U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Office of Electricity

Welcome to the *Speed to Power through Accelerated Reconductoring and other Key Advanced Transmission Technology Upgrades (SPARK)* Concept Paper Feedback Webinar

DE-FOA-0003580

Webinar Notice

- None of the information presented herein is legally binding.
- The content included in this presentation is intended for informational purposes only relating to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) DE-FOA-0003580.
- Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the NOFO language is superseded by the NOFO language.

Katie Jereza

Assistant Secretary for the
Office of Electricity (OE),
U.S. Department of Energy

Agenda

- SPARK Overview
- Full Application Concept Papers Process
- Concept Papers Feedback
- Q&A

Find the NOFO details on Exchange: https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov

DE-FOA-0003580

Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to:
DE-FOA-0003580@NETL.DOE.GOV
Questions regarding specific project/concept papers cannot be addressed.

Jessica Perry

Director, (Grid Modernization)
Program Operations and
Stakeholder Engagement

Anne Egger

Senior Project Manager

Brittley Robbins

Senior Advisor
Corporate Business
Operations

SPARK Overview

Program Goals & Objectives

- Stabilize - to address existing constraints on the system.
- Optimize - to improve performance of existing infrastructure.
- Grow - to access dispatchable resources needed to reliably serve forecasted power demand.

The NOFO was released as one funding opportunity but provides opportunities for various applications to various entities including utilities, academia, non-profits, states, and tribes.

- Topic Area 1 - Grid Resilience (IIJA Section 40401(c))
- Topic Area 2 - Smart Grid (IIJA Section 40107)
- Topic Area 3 - Grid Innovation Program (IIJA Section 40103(b))

SPARK Priority Areas of Investment

- Reconductoring with advanced conductors
  - These projects would increase the power-carrying capability of existing transmission corridors, thereby allowing more electric energy to reach load centers and deferring the need for costly new infrastructure.
- Advanced Transmission Technologies that can increase the usable capacity of existing assets in real time
  - These projects would reduce congestion charges, thereby minimizing the need for costly curtailments and potentially deferring the need for larger transmission projects.
- Large-scale, cross-regional transmission upgrades and coordinated planning
  - These projects would further lower electricity costs by opening pathways for power to flow between regions, allowing the grid to support new and existing loads.

Funding Available Through SPARK

GRIP Program & IIJA Provision:	Anticipated Number of Awards	Anticipated Minimum Award Size	Anticipated Maximum Award Size**	FOA-3580 Approximate Funding (FY26)	Approximate Award Project Period**
Topic Area 1: Grid Resilience 40101(c)	5-10	$10 Million	$100 Million	$427 Million*	48 Months
Topic Area 2: Smart Grid 40107	25-40	$10 Million	$50 Million	$614 Million	48 Months
Topic Area 3: Grid Innovation Program 40103(b)	3-8	$100 Million	$250 Million	$862 Million	48 Months

*As required by law, 30% of the total funding available for Topic Area 1 must be set aside for small utilities (entities that sell no more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year.) (42 U.S.C. § 18711[c][5]).
**Note the accelerated project performance period.

