

17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: September 6, 2000.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Master Plan for Customer Surveys and Focus Groups.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or household; Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 100,000; Burden Hours: 25,120.

Abstract: This Master Plan allows ED to seek OMB clearance for individual customer satisfaction and focus group surveys in a short time frame. These surveys focus on ways to improve customer service and to further assist the public sector.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional

Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her internet address Kathy_Axt@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

AGENCY: National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-00NT40854, entitled "Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA)." The purpose of the SECA solicitation is to seek Industrial Development Teams to develop a 3 kilowatt (kW)-10kW solid-oxide fuel cell system including stack and balance of plant that has a Factory Cost of \$400/kW by 2010. The goal is to develop solid-oxide fuel cell systems that have broad applicability via use of mass customization techniques. Development of solid-oxide fuel cell systems that are applicable to stationary, mobile, and military applications with minimal differences in core module components is also desired.

DATES: A draft solicitation will be available on or about September 15, 2000. Comments and/or questions concerning the draft solicitation shall be submitted to the DOE Contract Specialist no later than 25 days after publication of the solicitation; the mailing address and E-mail address is provided below.

ADDRESSES: The draft solicitation will be available for viewing and downloading from NETL's Homepage at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>. The final version of the solicitation along with all amendments will be posted on the NETL Homepage; applicants are therefore encouraged to periodically

check the NETL Homepage to ascertain the status of these documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary S. Gabriele, MS I07, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, E-mail Address: mgabri@netl.doe.gov, Telephone Number: (304) 285-4253.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U. S. Department of Energy is seeking Industrial Teams to develop a total of three solid-oxide fuel cell system prototypes per team with a net power output of between 3 kilowatts (kW) to 10kW. A single organization (prime) will lead each Industrial Team. The project will be structured in three phases over ten years with minimum goals and requirements established for each phase. A full functional prototype will be tested according to a minimum set of goals and requirements no later than the end of each phase.

This solicitation represents the beginning of a new fuel cell program. The new program will attack the fuel cell commercialization by reducing costs and producing system configurations that have wide applicability. SECA includes two major components—the Industrial Teams Component and the Core Technology Program. This solicitation is for the Industrial Team Component only.

The DOE anticipates award of multiple cost-sharing cooperative agreements; but the DOE reserves the right to award the agreement type and number deemed in its best interest. As required in Section 3002, Title XXX of the Energy Policy Act (EPACT), offerors are advised that *mandatory* cost-share will be required for each phase of the project: 20% for Phase I and 50% for Phases II and III. Funds are not currently available for this solicitation; the Government's obligation under any cooperative agreement awarded is contingent upon the availability of appropriated FY2001 funds.

Issued in Morgantown, WV on August 31, 2000.

Randolph L. Kesling,

Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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