

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



RECIPIENT: MESC

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE: Industrial Assessment Centers Program -- Automotive Supplier Diversification and Conversion Playbook Deployment

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number **Procurement Instrument Number** **NEPA Control Number** **CID Number**
GFO-PIA-IAC AS-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:

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 three to five teams of technical assistance providers affiliated with an institution of higher education, trade school, or union training program-based industrial research, assessment, or deployment program. Prospective teams would be composed of entities such as the DOE-supported Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs), universities, national labs, union training programs, trade associations, and other entities supported by other public sector entities (e.g., the U.S. Department of Commerce-supported Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, or MEPs).

The established teams would work with several small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) located within their respective regions to inform an EV Diversification Playbook (Playbook) in development through Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). The Playbook is a practical set of technical, financial, and strategic guidance on the engineering, business strategy, workforce, and financing aspects of transitioning from the manufacturing of components for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to electric vehicle (EV) components. Based on feedback provided by the teams and SMMs, the Playbook development team at ANL would revise the Playbook to improve its content and ensure it is usable for small business audiences. The finalized Playbook would be made publicly available.

The PI would serve as the facilitator to work with identified technical assistance provider teams to support collaboration on Playbook deployment/feasibility demonstrations, including but not limited to the following activities:

1. Conduct market research to identify technical assistance providers and SMMs that would be suitable candidates for the program. This research would include identifying communications channels through which these entities receive information on funding opportunities and the timeline and process through which they participate in pilot demonstrations.
2. Administer a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit and identify technical assistance provider teams.

3. Facilitate DOE's design of a fair and efficient process for soliciting applications and executing selections. Selection criteria would be established by DOE prior to publication of application guidance. The design of this process would be based on market research findings and feedback from stakeholders during hosted webinars.

4. Monitor and report on program efforts and progress toward agreed-upon outcomes through biweekly meetings and end of phase reports.

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, 03/11/24

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:  Date: 3/12/2024
NEPA Compliance Officer

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