

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0002847

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002845

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Section 41006(a)(2): U.S. Tidal Energy Advancement.”

Background

On November 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).¹ The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, designed to modernize and upgrade American infrastructure to enhance United States competitiveness, drive the creation of good-paying union jobs, tackle the climate crisis, and ensure stronger access to economic, environmental, and other benefits for disadvantaged communities.² The BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) to invest in American manufacturing and workers; expand access to energy efficiency and clean energy; deliver reliable, clean and affordable power to more Americans; and demonstrate and deploy the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, the BIL-funded projects are expected to (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) invest in America’s workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (4) contribute to the President’s goal that 40% of the overall project benefits flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative³).

Technical Objectives

While marine energy is still at an early stage of development, there have been significant advances in the United States and abroad in the commercialization of tidal and current energy.

¹ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58 (November 15, 2021). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684>. This FOA uses the more common name “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”.

² Pursuant to E.O. 14008 and the Office of Management and Budget’s Interim Justice40 Implementation Guidance M-21-28, DOE has developed a definition and tools to locate and identify disadvantaged communities. These resources can be located at <https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>. DOE will also recognize disadvantaged communities as defined and identified by the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), which can be located at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>.

³ The Justice40 initiative, created by E.O. 14008, establishes a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. The current Justice40 guidance provides a broad definition of disadvantaged communities (Pages 8-10): [Final DOE Justice40 General Guidance 072522.pdf \(energy.gov\)](#).

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Domestically, the tidal industry is at a phase in development that requires moving from single device testing to full site development. The complexity of installing devices, navigating the permitting processes, and a lack of connection to states or local utilities have proven to – and will continue to – be a consistent barrier to advancing tidal and current energy. Significant opportunities remain for the United States to lead commercialization and testing of tidal energy, which could serve U.S. populations and lessons learned could be exported to international markets.

To support the development of tidal and current energy systems in the United States, and move the state of these technologies, DOE will provide the first large scale investment for the development of a tidal Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) site. This FOA will provide \$35 million in total funding supporting Section 41006(a)(2) to fund a tidal or river current site development, preferably led by a project/site developer in the U.S., and fund in-water demonstration of at least one tidal energy system. The overall goals of this FOA are to:

- Build upon state clean energy strategies with local partners;
- Attract competitive tidal/current developers for technology site integration;
- Improve tidal/current Research and Development (R&D);
- Build site infrastructure and supply chains, with increased participation at the state level, including local agency, Tribal and university research participation; and
- Establish a working business model covering site development to commercial scale.

Tidal/current site development and community engagement will be a central component to this FOA. Teaming arrangements are strongly encouraged in successful applications to this FOA. This FOA encourages potential Applicants to form partnerships with utilities; academia; and state, regional, Tribal, and technology developers. DOE plans to engage the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), and Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) for technical support for future FOA Awardees. Accordingly, Applicants are not permitted to communicate with NREL, PNNL, and SNL for teaming arrangements.

Any organization that would like to be included on the Teaming Partner List should submit the following information to MarineEnergyFOA@ee.doe.gov with the subject line “Teaming Partner Information: NOI DE-FOA-0002847.” In the body of the email please include: Organization Name, Contact Name, Contact Email, Contact Phone, Organization Type, Area of Technical Expertise, and Brief Description of Capabilities. By submitting the above Teaming Partner Information, you consent to the publication of the above-referenced information as part of the Teaming Partner List.

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The Teaming Partner List will be made available on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov> under NOI DE-FOA-0002847. The Teaming Partner List will be updated periodically until the close of the Full Application period of the potential FOA to reflect new Teaming Partners who have provided their information. By facilitating this Teaming Partner List, EERE does not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of the entities that self-identify themselves for placement on the Teaming Partner List. EERE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it compensate any respondents for the development of such information.

It is anticipated that the FOA will include only one topic area, which is separated into five (5) programmatic phases as follows:

Budget Period #	Phase #: Name	Year #	Budget and Award
1	<u>Phase 1: Preliminary Tidal Site R&D</u> Full characterization of the tidal site, physical and desk top data collection, planning for resource, location, and infrastructure requirements, and community engagement plans.	1	\$6M Total: Up to 2 Awards at up to \$3M each, two Budget Periods. Down-Select to one (1) award at the end of first (1) budget period.
2	<u>Phase 2: Detailed Tidal Site R&D</u> Detailed site characterization with site licensing/permitting progression, environmental monitoring data collection, onshore infrastructure, and tidal technology selection.	2	\$4M
3	<u>Phase 3: Infrastructure Development, Technology Selection</u> Onshore infrastructure development, technology integration planning, supply chain engagement and development.	3 & 4	\$10M
4	<u>Phase 4: Technology Fabrication, Installation</u> Tidal technology fabrication, mobilization, installation, connection activities will commence. <u>Phase 5: Test to Operations</u>	5 & 6	\$15M

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	Power performance testing, environmental monitoring, and sustainability planning.		
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EERE envisions awarding two financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements in Phase 1 of the planned FOA. The estimated period of performance for both awards in Phase 1 will be one year, with a competitive down-selection to one award at the end of Phase 1. EERE envisions selecting a single financial assistance award in the form of a cooperative agreement for Phases 2-5.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE’s intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about March 2023 via the EERE eXCHANGE website <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov/>. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE eXCHANGE. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE eXCHANGE.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE eXCHANGE at <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to apply to any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE eXCHANGE.

Beginning on July 29, 2022, eXCHANGE will be integrated with Login.gov. As of September 29, 2022, potential applicants will be required to have a Login.gov account to access EERE eXCHANGE. As part of the eXCHANGE registration process, new users will be directed to create an account in [Login.gov](https://login.gov/). Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the Exchange Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the [Manuals section](#) of eXCHANGE.

It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-eXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov.

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- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).

- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE eXCHANGE.

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