

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



**RECIPIENT:** University Of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE:** CESMII Renewal. Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institute for Smart Manufacturing

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
|  | DE-EE0011052                         | GFO-0011052-001            | GO11052           |

**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:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>                                | 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.)   |
| <b>A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations</b>                                 | Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.   |
| <b>B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects</b> | 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 Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute (CESMII). The purpose of the CESMII is to strengthen U.S. clean energy manufacturing competitiveness and to increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness across the board by boosting energy productivity and leveraging low-cost domestic energy resources as fuels and feedstocks. CESMII is funded under a Cooperative Agreement with the DOE and with participation from numerous sub-recipients working as a distributed network of Smart Manufacturing Innovation Centers (SMICs).

This project is CESMII's DOE Renewal Award (DE-EE0011052), which is an evolutionary extension of CESMII's current DOE Award (DE-EE0007613). DOE previously completed NEPA Determinations under the original award for BP1, BP2, BP3, BP4 and BP5 activities (GFO-0007613-001 on 12/07/2016, CX A9, A11, B1.31, B2.1; GFO-0007613-BP2 on 3/6/2018, CX A9, A11, B1.31, B2.1; GFO-0007613-BP3 on 2/3/2020, CX A9, A11, B1.31, B3.6; GFO-0007613-BP4 on 2/3/2020, CX A9, A11, B1.31, B3.6) and GFO-0007613-BP5 on 4/15/2022, CX A9, A11, B1.31, B3.6 ).

Efforts under this award would include institute operations; outreach; membership; diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; staffing; sustainability; deployment of smart manufacturing solutions in clean energy technologies and manufacturing; demonstration of resiliency; operational and energy improvements in integrated supply chains; research and development and capability enhancements to support scale and deployment; education and workforce development as well as the creation of SM Innovation Centers and an Instructor Academy.

The location of the facilities and descriptions of proposed activities for the prime recipient and each sub-recipient would be UCLA, Los Angeles, CA; El Camino Community College, Hawthorne, CA; the Office of Advanced Research Computing, Los Angeles, CA; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY; ThinkIQ, Aliso Viejo, CA; Penn State New Kensington Digital Foundry, New Kensington, PA; Smart Automation Certification Alliance, Louisville, KY; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; and Amatrol, Inc., Jefferson, IN. There are four unknown sub-recipients currently that would comprise the industrial organizations and facility locations related to the clean energy manufacturing and clean energy technology product industries projects, and the two projects related to supply chains from different industry segments. A structured RFP process would be conducted with DOE to select these entities. New sub-recipients or

sites that do not fit the above description of activities would be required to submit separate EQ-1s for further review.

All task activities under Budget Period 1 would occur within known facilities, including Task 1, subtasks 1.1 through 1.5; Task 2, subtask 2.1 through 2.4, Task 3, subtask 3.1 through 3.5; Task 4, subtask 4.1 through 4.6; Task 5, subtask 5.1 through 5.3; Task 6, subtask 6.1 through 6.8; and Task 7, subtasks 7.1 through 7.5. All task activities under Budget Period 2 would occur within known facilities, including Task 1, subtasks 1.1 through 1.5; Task 2, subtask 2.6 and 2.7, Task 3, subtask 3.5 through 3.6 and 3.8; Task 4, subtask 4.5 and 4.6; Task 5, subtask 5.1 and 5.2; and Task 6, subtask 6.1 through 6.4. All task activities under Budget Period 3 would occur within known facilities, including Task 1, subtasks 1.1 through 1.5; Task 2, subtask 2.6 and 2.7; Task 3, subtask 3.6 through 3.8; Task 4, subtask 4.5 and 4.6; Task 5, subtask 5.1 and 5.2; and Task 6, subtask 6.1 through 6.4. These activities would not require any new permits, licenses, or authorizations.

Activities under Budget Period 1 that would occur in currently unknown facilities include Task 2, subtask 2.5. Activities under Budget Period 2 that would occur in currently unknown facilities include Task 2, subtask 2.5. There are no unknown facilities associated with any of the tasks or subtasks within Budget Period 3. These activities would require further NEPA review once the locations become identified, and thus, are not included in this NEPA Determination.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

- Task 1; Task 2, subtasks 2.1 through 2.4; Tasks 3 through Task 7 in Budget Period 1
- Task 1; Task 2, subtasks 2.6 and 2.7; Tasks 3 through Task 6 in Budget Period 2
- Tasks 1 through Task 6 in Budget Period 3

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

- Subtask 2.5 of Budget Period 1
- Subtask 2.5 of Budget Period 2

Notes:

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office  
NEPA review completed and modified by Chris Akios, 09/23/2024

## 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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/9/2024  
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