

Energy Innovation Fund Request for Information

The Energy Innovation Fund (EIF) was proposed by the Governor and was established with a \$2M appropriation this year by the legislature. The EIF was created to accelerate the development of innovation to enable faster commercial adaptation of clean energy technologies in New Mexico. The Fund is part of the Governor's commitment to making New Mexico "The Clean Energy State." We expect that New Mexico will see benefits through:

- Increased production of energy in New Mexico
- Cleaner generation of energy
- Increased energy efficiency
- Return to the state on intellectual property
- Increased revenue and number of jobs in New Mexico

The focus of the EIF this year will be on development of technology for biofuels and/or concentrating solar power. Any effort supported by the EIF must satisfy the following requirements:

- The project must be related to NM goals in clean energy
- The project must be innovative with the potential for making an impact in NM and preferably also address regional and national issues
- Partnerships must be established between private and public sectors
- At least one of the principals in the project must be a New Mexico entity
- Funds provided should be spent in New Mexico
- Matching contributions with state investment must be provided (in cash or in-kind contributions) at a level equal to or greater than the state investment
- Return on investment to New Mexico must be reasonably expected within 4 years

The criteria for determining which projects will be supported are:

1. Creativity and innovation of the proposed project
2. Scientific and technical soundness
3. Patentability, transferability, and/or State return on investment
4. Public and private contractors and investor's qualifications
5. Reasonableness of work agenda and budget.

In order to assess any proposed effort, the following information is required:

1. Statement of what is innovative about the proposed research and how the proposed work is similar to or different from other work going on within the State and nationally.
2. A brief technical description of the proposed work that clearly identifies the:
 - scope of work
 - composition and experience of the team
 - technical issues to be addressed
 - technical approach
 - assessment of technical challenges and risks
 - comparison of the proposed approach with other known approaches
 - status of any work already carried out
 - milestones

- deliverables
 - schedule
 - budget
3. Specific information on the investments that the proposers commit to make (financial and/or in-kind) that match or exceed the level of investment being requested from the State.
 4. Assessment of how the State would earn return on its investment within a four-year period, including, but not limited to, possible returns from intellectual property, royalties, job creation, and increased revenue.
 5. Information on what, if any, further R&D and/or other activities will be required in the future to enable the proposed work to be carried to the full commercialization stage. Information should include a short description of future work required and the estimated cost and schedule to complete the work. Other sources of potential funding for future work should be indicated.

Applications for funding will be considered in the amount of \$200K to \$2.0M per project.

The Request For Information (RFI) is being used to seek information on prospective efforts. Any efforts that are selected for possible funding will be developed through either a Joint Power Agreement (JPA) or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department and a public entity. The public entity may work jointly with other institutions and/or a private contractor by establishing a separate agreement for efforts to be carried out by the other entities.

The completed RFI provided should not exceed ten pages in length and should be sent by email to the Governor's Science Advisor (see below) no later than 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on June 19, 2007. All information provided will be held in confidence to the maximum extent allowed by the law.

An open meeting will be held at 10:00 am on June 6 in the Governor's offices (4th floor, State Capital Building) to answer any questions that potential responders may have. Registration is required for attending and may be requested by contacting the Governor's Science Advisor (see below).

Enquiries for additional information should be addressed to both of the following:

Thomas Bowles (Governor's Science Advisor) at 505-476-2244 or Thomas.Bowles@state.nm.us
and

Charryl Berger (Governor's Technical Energy Advisor) at 505-476-2272 or
Charryl.Berger@state.nm.us

Answers to frequently asked questions will be posted on the Governor's website at
<http://www.governor.state.nm.us>