric grid and clean energy technologies in ways that strengthen national defense, which include improving grid reliability, and maintaining and protecting critical energy infrastructure, while ensuring lowering fuel prices, ramping up domestic clean energy industries, creating family-sustaining jobs, building economic prosperity, slashing climate pollution, and benefiting (and avoiding harm to) communities—all in the fastest possible timeframe.

DOE’s ability to undertake DPA actions for these technology areas is subject to subsequent appropriations. DOE is seeking feedback through this RFI on general use of DPA Title III authority for securing electric grid and clean energy supply chains and strengthening the domestic energy sector industrial base, as well as specific input on possible DPA investments in the future pertaining to four of the five energy technology areas covered by the President’s June 6 announcement.

*DPA eligible technologies covered in this RFI*

1. **Transformers and electric grid components:** The United States relies in part on foreign sources for several electric grid components, and wait times for critical grid components such as transformers have recently become significantly longer, up to 2 years or more. One factor contributing to this is the limited material options for the distribution transformer industry, as it is solely reliant on grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES), in addition to limits on manufacturing capacity. As increasing extreme weather places unprecedented stress on the grid, supply chain reliance and delays represent an immediate threat to national defense and energy reliability. Over the long-term, the electrification of buildings, transportation, and industrial processes will mean further demand for electricity, and for transformers. Increases in domestic production of transformers and electric grid components may be necessary to meet U.S. climate goals, defend against cyber-attacks, and maintain critical infrastructure in the face of increasing extreme weather and expansion of the grid. DOE is specifically interested in investing in domestic production and workforce support for both efficient distribution transformers and associated production materials. IRA and BIL will accelerate demand for transformers, other grid components, and the materials used to make them through efforts to modernize the nation’s grid and enable electrification. Grid component manufacturers may also compete for the extended 48C clean manufacturing investment tax credit. DPA resources could specifically target the domestic production of transformers, amorphous steel, and grid components[[12]](#footnote-13) needed to secure, expand, and modernize the nation’s grid.
2. **Solar photovoltaics (PV):** Solar PV is the largest source of U.S. clean electricity generation capacity and the cheapest new electricity source in many regions of the country, but domestic production does not meet current or projected demand. The vast majority of global PV manufacturing and assembling is currently concentrated in China, presenting ongoing concerns for our long-term energy security. The Inflation Reduction Act incentivizes domestic manufacturing of specific solar module components, from polysilicon production through final assembly, and generates demand for U.S. solar products through domestic content provisions in the clean electricity investment, production, and consumer tax credits. Solar PV component manufacturers may also compete for the extended 48C clean manufacturing investment tax credit. IRA does not provide targeted support for certain elements of the solar supply chain, such as solar glass, polymeric filler sheets, junction boxes, or frames, and domestic manufacturers may still have difficulty accessing rapidly deployable upfront capital or equipment, particularly in manufacturing of products like ingots, wafers, and cells. DPA tools could complement the Inflation Reduction Act and other government efforts to speed up and diversify domestic production and deployment of PV module and solar system components.
3. **Insulation:** By reducing building and home energy needs for heating and cooling, insulation slashes energy usage and costs and can reduce reliance on fossil fuels. U.S. domestic production and installation of insulation are insufficient to fully retrofit the roughly 50% of U.S. homes that have outdated and inadequate insulation. Retrofitting older homers in cold climates can reduce building energy use by more than 50%. The Inflation Reduction Act super-charges demand for insulation in retrofits and new buildings in the residential, commercial, and industrial building segments. Insulation manufacturers may also compete for the extended 48C clean manufacturing investment tax credit. DPA resources could help U.S. manufacturers scale up the needed insulation supply and accelerate installation of insulation upgrades in homes and qualified buildings to meet burgeoning demand and reduce fossil fuel reliance, particularly in cold climates where fossil fuel usage is highest.
4. **Clean hydrogen**: Hydrogen is an emerging technology with potential to decarbonize growing sectors of the economy, such as chemicals production and steelmaking. Given this potential, many countries, including China, Japan, and Germany, are investing heavily in supply chains for hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. The Inflation Reduction Act makes unprecedented investment in clean hydrogen deployment through a new hydrogen production tax credit, building on clean hydrogen infrastructure investments unlocked by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Hydrogen component manufacturers also may be eligible for the extended 48C clean manufacturing investment tax credit. Development of domestic production capacity for these components will strengthen U.S. competitiveness and advance progress toward climate goals. DPA tools could mitigate demand-side risk by guaranteeing offtake for hydrogen and fuel cells. Additionally, sourcing of critical materials from domestic sources could reduce geopolitical risks. For example, fuel cells and electrolyzers rely on platinum group metals (PGM) sourced from a small number of countries, such as South Africa and Russia. DPA resources could help establish strong domestic supply chains for electrolyzers and fuel cells, including scaling recycling of PGM catalysts.