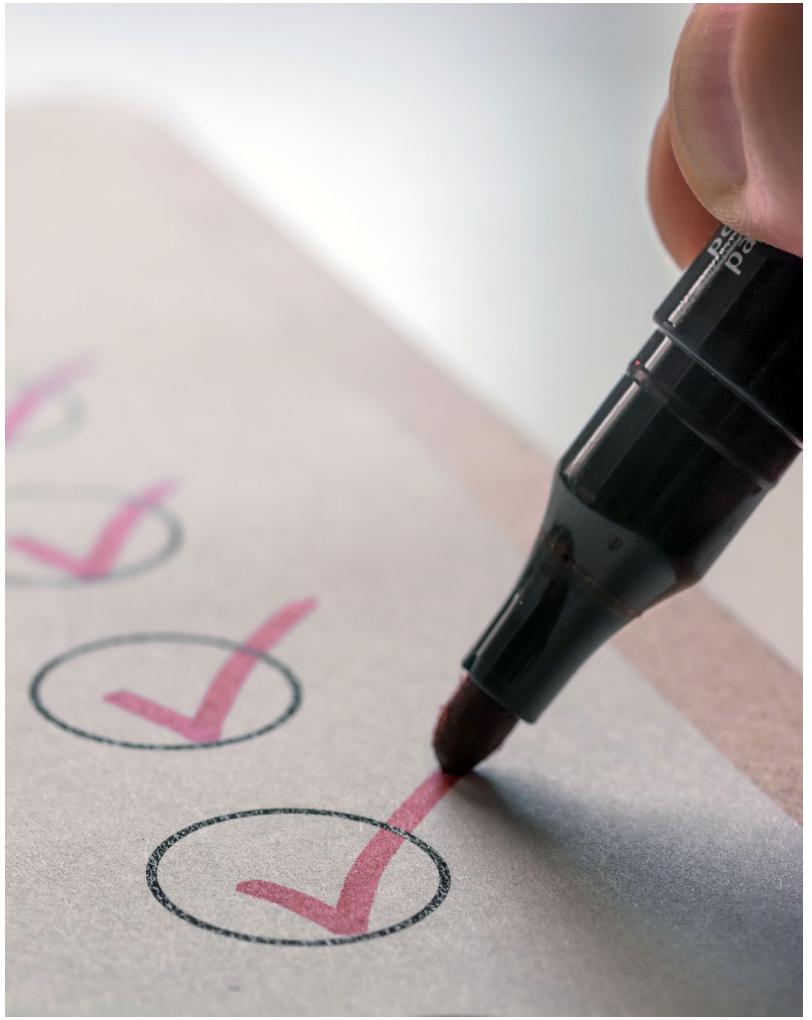

Full Applications

Application Submission Schedule

Concept Papers Due:	April 2, 2026
Response to Concept Papers:	Before end of April 2026
Full Applications Due:	May 20, 2026
Anticipated Selection Notification:	August 2026
Anticipated Award Date:	October 2026 – January 2027

Application - Submissions

- All FOA-3580 applications must be submitted on Exchange: https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/.
- All application packages must conform to the requirements listed in section IV.D of the NOFO, *Application Content Requirements.*
- Before applying to this NOFO, applicants must meet all registration requirements listed in section V.A. of the NOFO.
- Regardless of Topic Area, all applications are evaluated using the same technical review criteria which can be found in section VI.C.2 of the NOFO.
- As a reminder, applicants are **strongly encouraged** to submit all required application documents **at least 48 hours before the submission deadline, May 20, 2026.**
- **Please direct questions to** DE-FOA-0003580@netl.doe.gov.



Feedback of Concept Papers

SPARK - Concept Paper Feedback

- Ensure you are an eligible entity for the recommended Topic Area.
  - National Laboratories are not eligible to apply for funding as a prime recipient and may not be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity's application.
- Confirm all project activities are eligible for funding under the recommended Topic Area and are of interest under the NOFO.
- Revisit the estimated funding levels and anticipated award sizes for the recommended Topic Area.
- Make sure that the project periods align with the NOFO
  - All Topic Areas are 48 months.
- Check to make sure the all the requested project information is provided.
  - Including conductor type, rating, line length, and connecting buses or substations.
  - Baseline values and projected post-project values.

