



Request for Information DE-FOA-0000225

Date: December 29, 2009

Subject: Request for Information (RFI) (DE-FOA-0000225) for Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (DE-FOA-0000225).

Description: The Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking feedback from the research community and relevant stakeholders to assist in the development of a potential FOA for fuel cells and fuel cell systems designed for stationary and transportation applications as well as cross-cutting stack and balance of plant (BOP) component technology.

Program Manager / Area: Mr. Richard Farmer, Acting Program Manager / Fuel Cell Technologies Program, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Background and Rationale:

The Fuel Cell Technologies (FCT) Program is a key component of DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy R&D portfolio which aims to provide clean, safe, secure, affordable, and reliable energy from diverse domestic resources, providing the benefits of increased energy security and reduced criteria pollutants and green house gas emissions. Research and development undertaken by the FCT Program is focused on reducing the cost, increasing the durability, and increasing the efficiency of fuel cell systems. A more detailed description of the FCT Program, including technical and cost targets, can be found in the Multi-Year Research, Development and Demonstration Plan at:

<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/mypp/>.

Purpose:

The intent of this RFI is to gather feedback from the research community and relevant stakeholders regarding development needs and technical barriers as they relate to the widespread commercialization of fuel cells for stationary and transportation market segments. Input received from this RFI will be considered prior to DOE issuing a potential Fuel Cell FOA (subject to Congressional appropriations). This RFI is not a FOA; therefore, DOE is not accepting applications at this time. DOE may issue a FOA in the future, providing approximately 90 calendar days for applicants to prepare and submit applications. Final details, including the anticipated award size, quantity, and timing of DOE funded awards, will be subject to Congressional appropriations.

DOE is also considering holding a Pre-Solicitation Workshop which will help to determine the topics and scope of the FOA. This Workshop would provide the fuel cell and supplier

community with an opportunity to discuss in greater detail potential research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) topics to be addressed in the FOA and could include breakout meetings to assist in further defining the scope of specific topic areas. Additional information regarding the Workshop will be provided at a later date on the Fuel Cell Technologies Program website at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells>.

DOE's FCT Program has outlined draft strategies for technical work scope and other issues in the RFI Guidelines below. It is expected that these strategies will be augmented and revised with the information received from this RFI. Final details and guidelines will be issued, subject to Congressional appropriations, in the form of a FOA. This RFI is technology neutral.

RFI Guidelines:

Parties interested in submitting a response to this RFI should review the RFI Guidelines below in their entirety before developing and submitting a response. DOE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies in the planned FOA. DOE will not reimburse costs associated with preparing any documents for this RFI, and there is no guarantee that an FOA will be issued as a result of this RFI.

Comments in response to this RFI must be provided as an attachment (in Microsoft Word format) to an e-mail message addressed to FCTfuelcells@go.doe.gov. Please do not provide any information which may be considered proprietary or confidential.

Questions regarding the content of the RFI must be submitted through the FedConnect portal. You must register with FedConnect to submit questions and to receive responses to questions. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the RFI as possible to have the benefit of all responses. More information is available at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf. DOE will try to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been distributed.

Questions pertaining to the submission of applications through FedConnect should be directed by e-mail to support@FedConnect.net or by phone to FedConnect Support at 1-800-899-6665.

Comments must be received no later than 11:59 PM EDT on 01/29/2010

Responses should provide information regarding technical barriers to the introduction of fuel cells into stationary and transportation market segments, relevant suggested technical targets, any arguments, observations, recommendations, or R&D needs that respondents consider relevant to the topic areas listed below.

Technical Topic Areas for Scope of Work

Responses to these Topic Areas are limited to one page in length per Technical Topic Area. When more than one Technical Topic Area is addressed, submit separate one-page submissions to the e-mail address above.

Balance of Plant Component Development

- Transportation Systems (e.g., humidifier membranes, compressors)
- Stationary Systems
- Fuel processors for stationary systems (alternate fuels, durability, impurities)

Stack Component Integration

- Integration of state-of-the-art components into high-performance, low-cost stacks
- Integration of state-of-the-art components into high-performance, low-cost Membrane Electrode Assemblies (MEAs)

Other Innovative Concepts

- Long-term technologies
- Alkaline fuel cells

Subject Area for Programmatic Considerations

Responses to this Subject Area are limited to one page in length, and should be submitted to the e-mail address above.

- Comments on the relative importance and priority of specific fuel cell RD&D Topic Areas, including the Topic Areas listed above.
- Comments on the relative importance and priority the FCT Program should place on stack component and system BOP RD&D for automotive, stationary, portable power, and early market applications.
- Comments on the existing DOE targets and justification for any proposed modification to the targets.
(see <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/mypp/>)
- Topics to be included in the potential workshop / pre-solicitation meeting.

DOE has no obligation to respond to those who submit comments and/or give any feedback on any decision based on the comments received, as there is potential for a future FOA relative to this subject.

DOE will not pay for information provided under this Request for Information (RFI), and there is no guarantee that a project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. Response to the RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment for the respondent to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed. DOE may also decide at a later date to issue Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs), based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.

DOE thanks you for your assistance and comments in helping accomplish its mission.