

Working with the DOE SSL Program

SSL R&D Workshop

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Objective

- To provide generalized insight into how DOE SSL R&D functions
- Allow potential applicants/collaborators to improve participation in these programs to better achieve DOE goals
- Conducted in an open q&a/discussion setting

Disclaimer

- Can not provide guidance on specifics of any application or approach
- If anything is discussed that has a perceived or actual conflict with a procurement document, the procurement document always supersedes or takes precedence

Agenda Items

- DOE SSL competitive R&D process
- Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR)
- OLED collaborative testing
- Other....

Competitive R&D Process

- Conducted via Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
- Concept Paper
 - Evaluated internally
 - Encouraged or Discouraged
 - Generally shows proper technology maturation and alignment with FOA topics
 - Must submit a Concept Paper to submit a Full Application

Competitive R&D Process (continued)

- Full Application
 - Stage 1: Independent evaluation by external evaluators
 - Strength and Weakness comments provided to applicants
 - Stage 2: Applicant rebuttal to independent evaluator comments
 - Stage 3: Merit review meeting
 - Independent evaluators meet to discuss merits of applications
 - Federal Consensus Board participates to ask questions and learn from conversation

Competitive R&D Process (continued)

- Full Application (continued)
 - Stage 4: Federal Consensus Board meeting
 - Develops consensus strength and weakness comments
 - Develops individual application scores
 - Identifies “technically acceptable” range
 - Develops selection recommendations
 - Based primarily on score within Topic/Subtopic Area
 - Balances Program Priorities applying Program Policy Factors

Competitive R&D Process (continued)

- Full Application (continued)
 - Stage 5: Source Selection
 - Federal Consensus Board presents findings to Selection Official
 - Selection Official makes actual selection
 - Must pick from “technically acceptable”
 - Typically follows scoring within subtopic areas
 - » Selects based upon programmatic decisions
 - Stage 6: Public Announcement

Competitive R&D Process – Best Practices

- Clearly describe research approach and goals
- Thoroughly address all Technical Review Criteria
- Detail relevance towards FOA/topic/subtopic goals
- Describe current competing technology, state-of-the-art, and the advantage of your approach
- Be quantitative as much as possible
- Partner where necessary to fill knowledge/capability gaps

Competitive R&D Process – Milestones/Metrics

- Good milestones demonstrate a knowledge of the technology and a clear vision of where you want to go
- Used to monitor progress at all points of the project lifecycle
- SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely, and must demonstrate a technical achievement rather than simply completing a task

Competitive R&D Process – Common Mistakes

- Addressing a topic or problem not asked for in the FOA
- Lack of understanding of significant FOA requirement
 - Can present a particular hurdle for small business
 - Prepare ahead by looking at past SSL FOAs and FOAs in similar programs
- Don't be late!
- Know and follow the page limitations

Competitive R&D Process – Other Thoughts.....

- The proposed budget should be developed based upon the project approach and work plan
 - Not required to achieve the FOA cost ceiling
- Prepare early
- FOAs available at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>

Negotiation and Monitoring

- NETL negotiates technical and budget aspects of award
 - Based on proposed application
- NETL monitors performance against award
 - May continue, redirect, or terminate at decision points

Small Business Opportunities (SBIR/STTR)

- Small business set aside for R&D
 - Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
 - Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
- Annual opportunities that typically include SSL topics
 - Phase I explores feasibility of innovative concepts with awards up to \$150,000 for about 9 months
 - Phase II focuses on the principal R&D effort, with awards up to \$1,000,000, over a two-year period
 - Only Phase I award winners may compete for Phase II funding

Small Business Opportunities

- Requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to full application
- Recommended that you contact the technology manager listed in the funding opportunity to discuss your proposal idea prior to writing your LOI
- Performer retains rights to any technology developed and are encouraged to commercialize the technology

<http://science.energy.gov/sbir/>

Collaborative R&D OLED Testing Opportunity

Purpose

- Develop a collaborative R&D framework to accelerate developments in OLED lighting technology and manufacturing

Benefits

- Quicker turnaround for funding vs. solicitations
- Less daunting application
- Rapid results
- Collaboration with panel manufacturers
- Costs DOE less

<https://energy.gov/eere/ssl/oled-testing-opportunity>

