

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



RECIPIENT: TBD through PIA

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Industrial Technology Validation (ITV)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	PIA	GFO-IndustrialTechValidationPIA-001	

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>A8 Awards of certain contracts</b>	Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.
<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.

Rationale for determination:

In November 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries (PI) to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE is currently proposing to execute a PIA with DefenseWerx (Niceville, FL) to serve as the PI for the Industrial Technology Validation (ITV) program to accelerate energy efficiency and decarbonization in the industrial sector by rigorously evaluating the performance claims of promising emerging and underutilized technologies. The ITV program aims to increase the awareness of an assortment of energy efficient, decarbonization, water efficient, and/or waste reduction technologies, that can be essential for enabling industrial institutions to reach their sustainability goals.

The utilization of a PIA would improve upon the ITV program's existing structure by supporting outreach to a broad and diverse pool of potential applicants and by providing financial awards for project participants that achieve timely completion of program milestones. The ITV program would catalyze the widespread adoption of promising technologies by providing trusted third-party analysis to the marketplace, enabling manufacturers to make informed decisions on technologies to implement in their facilities. This would require enhancing the program's outreach strategies and utilizing a funding structure to encourage high-impact technologies to participate and incentivize the timely and complete participation of program participants.

PIA activities include: (1) Publishing a competitive solicitation for new ITV projects; (2) Deploying targeted outreach strategies, in accordance with IEDO priorities regarding technologies of interest, to identify and engage a diverse audience of technology providers and host sites beyond IEDO's existing networks; (3) Hosting a teaming platform to facilitate additional partnerships between host sites and technology providers who are interested in participating in the ITV program; and (4) Executing awards in a phased approach, contingent on timely completion of various program milestones.

Each project selected for participation in the ITV program would consist of three phases. Phase 1 would include the completion of an onboarding interview with representation from both host site and technology provider, the signing of a participation agreement by both parties, and the submission of a formal comment log concerning the measurement

and verification (M&V) plan. This phase would be expected to last approximately three months. Phase 2 would include compiling and packaging technology performance data for the IEDO program, technology installation provided to the host site and the host site installation of the equipment to ensure that it is operation and ready for evaluation. The exact types and nature of equipment to be installed is not known at this time. This phase would be expected to last approximately 12 to 18 months. Phase 3 would include report reviews, clarifications, generation of supplemental data, or other additional information needed to successfully complete the project. This phase would be expected to last approximately three months. This NEPA Determination is specific to Phase 1 efforts only. Further NEPA review would be required for Phase 2 and 3 activities once those efforts have been defined and work locations have been identified.

DOE has determined that any project selected for financial assistance through this PIA would consist of activities that would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. Thus, based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the execution of this PIA.

Activities associated with this award may include work at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

EERE is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision of *Marin Audubon Society v. FAA*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, EERE has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, in addition to DOE's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

- Phase 1 activities

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

- Phase 2 activities
- Phase 3 activities

Notes:

Industrial Efficiency & Decarbonization Office  
NEPA review completed by Chris Akios, 12/16/2024

This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of this PIA as well as all awards selected under this PIA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of the PIA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review would be required. Applicants would also be required to contact their Industrial Efficiency & Decarbonization Office Project Officer regarding any proposed changes in scope.

## 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:  Andrew Montano Date: 12/16/2024  
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