

CALL FOR WHITE PAPERS & Preliminary Announcement
Vermont EPSCoR
Department of Energy Grant Opportunity
Electronic Submission Process will be in effect
Web Forms will be available at www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR

This is a request for white papers for DOE EPSCoR Implementation Grant proposals. Implementation Awards are infrastructure awards with funds of up to \$750,000 per year direct costs, for three years with the potential for renewal. Awards should improve of the state's academic research infrastructure in key science and technology energy-related areas.

It is expected that DOE will announce this funding opportunity for EPSCoR in the next few months. The prior RFA may not be completely indicative of the RFA to come. The link to the prior RFA is: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/grants/FAPN08-04.html>. There are 3 critical features of the DOE Implementation Awards for this competition:

First, this is a solicitation for white papers that will be submitted for outside review. The white paper that is chosen to go forward will be the submission from UVM for this competition at the DOE.

Second, it is critical that the proposed research cut across units at UVM, and if possible reach out to the private sector or other higher education institutions across the state. Infrastructure building grant proposals are different from research group building, and must be relevant to the state and national needs. This is not an appropriate mechanism to provide support for individual faculty science and technology research projects. We encourage questions as you develop your ideas.

Third, for the white paper submission, it is critical that you examine the DOE web sites and develop a working relationship with a program officer at DOE. Funding through DOE EPSCoR will require that a DOE program contribute 10% to the funding, and this requires significant interest on the part of a program officer in DOE. It also ensures that our research in Vermont will be of high priority for DOE.

IMPLEMENTATION AWARDS

- **White Papers will be due electronically to VT EPSCoR (29 May 2009)**
- **Full Proposals that are selected will be due directly to DOE/EPSCoR (Date TBA)**
Applicants must work with the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) for questions on how to submit to Grants.Gov.
- Only ONE proposal can be submitted from each of the eligible states and territories, including Vermont.
- Number and amount of anticipated awards are unknown at this time but are anticipated to be approximately \$750,000 per year for 3 years.

Call for White Papers (Deadline: 29 May 2009)

White papers should be of no more than 10 pages in length, exclusive of literature cited, preliminary budget and biosketches.

The white papers should describe the research hypotheses and questions, the group(s) of researchers, the infrastructure that would be developed (human and/or physical) and the relevance to DOE. In the broadest sense, the white paper must describe the research infrastructure in Vermont to allow the targeted area to become nationally competitive and, hopefully, internationally recognized.

White papers must include:

- PI name(s), full contact information including email address, phone and affiliation(s)
- Project Title
- Project Description (10 page maximum). Figures and tables are included in these 10 pages.
- Preliminary Budget (1 page) (include both DOE and matching funds in the budget request)
 - Note that each application can include a budget of up to \$750,000 per year from DOE with half that amount of matching funds (i.e., budget of direct costs should be \$750k per year, and additional F&A.
 - A 50% match is required, and usually is provided by the Vice President for Research or Provost in the amount equal to the F&A.
 - Outline main proposed expenditures; Examples of budget categories include: new equipment; staffing for core research facilities; supplemental start-up costs for new faculty; targeted proof-of-concept programs; postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research programs; funds for developing technology-transfer capacity or university-industry partnerships; visiting-scientist support; and expenses for workshops, seminars, and training courses. A detailed budget is not required for White Papers, and budget items should generally track the strategies proposed to achieve the vision for the focal area.
- Description (up to 1 page) of how well the proposal addresses current DOE research needs and the prospects for future non-EPSCoR DOE research funding. This **must** include compelling evidence that there is substantial commitment from an internal DOE program.
- A brief leadership plan describing how the research cluster will be organized and administered; (Will there be a single leader or a leadership committee? What are the qualifications of the leadership?)
- Evaluation, outreach, and communication plans should be considered and will be required in the final proposal.
- References cited (in addition to the ten pages for the text);
- Vitae for PI and investigators (up to 2 pages each)
- List of past, current and pending DOE support

The ten-page limit on the proposal section of the White Paper will be strictly enforced. Successful White Papers will have to be extended to create a final proposal that must be submitted directly to DOE via Grants.gov.

Please submit your white papers to Vermont EPSCoR (epscor@uvm.edu) by 4:00 p.m. May 29, 2009. Direct questions to this same e-mail address.

Timetable:

Before you start – **carefully read the DOE Program Notice at the above-cited links.**

1 April 2009	Call for White Papers
29 May 2009	White Papers due
15 July 2009*	Review of White Papers
30 July 2009*	Proposals selected for submission
TBD**	Proposal Submission to DOE

* Dates are subject to change. Full DOE EPSCoR proposals have been due late September in prior years. At present DOE has not committed to any due dates.

** NOTE. Due date may be EARLIER, LATER, or the SAME this year.

VERMONT PROJECT SELECTION

The Vermont application will be selected by a review process organized by Vermont EPSCoR.

Vermont EPSCoR will establish a review panel to recommend a project for submission to DOE and the State Committee will approve the final selection. Project selection will be based on review of White papers the Committee using the following criteria:

- The scientific merit of the proposal
- The relevance of the proposal to DOE mission needs
- The relevance of the proposal to Vermont EPSCoR goals
- The likelihood of continuing support beyond the EPSCoR support
- Demonstration of contact and strong likelihood of potential support from a DOE Program Officer

FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS on Selected Proposal(s)

If selected for submission of the final full proposal, the applicant must work with Beverly A. Blakeney, Assistant Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, at Beverly.Blakeney@uvm.edu or 656-4067 for development of matching funds. For more general information or discussion of specific project ideas, please contact Vermont EPSCoR at (802) 656-7969 or email at epscor@uvm.edu.

The following links may be of help to you as you consider this white paper request.

<http://www.sc.doe.gov/grants/FAPN08-04.html>

Some other useful websites are:

Department of Energy (General Information):

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

Office of Science:

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

Office of Defense Programs:

<http://www.nsa.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>