Electric heat pumps are not included in this RFI. Section 30001 of IRA appropriates funding, $250 million of which DOE plans to use in support of the domestic manufacturing of electric heat pumps. Comments specific to electric heat pumps should be reserved for a forthcoming DOE announcement focused specifically on the use of these IRA funds; however, stakeholders focused on electric heat pumps are welcome to respond in this RFI to general questions about the use of DPA authority.

*DPA tools*

Alongside a comprehensive set of legislative and executive actions, including clean energy manufacturing investments in the BIL, IRA, and the CHIPS Act, the new DPA authority could target this critical set of technologies, particularly in instances where U.S. industries are challenged by ramp up production at the scale, speed, and coordination required to meet national defense objectives. With corresponding funding, DPA authority could allow DOE to support and accelerate domestic manufacturing and deployment of these key energy technologies that will lower energy costs for American families and businesses, bolster the clean energy economy, increase family-sustaining jobs, reduce climate and cyber security risks, tackle climate change and environmental injustice, and strengthen energy and national security. When coupled with funding through the IRA or other possible vehicles, Title III Section 301, Section 302, and Section 303[[13]](#footnote-14) of the DPA authority could enable DOE to support domestic capacity through the following DPA tools:

1. **Purchases:** This would entail using DPA funds to support purchase of manufacturing equipment at industrial facilities, or materials or final products produced by manufacturers. This would allow manufacturers to expand their productive capacity or increase production efficiency. For example, DOE could purchase equipment for businesses capable of refurbishing existing transformers or other grid hardware to help them grow operations; purchase hydrogen fuel cell/electrolyzer systems for industrial use to spur production capacity; or purchase specialized equipment for solar wafer or cell manufacturers to bring new production lines into operation rapidly and meet growing demand.
2. **Purchase commitments:** This would entail a commitment from DOE to purchase materials, including raw critical minerals, processed materials, or critical components and final products. These products or materials could then be used in government projects, stockpiled, or could be resold. The purchase commitment would provide demand certainty to U.S. producers once production commences. For example, DOE could use DPA funding to commit to buy grid hardware or platinum group metals to develop strategic reserves; commit to buy insulation materials that can be installed through weatherization programs; or offtake domestic modules incorporating domestic components at the U.S. price point, and then resell them or distribute for instance through federal networks.
3. **Financial Assistance:** DPA funds could be used to provide direct capital or to cover material costs that would support domestic producers. This would enable manufacturers to restart idled capacity, expand production lines, build new facilities, retool alternative production lines, or buy materials needed for production. For example, DOE could provide assistance to a manufacturer to develop a new transformer manufacturing facility; restart mothballed solar glass production for solar PV; expand or retool a production line for insulation; develop facilities for platinum group metal recycling; or establish new manufacturing capacity for fuel cells/electrolyzers. This upfront capital support is different than ongoing operating subsidies, described under (v) below.
4. **Making subsidy payments:** Subsidy authority would require the President or, pursuant to Executive Order 13603, the Secretary of Energy to make certain findings regarding the supply of materials from high-cost sources and the cost of transportation. If those findings are made, this could involve making subsidy payments for domestically produced materials, thus lowering the cost of manufacturing, which can be passed along to the consumer. In this context, subsidies are different from the capital support described under (iii) above; subsidies would provide an ongoing operating incentive to reduce costs. For instance, DOE could subsidize U.S. manufacturing of GOES used for power transformers. As another example, if fuel cells are used to provide zero-emissions, dispatchable power for critical needs such as disaster mitigation in disadvantaged communities or expanded EV charging, the costs could be subsidized using DPA authorities.

