THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: DOE, Innovative DEsigns for high-performAnce Low-cost HVDC Converters (IDEAL HVDC), (DE-FOA-0003141)

Date: 10/10/2023

Dear UNM Researchers,

The U.S Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is issuing, on behalf of the Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) and Office of Electricity (OE), this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The research and development (R&D) activities to be funded under this FOA will support the government-wide approach to the climate crisis by driving the innovation that can lead to the deployment of clean energy technologies, which are critical for climate protection. Specifically, this FOA will invest in R&D to support continued innovation and cost reduction for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) voltage-source converter (VSC) transmission systems. This investment is intended to enable future grid upgrades required to integrate increasing renewable energy generation on to the grid, both onshore and offshore.

In addition to planning and siting challenges, cost is a critical barrier to widespread adoption and deployment of HVDC systems. Currently, HVDC system cost is driven by the converter substation given its increased complexity compared to HVAC systems. This FOA aims to address this barrier by investing in innovative solutions to reduce the cost of HVDC VSC technology. Proposals for this FOA should focus on cost-reduction innovations and solutions for modular multi-level converter VSC. Targeted areas for innovation may include: power capacity, voltage limit, size and power density, or lifespan and reliability.

EERE expects to make a total of approximately $10M of federal funding available for new awards under this FOA, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. EERE anticipates making approximately 3-4 awards under this FOA. EERE may issue one, multiple, or no awards. Individual awards may vary between $2.5M and $3.3M. Awards are anticipated to last between two and three years. Applicants are required to include a 20% cost share for research and development projects. The cost share must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law. More details can be found in the program solicitation: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=350391. The deadline for submitting mandatory concept papers to the agency is **November 14, 2023**. Full proposals are due **February 5, 2024.**

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to ONE concept paper and final submission as lead**. If you are interested in applying to this program, please submit a statement of interest with a tentative project title and a brief description (200 words) by **NOON on October 20, 2023** via UNM's **InfoReady Review portal**. ****Because of the short turnaround time, this limited competition will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. This means that the first SOI we receive will be given the UNM slot.**** To see if applicants for a first-come, first-served opportunity have already been selected, visit the Limited Competition website and use the "Filter by Award Title" function to search for the opportunity if it isn't visible on the first page.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.