

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



RECIPIENT: MESC

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE: Industrial Assessment Center Operations: Technical Assistance Field Managers and Clearinghouse/Mission Integrator

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	N/A	GFO-PIA-IAC TA-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:

- | | |
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| A8 Awards of certain contracts | Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services. |
| 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.) |
| A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations | Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations. |

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with partnership intermediary (PI) DEFENSEWERX in April 2023 for a 5-year pilot. Through the PIA, DOE is expanding its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE is proposing to utilize the PIA to establish an Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) operations and engagement organization that would consist of three identifiable yet overlapping functions that could be performed by separate entities, a single consolidated entity, or a combination thereof. The PI would oversee a DOE-approved competitive selection process to select (a) performer(s) who will provide the following functions:

Expansion IAC Technical Field Manager – activities would include: collecting, reviewing, and managing Skilled Trades IAC program data; monitoring and oversight of IACs to ensure quality program delivery; providing on-boarding assistance to new selectees; connecting IAC program leaders and participants with resources, expertise, and mentorship opportunities across and beyond IACs; providing coaching to strengthen IACs' technical knowledge and workforce development capacity; establishing and maintaining a Skilled Trades IAC webpage; organizing meetings, webinars, and training sessions; integrating DOE technology and workforce training priorities into Skilled Trades IACs.

Clearinghouse Manager/Mission Integrator – activities would include: developing and maintaining a Clearinghouse website; cultivating and deploying a network of technical experts, in partnership with Centers of Excellence, National Labs, Manufacturing USA Institutes, and others; supporting external-facing communications and outreach activities to increase public awareness of the IACs and other resources for small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs); developing technical and informational resources for IAC clients and SMMs nationwide; harmonizing the delivery of technical assistance across the various components of the IAC program; ensuring collaboration and sharing across elements of the IAC program.

Institutions of Higher Education-based IAC Technical Assistance Field Manager – activities would include: coordinating and monitoring Centers of Excellence operations, assessments, and outreach activities; conducting periodic on-site surveillances of Centers of Excellence; establishing a consistent and updated online IAC reporting tool and format; coordinating IAC student and alumni activities; providing technical reviews of all IAC assessment reports; integrating DOE priorities around practices and technologies into IAC operations; providing training and technical assistance to

IACs; organizing meetings, webinars, and training sessions, and hosting an annual Director's meeting; maintaining and upgrading the IAC websites and databases; facilitating commercial building assessments; providing technical reviews of all Centers of Excellence specialized assessment reports; incorporating Centers of Excellence reports into the IAC databases.

Award activities would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, and analytical activities, such as information gathering, data analysis, document preparation, information dissemination, and technical advice/assistance. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the utilization of the PIA as described above.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC)
NEPA review completed by Melissa Parker, 03/06/24

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: 3/7/2024

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: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____