Specifically, DOE is interested in gathering information on how to use DPA authority, relevant to the following topic areas:

* 1. Technology Supply Chain Challenges and Opportunities
	2. Domestic Manufacturing, Including Small and Medium-Sized Scale
	3. American Workforce Investment
	4. Energy Equity, Community Access, and Economic Benefit

Information and perspectives are encouraged from, but not limited to, industry, researchers, academia, federal agencies, state and local governments, Tribes, utilities, labor unions, environmental organizations, environmental and energy justice organizations, and other interested members of the public. Please note that this RFI is not a request for specific proposals.

**Questions for Input**

This RFI will improve DOE understanding of needs, concerns, and challenges related to supply chains and how best the Department, with appropriate funding, can use the DPA tools to support private sector, workers, and communities to secure and strengthen U.S energy supply chains needed to ensure current and future energy and national security. This RFI is a general solicitation for public input. Specific questions to which responses are requested for each focus area are listed below. Respondents may provide input regarding one, some, or all the topic areas below. It is fine to skip questions.

**Area 1: Technology Supply Chain Challenges and Opportunities**

* 1. **For which of the technology areas covered in this RFI, or products therein, do you think most urgently require support from DPA** **tools** and why? Please fill out chart below for the technology(ies) for which you are providing input (among transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and/or hydrogen components).

| **Technology** | **What are the decision criteria for your answer?** |
| --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology(ies) or product(s) you think could benefit from DPA investment*  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* 1. What are the **greatest barriers (e.g., financing or market constraints)** to U.S. manufacturing, development, and deployment that the DPA tools described in the background can help address? Please respond for one or more technology areas below:
	2. Transformers and electric grid components:
	3. Solar photovoltaics:
	4. Insulation:
	5. Clean hydrogen (electrolyzers, platinum group metals, and fuel cells):
	6. Which **DPA tool(s) and contracting vehicles would best help address the barriers** identified in Question #2, to strengthen U.S supply chains: purchases, purchase commitments, financial assistance, subsidy payments, or other (e.g. use of Other Transactions Authority or a Partnership Intermediary Agreement)? Please respond for one or more technology areas below:
1. Transformers and electric grid components:
2. Solar photovoltaics:
3. Insulation:
4. Clean hydrogen (electrolyzers, platinum group metals, and fuel cells):
	1. For the eligible technology areas covered in this RFI, **which segments in the supply chain do you think DPA tools should prioritize and why?** Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input and add rows for multiple entries per technology as needed.

| **Technology** | **Upstream**(Critical raw materials production) | **Manufacturing** (Critical processed materials, subcomponents/ components, end products) | **End of life** (Recycling) | **Deployment** (Installation, infrastructure) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *If this segment is selected, provide the names of raw materials that need priority*  | *If this segment is selected, provide the names of critical processed material/ subcomponents/ components/ end products that need priority*  | *If this segment is selected, provide examples of recycling activities that need priority*  | *Provide examples of installation, deployment, and infrastructure projects that need priority*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Appendix I** provides two **illustrative example scenarios for how DPA authority could be used for each clean energy technology covered in this RFI.** These are notofficial proposals, but rather concepts for discussion. Which are the most promising approaches for spurring domestic production? Respond only for the technology(ies) for which you are interested in providing input. If there are additional project ideas you have that DPA tools can support, please provide those ideas in response to Question #6.
	2. Building on answers from **question #4** above, **which project(s) do you think will have the greatest social and economic impacts, including strengthening supply chains, to the United States?** If possible, identify specific DPA tool(s) that you think may be more favorable to support proposed project(s), and, where possible, please indicate the level of investment needed. Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input and add rows for multiple entries as needed.

| **Technology** | **Supply chain segment**  | **Project**  | **DPA tool(s)**  | **Project impact**  | **Level of investment (in U.S. dollars)** | **Other policy tools needed to support selected DPA tools** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *Identify the supply chain segment (e.g., upstream; manufacturing; end of life; or deployment)*  | *Identify a project that can be supported by DPA tools (e.g., manufacturing of X material or component)*  | *Identify possible DPA tool(s) that could be applied to this project (e.g., purchases; purchase commitment; financial assistance)* | *Identify the impact this project will have (e.g., add X production capacity, create X jobs in Y, lower cost of energy by $x etc.)* | *Identify the ideal investment level needed for this project* | *Identify complementary policies or programs (e.g., provision in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act) that would support selected DPA tool(s)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. For the technology areas covered in this RFI, which technology(ies), supply chain segments, and project type(s) do you think DOE can leverage DPA **tools to attract foreign companies and foreign direct investment** to the United States? Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input and add rows for multiple entries as needed.

