

**Office of Science  
Financial Assistance  
Funding Opportunity Announcement  
DE-PS02-07ER07-15**

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

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 Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program and researchers at DOE's National Laboratories, facilities, and centers. The purpose of the DOE/EPSCoR program is to enhance the capabilities of designated EPSCoR states to conduct nationally competitive, energy-related research and to develop science and engineering human resources in energy-related areas to meet current and future needs. The purpose of this program notice is to initiate and promote partnering relationships that build beneficial energy-related research programs with strong participation by students, postdoctoral fellows, and young faculty from EPSCoR states.

**PREAPPLICATIONS**

Potential applicants are **required** to submit a brief preapplication, referencing **Program Notice DE-PS02-07ER07-15 for receipt by DOE by 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, April 30, 2007 (preapplications received after this date will not be considered)**. Preapplications will be reviewed for conformance with the guidelines presented in this Notice and suitability in the technical areas specified in this Notice. A response to the preapplications encouraging or discouraging formal applications will be communicated to the applicants by **June 11, 2007**. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their preapplication by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Only those preapplicants that receive notification from DOE encouraging a formal application may submit full applications. **No other formal applications will be considered.**

Preapplications must be submitted electronically to **epscor@science.doe.gov** (attention **DE-PS02-07ER07-15**). No Fax or mail submission of preapplications will be considered. After receiving notification from DOE concerning successful preapplications, applicants may prepare formal applications.

The preapplication should include cover-page information and a brief (3-5 pages) project description. The preapplication must include:

a. Cover-page information:

- (1) A statement that the document is a preapplication.
- (2) Principal Investigator (PI) - Name and address of PI's organization, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.
- (3) Title of project.
- (4) Notice Number (e.g. 07-15), if applicable.
- (5) Name and address (telephone, email and fax) of DOE technical program office and its associated program manager (this is not same as the DOE EPSCoR program manager). DOE program descriptions are listed below.

b. Project description (3-5 pages) may include the following, as appropriate:

- (1) A description of the proposed research, proposed methods of accomplishment. This must include a clear description of the nature of the proposed State/Lab partnership.
- (2) A statement of its proposed project's importance and relevance to the Department's mission and agency's programmatic needs. This should include a clear explanation of the value of the work to both the state and the DOE National Laboratory partners. Relevance may not be the same for each partner, necessarily.
- (3) An explanation of proposed project's methodology and equipment needs.
- (4) Anticipated project results.
- (5) A project schedule with estimated completion date.
- (6) Cost-share and total project cost information.

c. Letters

- (1) A letter from the appropriate state EPSCoR coordinator endorsing the preapplication.
- (2) A 'Letter of Commitment' from the DOE National Laboratory researcher confirming willingness to collaborate on the project.

**FORMAL APPLICATION DUE DATE: July 16, 2007, 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Formal applications must be submitted using [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). Funding Opportunity Announcement can be found using the CFDA number, 81.049 or the Funding Opportunity Announcement number, DE-PS02-07ER07-15. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the forms provided on Grants.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Kristin Bennett, telephone: (301) 903-4269, E-mail: [Kristin.bennett@science.doe.gov](mailto:Kristin.bennett@science.doe.gov), Materials Sciences and Engineering Division, SC-22.2, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, Germantown Building, E-422, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-1290.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

To continue to enhance the competitiveness of states and territories identified for participation in the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) by the National Science Foundation (NSF), DOE has decided to restrict again eligibility for the program to the following states and territories: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New

Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. To continue to enhance the competitiveness of its EPSCoR program, DOE encourages the formation of partnerships and collaborations between academic and industrial researchers in EPSCoR states and territories 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 and supporting the Department's mission. 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.

### **DOE Research Programs General Information**

The DOE/EPSCoR State/National Laboratory Partnership Awards are open to the entire range of energy-related disciplines supported by DOE. Additional information on the DOE Research Programs is available at the following website addresses:

Department of Energy (General Information):

<http://www.energy.gov/>

Office of Science:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/>

Basic Energy Sciences:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/BES.htm>

Biological and Environmental Research:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/BER.htm>

Advanced Scientific Computing Research:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/ASCR.htm>

Fusion Energy Sciences:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/fes.htm>

High Energy Physics:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/HEP.htm>

Nuclear Physics:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/feature/NP.htm>

Office of Defense Programs:

<http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/>

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

<http://www.eere.doe.gov>

Office of Fossil Energy:

<http://www.fe.doe.gov>

Office of Environmental Management:

<http://www.em.doe.gov>

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management:

<http://www.rw.doe.gov>

Office of Nuclear Energy:

<http://www.ne.doe.gov>

## **Program Funding**

It is anticipated that approximately \$1,500,000 will be available in Fiscal Year 2008, 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, timely and satisfactory progress reporting, availability of funds, and evidence of substantial interactions between the DOE EPSCoR researchers and the DOE 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.

## **EPSCoR State/National Laboratory Partnership Application Guidelines**

This section contains specific guidance for the preparation of the DOE/EPSCoR State/National Laboratory Partnership application. 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.

Confidential or proprietary information is discouraged, but any such information must be clearly marked. Attachments or enclosures submitted with the preapplication will not be reviewed. Research involving human subjects or animals must adhere to the guidance detailed in Section 8. "Human Subjects and Animal Welfare". <http://www.science.doe.gov/grants/Welfare.html>

The DOE EPSCoR State/National Laboratory partnership 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 submission of formal applications to the Department. Further detailed 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/APPL11.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. Confidential or proprietary information is discouraged, but any such information must be clearly marked. Attachments or enclosures submitted with the preapplication will not be reviewed.

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.

Posted on the Office of Science Grants and Contracts Web Site  
December 20, 2006.