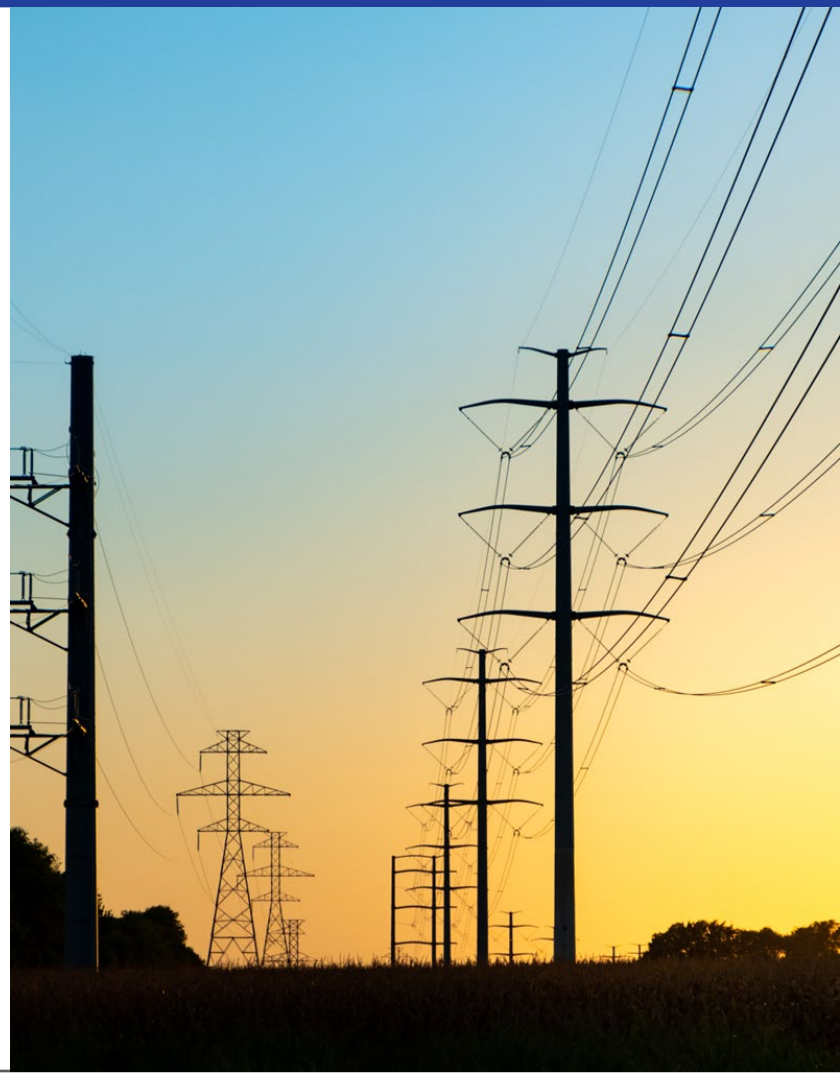
Please see Section II.A. of the NOFO for eligibility information. See Section I.A.1 for estimated funding levels and award sizes.

Topic Area 1: Grid Resilience, IIJA-40101(c)

- Projects must be supplemental to existing or planned reliability, resilience, and hardening efforts.
- Following activities are NOT eligible for funding under Topic Area 1*:
  - Construction of a new electric generating facility
  - Construction of a new large-scale battery-storage
  - Cybersecurity

Eligible Entities Include**:

- Electric grid operators
- Electric storage operators
- Electricity generators
- Transmission owners or operators
- Distribution providers



*Please see Section III.F. of the NOFO for Applications Specifically Not of Interest.
**Please see Section II.A. of the NOFO for Eligibility Information.

Topic Area 2: Smart Grid, IIJA-40107

- Standalone reconductoring projects that do not include smart grid integration are not of interest under this Topic Area.
- Applications need to meet a minimum Technical Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 (of 9 scale)*.
  - Applications that incorporate an ATT or HPC solution need a minimum of TRL 6.

Eligible Entities Include**:

- For-profit entities
- Non-profit and not-for-profit entities
- State and local governmental entities
- Tribal nations
- Institutions of higher education

*Please see Section III.F. of the NOFO for Technical Readiness Levels.
**Please see Section II.A. of the NOFO for Eligibility Information.

Topic Area 3: Grid Innovation Program, IIJA-40103(b)

- Applications must clearly indicate how they meet the listed Technical Approaches of Interest for Topic Area 3 as listed in Section III of the NOFO.
- Applications must demonstrate **replicable approaches** that accelerate permitting and interconnection processes, improving overall system reliability and affordability.

Eligible Entities Include*:

- a State
- a combination of 2 or more States
- an Indian Tribe
- a unit of local government
- a public utility commission

*Please see Section II.A. of the NOFO for Eligibility Information.


Q&A

Q&A Feedback

- Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to: DE-FOA-0003580@NETL.DOE.GOV
- Questions regarding specific project/full applications cannot be addressed.
- All questions and answers related to this NOFO will be posted on Exchange at: https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/.

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Office of Electricity

DE-FOA-0003580@NETL.DOE.GOV

https://www.energy.gov/oe/office-electricity

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | Office of Electricity

Thank You!