| **Technology** | **Supply chain segment**  | **Project** | **DPA tool(s)** | **Project impact** | **Level of investment (in U.S. dollars)** | **Other policy tools needed to support selected DPA tools** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *Identify the supply chain segment (e.g., upstream; manufacturing; end of life; or deployment)*  | *Identify a foreign project in the U.S. that could be supported by DPA tools (e.g., production or manufacturing of X material or component)* | *Identify possible DPA tool(s) that could be applied to this project (e.g., purchases; purchase commitment; financial assistance)* | *Identify the impact this project will have (e.g., add X production capacity, create X jobs in Y, lower cost of energy by $x etc.)* | *Identify the ideal investment level needed for this project* | *Identify complementary policies or programs (e.g., Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act) that would support selected DPA tool(s)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **What criteria/requirements/procedures should the government consider for selecting qualifying projects for DPA support?** Please fill out technology(ies) for which you are interested in providing input.
1. Transformers and electric grid components:
2. Solar photovoltaics:
3. Insulation:
4. Clean hydrogen (electrolyzers, platinum group metals, and fuel cells):
	1. Is there **anything else** that government should be aware of as DOE designs potential implementation of DPA tools to support U.S manufacturers, developers, and installers?

**Area 2: Domestic Manufacturing, Including Small and Medium-Sized Scale Manufacturers (SMM)**

* 1. **Which project types should DPA authority prioritize in supporting U.S manufacturers?** Where possible, please identify the level of investment needed. What criteria should DOE use to select these projects? Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input and add rows for multiple entries as needed.

| **Technology** | **Manufacturing project** | **Manufacturing project impact**  | **DPA tool (s)** | **Level of investment (in U.S. dollars)** | **Selection criteria** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *Identify a manufacturing project that can be supported by DPA tools (e.g., manufacturing of X material or component)* | *Identify the impact this project will have (e.g., add X manufacturing capacity, create X jobs in Y, lower cost of energy by $x)* | *Identify possible DPA tool(s) that could be applied to this project (e.g., purchase; purchase commitment; financial assistance)* | *Identify the ideal investment level needed for this project* | *Identify the criteria that DOE should consider in selecting this type of project* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. For the eligible technology areas covered in this RFI, **which** **technology(ies) or supply chain segments do Small & Medium Sized Manufacturers (SMMs)** have capabilities or the most potential to grow their impact if supported by DPA tools? Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input, including supply chain segment, SMM capabilities, and the most relevant DPA tools. Add multiple rows per technology as needed.

| **Technology** | **Supply chain segment** | **SMM capability** | **Status of SMM capability** | **DPA tool(s)** | **Other policy tools needed to support selected DPA tools** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *Identify the supply chain segment (e.g., upstream; manufacturing; end of life; or deployment)*  | *List SMM capability(ies) to support building and strengthening U.S. supply chains*  | *Specify whether this capability is “existing” or “needs to be built”* | *Identify possible DPA tool(s) to support SMM capability(ies)**(e.g., purchase; purchase commitment; financial assistance)*  | *Identify complementary policies or programs (e.g., Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act) that would support selected DPA tool(s)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. What are the **top three barriers that U.S. Small & Medium Manufacturers (SMM) face** that DPA tools combined with other government policy tools can help address? Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input, and add rows as needed.

| **Technology** | **Supply chain segment** | **SMM Barriers** | **DPA tool(s)** | **Other policy tools needed to support selected DPA tools** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology (e.g., transformers and grid components; solar; insulation; and hydrogen components)* | *Identify the supply chain segment (e.g., upstream; manufacturing; end of life; or deployment)*  | *Name one or more barriers inhibiting SMM participation growth in energy supply chain*  | *Identify possible DPA tool(s) that could be applied to address barrier(s)**(e.g., purchase; purchase commitment; financial assistance)* | *Identify complementary policies or programs (e.g., Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act) that would support selected DPA tool(s)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Historically, **what barriers have U.S manufacturers faced in accessing federal support** through the DPA or otherwise? What technical assistance or other support can DOE provide to overcome these barriers?
	2. Is there **anything else** that government should be aware of as DOE designs implementation of DPA tools to support U.S. manufacturers?

