



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Program or Field Office: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:
Innovation Ecosystem Development Initiative

Funding Opportunity Number DE-FOA-0000356

Applicant (Legal Name) Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems

Location: Cambridge, MA

Project Title TechBridge Energy Innovation Acceleration Program

Proposed Action or Project Description

Fraunhofer USA Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) proposes to create the Energy Innovation Acceleration Program (IAP) to foster cleantech innovation in the U.S. Fraunhofer CSE was created through a partnership between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the State of Massachusetts and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE) in Germany. The objective of Fraunhofer TechBridge IAP is to streamline commercialization of university inventions by connecting university inventors across the U.S. with entrepreneurs, sources of capital, large U.S. corporations, and other strategic partners, to facilitate technology transfer, rapid prototyping, and lean start up creation and operation. Phase I activities include 1) introducing participants to program specifics, 2) creation of technology pool, 3) technology screening, 4) team formation, 5) post-course evaluation, 6) business plan competition, and 7) critical evaluation stage. Phase II activities include 8) raising capital (utilizing extension network of angel investors, etc.) and research and development (support of research centers and laboratories and developing a work-plan to reach key technical milestones). Phase III activities include 9) round A capital fund raising (engage network of investors to help participating companies raise round A funding for initial development); 10) entrepreneur matching (project's initial mentors will be matched); and 11) measure performance against metrics and propose a plan of action and implement needed changes to revise the program as needed.

Conditions: None

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: A9, A11, B5.1

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 10 21

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

Gary S. Hartman

Date Determined:

9/9/2010

Comments:

Webmaster: