



WVEPSCoR  
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TO: West Virginia Researchers  
FROM: Paul L. Hill, WVEPSCoR Executive Director  
DATE: January 10, 2005  
REF: DOE EPSCoR Laboratory Partnership Program Announcement

DOE EPSCoR has announced that academic or industrial researchers in West Virginia are eligible to apply for DOE EPSCoR Laboratory Partnership awards. Preapplications are required and must be submitted to DOE by April 12, 2005. This program is described in Attachment 1. Additional information may be obtained at the DOE website <http://www.science.doe.gov/EPSCoR/appli1.htm>.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the Lab Partnership Program and the schedule established by WVEPSCoR for managing the application process. Attachment 2 summarizes important information from Attachment 1.

Preapplications require a letter of endorsement from a WVEPSCoR coordinator as part of the preapplication. For purposes of facilitating this process, we have established the following procedure for obtaining endorsement letters.

#### 1. Contacts for Endorsement Letters

##### All West Virginia University Researchers

Richard A. Bajura  
Director  
National Research Center for Coal and Energy  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6064  
Voice: 304/293-2867 Ext. 5401  
Fax: 304/293-3749  
[Bajura@wvu.edu](mailto:Bajura@wvu.edu)

##### All Other University and Industry Researchers

Paul L. Hill  
Executive Director  
WV EPSCoR  
1018 Kanawha Boulevard E. Suite 1101  
Charleston, WV 25301  
Voice: 304/558-4128  
Fax: 304/558-2321  
[Info@wvepscor.org](mailto:Info@wvepscor.org)

#### 2. Schedule

All requests for letters of endorsement should be received by the respective contacts on or before April 1, 2005. Requests for endorsements should include a draft of the preproposal package being prepared by the researcher. In addition to any electronic or paper communications, researchers are requested to establish telephone contact with the respective contacts to ensure receipt of their requests and to make arrangements for receiving the endorsement letter from the contact. Please note that a letter of intent to collaborate is also required from a DOE National Laboratory researcher confirming willingness to collaborate on the project.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Richard Bajura or me as soon as possible for consultation regarding the preparation of preapplications.

DOE EPSCoR communicates directly with researchers in the Laboratory Partnership Program and not through the WVEPSCoR Office. As the WV agency designated to facilitate, focus, and monitor the WV academic research community, however, we would appreciate hearing from participating researchers regarding the outcome of their submissions.

cc: R. Bajura  
WVEPSCoR State Advisory Council  
J. Taylor

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH



Attachment 1

Office of Science  
Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04

*Experimental Program  
to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); Building  
EPSCoR-State/National Laboratory Partnerships*

Department of Energy

**Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04;  
Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); Building  
EPSCoR-State/National Laboratory Partnerships**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in keeping with its energy-related mission to assist in strengthening the Nation's scientific research enterprise through the support of basic science, engineering, and mathematics, announces its interest in receiving grant applications for collaborative partnerships between academic or industrial researchers from states eligible for the DOE/EPSCoR program and researchers at DOE's National Laboratories, facilities, and centers. The purpose of the DOE/EPSCoR program is to enhance the capability of designated states to conduct nationally competitive energy-related research and to develop science and engineering manpower in energy-related areas to meet current and future needs. The purpose of this program notice is to initiate and promote partnering and collaborative relationships that build beneficial energy-related research programs with strong participation by students, postdoctoral fellows, and young faculty from EPSCoR states.

**DATES:** Potential applicants are **required** to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04, must be received by April 12, 2005, (preapplications received after this date will not be considered). A response to the preapplications encouraging or discouraging a formal application will be communicated to the applicant within approximately six weeks of receipt.

To permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2006, formal applications submitted in response to this notice must be received by July 6, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, (formal applications received after this date will not be considered).

**ADDRESSES:** All preapplications, referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04, should be addressed to Dr. Matesh N. Varma, and should be sent as PDF file attachments via e-mail to: EPSCoR@Science.doe.gov with "Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04" and the Collaborating Laboratory in the subject line. No Fax or mail submission of preapplications will be considered.

After receiving notification from DOE concerning successful preapplications, applicants may prepare formal applications. No other formal applications will be considered.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04, must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/> (see also <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/>). IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. **IIPS offers the option of using multiple files, please limit submissions to one volume and one file if possible, with a maximum of no more than four PDF files.** The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific grant application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS help desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov or you may call the help desk at (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS, please contact the Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science at: (301) 903-5212 or (301) 903-3064, in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Matesh N. Varma, DOE/EPSCoR Program Manager, Division of Materials Sciences and Engineering, SC-132/Germantown Building, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-3209; Fax: (301) 903-9513; E-Mail: matesh.varma@science.doe.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** To continue to enhance the competitiveness of states and territories identified for participation in the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), DOE encourages the formation of partnerships between academic and industrial researchers in EPSCoR states and the researchers at DOE's National Laboratories, facilities and centers in scientific areas supported by DOE's Office of Science. These collaborations should address areas of research of current interest to the Department. Undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and young faculty must be active members of the research team, and it is encouraged that

these investigators spend a summer or significant time during the academic year at a National Laboratory, facility, or center. It is also encouraged that collaborating scientists from the National Laboratories visit collaborating EPSCoR state faculty for exchange of scientific ideas and fostering active collaboration. Subcontracting arrangements with DOE National Laboratories will not be permitted. DOE eligible states and territories for the EPSCoR program are: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands.

### **Program Funding**

It is anticipated that approximately \$1,200,000 will be available in Fiscal Year 2006, for research that encourages and facilitates collaborative efforts between researchers from EPSCoR states and researchers at DOE's National Laboratories, facilities, and centers. Multiple-year funding of grant awards is expected subject to satisfactory progress of the research, the availability of funds, and evidence of substantial interactions between the EPSCoR researchers and the National Laboratory partner. Awards are expected to range up to a maximum of \$150,000 annually with terms up to three years. The number of awards and range of funding will depend on the number of applications received and selected for award. Minimum cost sharing in the amount of 10% of the DOE share of the total budget is required from non-federal sources; e.g., DOE \$150,000/year and Recipient \$15,000/year. All DOE/EPSCoR award funds will be provided to the recipient organization within the EPSCoR state for the purpose of supporting activities in the EPSCoR state and may include travel and lodging, faculty or student stipends, materials, services, and equipment.

### **Applications**

To minimize undue effort on the part of applicants and reviewers, interested parties must submit preapplications. Only one application per individual is permitted, and individuals currently receiving DOE EPSCoR or DOE funds are not eligible to apply. The preapplications will be evaluated relative to the scope and research needs of the Department of Energy. The brief preapplication must consist of: (1) one to two pages of narrative describing the research objectives and methods of accomplishment, (2) a letter from the appropriate state EPSCoR coordinator endorsing the preapplication, and (3) a letter of intent from the DOE National Laboratory researcher confirming willingness to collaborate on the project. The preapplications will be grouped according to programmatic areas of interest to the DOE and will be reviewed by DOE laboratory management to determine the priority of the proposed research. The preapplications will also be reviewed by the DOE relevant programmatic research area program manager. DOE program managers will be asked to rank EPSCoR preapplications by program priority. DOE program managers will be asked for their willingness to provide co-funding if a project is selected for approval. Based on this review, DOE/EPSCoR management will recommend formal submission of applications to the Department. A telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address are required parts of the

preapplication. Instructions regarding the contents of a preapplication and other preapplication guidelines can be found on the SC Grants and Contracts Web Site at: <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/preapp.html> and <http://www.science.doe.gov/bes/EPSCoR/APPLI1.htm>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made. In addition to the project description, all preapplications and formal applications must include the following information:

- 1) Applications should explain the relevance of the proposed research to the agency's programmatic needs. On the cover page, applicants should specify the relevant DOE technical program office, the name of the program manager (this is not the EPSCoR program manager), his/her telephone number and E-mail address. DOE program descriptions and the contact person information may be accessed via the web at: <http://www.doe.gov/>.
- 2) Applications must demonstrate clear evidence of collaborative intent, including a delineation of each partner's role and contribution to the research effort as well as a "Letter-of- Intent" from the participating DOE National Laboratory, facility, or center.
- 3) Applications must explain the individual value to both the EPSCoR and the National Laboratory partners. There should be clear objectives, not necessarily the same, for each partner.

### **Merit Review**

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria, listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR Part 605.10(d).