**Area 3: American Workforce Investment**

* 1. **What kind of medium- or long-term market certainty would allow employers to feel confident about growing their staff and about investing in worker training?** Please include any related information in your response that you think is important to consider on technology(ies) for which you provide input below.
1. Transformers and electric grid components:
2. Solar photovoltaics:
3. Insulation:
4. Clean hydrogen (electrolyzers, platinum group metals, and fuel cells):
	1. For the eligible technology areas covered in this RFI, **what workforce training program(s) or partnerships (for instance, employer/community college/labor consortia, on-the-job training, private sector training providers, sector strategies) do you think will be useful** for your technology(ies) of interest? What unions, worker groups, economic development centers, professional societies, community-based organizations, (post)secondary education facilities, and other stakeholders could be valuable partners in these training activities? Please fill out the chart below for technology(ies) for which you are providing input, and add rows as needed.

| **Supply chain activities** | **Labor skills need** | **Training programs/****partnerships to address need** | **Key Partners** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Name the eligible technology supply chain activity (e.g., grain-oriented electrical steel production, solar PV cell fabrication)* | *List the labor skills needed* | *Identify training programs and type of partnerships needed to address these labor skills* | *Identify the key partners needed* |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

* 1. What specific labor standards and project **selection criteria** should guide the federal government in deciding which manufacturing firms benefit from DPA actions? These could include worker wages and benefits, access to unions, training opportunities, labor-management training programs, health and safety committees, or recruitment programs. What kinds of programs or partnerships do you participate in (or would you recommend) to support worker recruitment and retention in regarding the technology areas covered in this RFI?
	2. How can the federal government ensure that the jobs supported by any DPA actions in these clean energy technology sectors offer good wages and benefits and access to unions?
	3. Is there **anything else** that government should be aware of as DOE designs implementation of DPA tools to support the creation of high-quality jobs and high-road workforce development needed for the clean energy transition?

**Area 4: Energy Equity, Community Access, and Economic Benefit**

* 1. How can DPA authority provide the greatest opportunity to create **broad regional economic benefits** including economic diversification, tax revenues, and economic cluster effects?
	2. How can DPA authority provide the greatest opportunity to **reuse/leverage existing industrial infrastructure** to support clean energy transition?
	3. How can DPA authority support **“regional clusters”** for clean energy manufacturing in underserved communities and communities where the economy is currently highly dependent on fossil fuel production (such as coal communities) to transform their economy in the next 5 to 10 years? If possible, please include information explaining your answer.
	4. **How could securing the national supply chain and increasing manufacturing and deployment in these technology areas impact underserved, overburdened, and frontline communities (“disadvantaged communities”)?**
		1. What could be the positive impacts of manufacturing initiatives supported by DPA authority? (For example: jobs, community enrichment, research opportunities).
		2. What could be the negative impacts of manufacturing initiatives supported by DPA authority, and how can DOE alleviate these negative impacts? (For example: pollution, potential exacerbation of existing harms to communities hosting these industries).
		3. Are there any legal, policy, economic, or environmental barriers that would prevent disadvantaged communities from benefiting from DPA activities?
	5. What project **selection criteria and qualifying requirement(s)** should the government consider or embed in DPA funded projects to ensure the DPA funded projects benefits the American public, support underserved communities, and do not cause unintended harm to the environment or communities?
	6. What **equity standards** should guide the government in carrying out DPA actions for the covered technologies?
	7. Is there **anything else** that government should be aware of as DOE designs potential implementation of DPA tools to ensure projects benefits the American public, support underserved communities, and do not cause unintended harm to the environment or communities?

**Response Preparation and Transmittal Instructions**

Please submit all comments to dpaenergy@hq.doe.gov. **Responses must be received by 5:00pm on November 30, 2022,** for immediate consideration. Only electronic responses will be accepted.

Please include in the subject line “RFI: Defense Production Act” in your email. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery; however, no email shall exceed a total of 45MB, including all attachments. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) attachment to the email, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Please provide the following information in a cover letter:

* Community, organization, or company name (if applicable)
* Contact name
* Contact’s address, phone number, and e-mail address

Comments and documents submitted through dpaenergy@hq.doe.gov will not be posted publicly but will be subject to public review upon request. Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic, if applicable. Please clearly state the specific question to which you are responding. All assumptions, including any assumed government support, shall be clearly identified. Respondents shall clearly mark all proprietary and restricted information. For information on submitting Confidential Business Information, see the Confidential Business Information section. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish. DOE will not respond to individual submissions. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

**Disclaimer and Important Note**

This RFI is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), prize, or any other type of solicitation; therefore, DOE is not accepting applications at this time. DOE may issue a FOA or other solicitation in the future based on or related to the content and responses to this RFI; however, DOE may also elect not to issue a FOA or solicitation. There is no guarantee that a FOA or solicitation will be issued because of this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential applicants if DOE chooses to issue a FOA regarding the subject matter. Final details, including the anticipated award size, quantity, and timing of DOE funded awards, will be subject to Congressional appropriations and direction.

