



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Julia Hub Inc. -- Accelerating Coupled HVAC/Building Simulation with a Neural Component Architecture

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Cambridge, Massachusetts

Proposed Action Description:

AMENDED NEPA DETERMINATION: (See attached original Determination, dated February 28, 2020). This Amended Determination follows the approval of additional project funding and period of performance to continue the project team's information gathering and analysis efforts to develop a neural component machine learning tool to reduce the total energy consumption of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in buildings developed under the Design Intelligence for Formidable Energy Reduction Engendering Numerous Totally Impactful Advanced Technology Enhancements (DIFFERENTIATE) program. Specifically, the project team will apply the tool to design and simulate testing of a building system to test and verify overall function of the tool. If successful, this tool could yield significant energy savings when applied to building design.

The proposed project activities under this award are limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities. The project team will not conduct physical experiments, prototype fabrication, demonstration projects, or similar activities under this award. Project tasks continue to fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the project.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **GEOFFREY GOODE** Digitally signed by GEOFFREY GOODE
Date: 2023.07.13 14:56:57 -04'00'

Date Determined:



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: The Design Intelligence for Formidable Energy Reduction Engendering Numerous Totally Impactful Advanced Technology Enhancements (DIFFERENTIATE)

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)

Location(s) (City/County/State): CA; CO; CT; GA; IA; IL; IN; MA; MD; MI; NH; NJ; NY; PA; TN; TX; WA

Proposed Action Description:

Projects funded under the DIFFERENTIATE Program seek to enhance energy innovation by incorporating artificial intelligence and machine learning into energy technology development. These projects will adopt and utilize a simplified engineering design process framework to identify six general mathematical optimization problems that are common to many engineering design processes. The teams will then conceptualize several machine learning tools that could help engineers execute and solve these problems in a manner that dramatically accelerates the pace of energy innovation. If successful, the Program will support the development of machine learning tools that enhance (1) the creativity of the hypothesis generation, (2) efficiency of the high-fidelity evaluation process, and (3) ultimately reduce design iteration.

The DIFFERENTIATE Program is composed of 23 small-scale research and development projects that will be conducted by universities, non-profit entities, for-profit entities, and federal laboratories. This Determination covers all of the 23 projects (listed in Attachment A). All 23 projects fit within the class of actions identified under the DOE Categorical Exclusion identified below and do not involve any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the projects. This assessment was based on a review of the proposed scope of work and the potential environmental impacts of each project. All project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and Local regulatory requirements.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A9 - Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

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

B3.15 - Small-scale indoor research and development projects using nanoscale materials

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal 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 proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal 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.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: 
(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)

Date Determined: 02/28/2020

Attachment A: Projects in the DIFFERENTIATE (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002107) Program

| Prime Recipient (Control No.) | Project Title | Categorical Exclusion |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| United Technologies Research Center 2107-1502 | Learning Enabled Network Synthesis (LENS) (P.300.0694) | A9 |
| United Technologies Research Center 2107-1503 | MULTI-source Learning-Accelerated Design of high-Efficiency multi-stage compRessor (MULTI-LEADER) (P.100.0979) | A9 |
| Los Alamos National Laboratory 2107-1504 | Machine learning based well design to enhance unconventional energy production | A9 |
| General Electric Company, Ge Research 2107-1521 | IMPACT: Design of Integrated Multi-physics, Producibile Additive Components for Turbomachinery | A9; B3.6 |
| General Electric Company, Ge Research 2107-1522 | Probabalistic Machine Learning for Inverse Design of Aerodynamic Systems (Pro-ML IDeAS) | A9 |
| National Renewable Energy Laboratory 2107-1532 | End-To-End Optimization For Battery Materials And Molecules By Combining Graph Neural Networks And Reinforcement Learning | A9 |
| National Renewable Energy Laboratory 2107-1535 | INTEGRATE – Inverse Network Transformations for Efficient Generation of Robust Airfoil and Turbine Enhancements | A9 |
| Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory 2107-1539 | Deep Learning and Natural Language Processing for Accelerated Inverse Design of Optical Metamaterials | A9; B3.6; B3.15 |
| University Of Texas At Austin 2107-1541 | Learning Optimal Aerodynamic Designs | A9 |
| Northwestern University 2107-1543 | Adaptive Discovery and Mixed-Variable Optimization of Next Generation Synthesizable Microelectronic Materials | A9 |
| IBM Research 2107-1544 | Model-based Reinforcement Learning with Active Learning for Efficient Electrical Power Converter Design | A9 |
| Carnegie Mellon University 2107-1548 | High-fidelity Accelerated Design of High-performance Electrochemical Systems | A9; B3.6; B3.15 |

Attachment A: Projects in the DIFFERENTIATE (FOA No. DE-FOA-0002107) Program

| Prime Recipient (Control No.) | Project Title | Categorical Exclusion |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Stanford University 2107-1569 | Energy efficient integrated photonic systems based on inverse design | A9; B3.6; B3.15 |
| University Of Missouri: Columbia 2107-1570 | Deep Learning Prediction of Protein Complex Structures | A9 |
| Princeton University 2107-1577 | MLSPICE: Machine Learning based SPICE Modeling Platform for Power Magnetics | A9; B3.6 |
| Iowa State University 2107-1585 | Context-Aware Learning for Inverse Design in Photovoltaics | A9 |
| University Of Maryland: College Park 2107-1608 | Invertible Design Manifolds for Heat Transfer Surfaces (INVERT) | A9 |
| Pacific Northwest National Laboratory 2107-1625 | Machine learning for natural gas to electric power system design | A9 |
| Massachusetts Institute Of Technology 2107-1630 | Machine learning assisted models for understanding and optimizing boiling heat transfer on scalable random surfaces | A9; B3.6 |
| University Of Michigan: Dearborn 2107-1631 | ML-ACCEPT: Machine-Learning-enhanced Automated Circuit Configuration and Evaluation of Power Converters | A9 |
| Massachusetts Institute Of Technology 2107-1634 | Global optimization of multicomponent oxide catalysts for OER/ORR | A9; B3.6; B3.15 |
| Carnegie Mellon University 2107-1641 | Predicting Catalyst Surface Stability Under Reaction Conditions Using Deep Reinforcement Learning and Machine Learning Potentials | B3.6; B3.15 |
| Julia Computing, Inc. 2107-1656 | Accelerating Coupled HVAC/Building Simulation with a Neural Component Architecture | A9 |