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project.
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach.
3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources.
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors, such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's programmatic needs and priority. External peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-Federal reviewers will often be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Applications received by SC under its current competitive application mechanisms that meet the criteria outlined in this Notice may also be deemed appropriate for consideration under this announcement and may be funded under this program.

General information about the development and submission of preapplications, applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation and selection processes, and other policies

and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605. Electronic access to the latest version of SC's Application Guide is possible via the Internet at the following web address:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/>. Additional information regarding format, preparation and specific requirements for this program may be found at the following web address: <http://www.science.doe.gov/bes/EPSCoR/APPLI1.HTM> which takes precedence.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Martin Rubinstein  
Grants and Contracts Division  
Office of Science

Posted on the Office of Science Grants and Contracts Web Site  
October 18, 2004.

Note: The Department of Energy requires that proposals be submitted electronically. The Section titled "Addresses" on the first page of this announcement describes how preapplications must be submitted. Approved preapplicants will be required to submit formal applications using the DOE IIPS system, described below. Access to web sites referenced in the text below can be obtained by contacting <http://www.science.doe.gov/bes/EPSCoR/APPLI1.htm>.

**U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**

**The Office of Science is now using The Department of Energy e-Center Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) for the electronic submission of applications. Please reference IIPS number DE-FG01-05ER05-04 when submitting applications for this Solicitation.**

Click here to access the U.S. Department of Energy [Industry Interactive Procurement System \(IIPS\)](#)

Directions on the Use of IIPS, Tailored to the Office of Science, are available at [Instructions on the Use of IIPS](#)

For more information about the Office of Science Grant Program, go to the [Office of Science Grants and Contracts Web Site](#).

## Attachment 2

### Information Regarding the Preparation of Preapplications

The following bullets are intended to highlight important information cited in Attachment 1 as an aid to preparing preapplications.

- Potential applicants are **required** to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-05ER05-04, must be received by April 12, 2005 (preapplications received after this date will not be considered).
- Minimum cost sharing in the amount of 10% of the DOE share of the total budget is required from non-federal sources; e.g., DOE \$150,000/year and Recipient \$15,000/year.
  - Proposers will be required to obtain their own cost share since WVEPSCoR will not provide cost sharing funds.
- Only one application per individual is permitted, and individuals currently receiving DOE EPSCoR or DOE funds are not eligible to apply.
- A letter from the appropriate state EPSCoR coordinator endorsing the preapplication is required. Please refer to the announcement cover letter for details on obtaining an endorsement letter. A letter of intent to collaborate is required from a DOE National Laboratory researcher confirming willingness to collaborate on the project.
- The preapplications will also be reviewed by the DOE relevant programmatic research area program manager. DOE program managers will be asked to rank EPSCoR preapplications by program priority. DOE program managers will be asked for their willingness to provide co-funding if a project is selected for approval.
  - Researchers should inform their DOE collaborators of the requirement to provide cost sharing from the collaborating DOE laboratory. The laboratory may be required to provide 10% to 20% of the total funding awarded by DOE EPSCoR.
  - DOE considers willingness to share costs on the part of the participating laboratory as an important requirement for funding. If your partner is not willing to invest money from their Laboratory's accounts to support part of DOE EPSCoR's costs to fund your project, your chances of success are very, very low.

- Applications must demonstrate clear evidence of collaborative intent, including a delineation of each partner's role and contribution to the research effort as well as “Letter-of- Intent” from the participating DOE National Laboratory, facility, or center.
  - DOE gives priority to strong endorsement letters from the Laboratory collaborators. Begin your work in building a relationship with your collaborator early so that you can obtain a strong, meaningful letter of endorsement.
- DOE will normally communicate directly with each proposer regarding the status of their submission and will award funding directly to the institution of the successful proposers. In view of this procedure, WVEPSCoR will not be directly involved in the submission of preproposals, formal proposals, or the award of funds. It is the responsibility of the proposer and the proposer’s institution to ensure timely submission of all required documents at each stage in the process. WVEPSCoR’s formal involvement will be limited to providing an endorsement letter.
- WVEPSCoR will appreciate receiving update information from each researcher submitting a preproposal regarding the status of their project each time such information becomes available in the overall process of review. Please communicate update information to the person you contacted for the endorsement letter.