Any information obtained because of this RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development. This RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. DOE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request. DOE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that DOE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind DOE to any further actions related to this topic.

**Confidential Business Information:** Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked “confidential” including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked “non-confidential” with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

**Appendix I. Notional DPA Project Examples**

***These examples are not DOE proposals but rather intended to spur reaction and additional ideas***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Technology** | **Product type** | **Notional Projects and associated DPA tools****(Not an official proposal)** |
| 1A | Transformers and electric grid components | Grain-oriented electrical steel for large power transformers, amorphous steel for medium power and distribution transformers, and non-oriented electrical steel for end-use loads | DOE provides **financial assistance** to domestic manufacturers to either expand existing capacity or build new capacity. DOE may also purchase and install, or provide financial assistance for the installation of, specialized **equipment** for component production. |
| 1B | Transformers and electric grid components | Grid Infrastructure, Transmission, Distribution, Electrical Circuits and Power Electronics  | DOE provides **financial assistance** to domestic manufacturers to either expand existing capacity or build new capacity. DOE may also purchase and install, or provide financial assistance for the installation of, specialized **equipment** for component production. |
| 2A | Solar PV | Component (ingots, wafers, cells, solar glass) | DOE provides **financial assistance** to domestic manufacturers to either bring idled component manufacturing capacity online, expand production lines, or establish new facilities. DOE may also purchase and install or provide financial assistance for the installation of specialized **equipment** for component production.  |
| 2B | Solar PV | Module | DOE issues **purchase commitments** to domestic manufacturers for modules incorporating domestic components over a period of 7+ years to provide initial demand certainty. DOE resells modules or deploys them on federal government facilities (GSA, DOD).  |
| 3A | Insulation | Insulation | DOE makes **purchase commitments** to insulation manufacturers, then in turn installs them through Weatherization Assistance Program. |
| 3B | Insulation | Insulation | DOE provides matching **financial assistance** to manufacturers to support new domestic production lines for insulation. |
| 4A |  Clean hydrogen components | Platinum group metals (PGM) | DOE issues **purchase commitments** for PGM to secure the domestic supply chain and sells to electrolyzer and fuel cell manufacturers as catalysts. |
| 4B |  Clean hydrogen components | Electrolyzers and fuel cells | DOE provides matching **financial assistance** to electrolyzer and fuel cell manufacturers to support new domestic production lines or to incentivize demand for fuel cells/hydrogen for end use. |

1. [Executive Order on America's Supply Chains - The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.energy.gov/policy/securing-americas-clean-energy-supply-chain> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/services/files/CFC99CC6-CE84-4B1A-8BBF-8D2E84BD7965> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/inflation_reduction_act_one_page_summary.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/06/memorandum-on-presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-transformers-and-electric-power-grid-components/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/06/06/memorandum-on-presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-electric-heat-pumps/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/06/06/memorandum-on-presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-insulation/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/06/memorandum-on-presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-solar-photovoltaic-modules-and-module-components/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/06/06/memorandum-on-presidential-determination-pursuant-to-section-303-of-the-defense-production-act-of-1950-as-amended-on-electrolyzers-fuel-cells-and-platinum-group-metals/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Components include but are not limited to: Grid Infrastructure (structural steel, composite materials for poles, industrial wood for poles, cybersecurity awareness and testing); Transmission (high voltage direct current transmission HVDC systems, grain-oriented electrical steel, large power transformers); Distribution (distribution transformers, amorphous steel for high-efficiency distribution transformer cores, Low- and medium voltage switchgear, breakers, wires, cables, and conductors); and Electrical Circuits and Power Electronics (power supply modules, power regulators, metal–oxide–semiconductor field-effect transistors, transistors for power supply controls, inverters, communication module physical layers, programmable logic controllers, microcontrollers, network interface integrated circuits, serial input/output controllers, diodes, capacitors, resistors, solid-state relays, copper). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title50/chapter55&edition=prelim> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)