

Office Hours
PPO-CWX-010-GDO
December 17, 2024 (2PM ET)

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Grayson Dorr - Program Manager, ConnectWerx

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Good morning, good afternoon everyone. We're going to get started here in about 30 seconds to a minute.

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We're just letting everyone get in. To join us for office hours today. I'm excited to have you.

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Alright, let's go ahead and get started. Welcome everyone. If you joined us for our objective strategic session or webinar.

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Previously welcome back, to hear more about this exciting opportunity from GDO on AI 4 IX.

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The structure for today's meeting, it is, it is a Zoom Meeting. You all have the ability to come off mute to ask your question and share your screen if you would like.

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If you aren't interested in doing so, you're also welcome to use the Q&A box at the very bottom.

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You'll see that little feature. If you hover over, you can post your questions there and we will rotate back and forth between live questions and the Q&A box and our intent at least from Knetworks and from the GDO team is to provide just a very brief update but really yield the entire portion of the time for you all to ask questions.

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So again if you joined us last we had a lot of great feedback a lot of great questions so we want to make sure we have time to cover everything.

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If you don't, or aren't fully prepared today, that's quite all right.

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We also will have additional office hours right in the new year. I believe that's January 6, th same time, 2 p.

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M. That'll be about a week before the submission deadline closes. So again, that will be a 30 min session.

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So if we don't get to your questions or you have something that comes up between now and the new years, you're reviewing this, please feel free to join us there as well.

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Okay.

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Really quickly, if you have not joined the Knetworks network, we encourage you to do so.

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I serve on the program team here with Connect Works, along with some other colleagues and really we're excited to continue to see this network.

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It's a great way for you to stay plugged in, express some of your interests in that way when opportunities come about.

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Okay.

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We're able to reach out and provide those updates to you. As well. Should you have any questions in the meantime, whether when you're preparing or reviewing documents, please feel free to reach out to us there.

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Info@connectworks.org and also be sure to follow us long on our social platform with LinkedIn.

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So with that, I'll turn it over to Tom and Avi who will provide a quick recap and then we'll get into the questions.

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Yeah, thanks, Grayson. Welcome everybody. For those that may have missed, we're just gonna.

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Kind of touch on some of the key points and highlights of the program that we have and program is artificial intelligence for interconnection.

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Focused on how do we accelerate the interconnection process and I think everybody understands we can go to the next slide.

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I think everybody understands. Kind of the challenges that we have with the state of. The interconnection queue.

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To driven historically where, you know, we had. Large projects and fewer numbers where now we have smaller projects and larger numbers and you know over the past decade we're seeing some significant challenges.

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In that regard. And so industry has been making a lot of progress in this and we're hoping that through some additional resources that we have within this program, we can help continue to.

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Stimulate and accelerate the interconnection process. And so we have a 30 million dollars available through this program.

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The idea is to to utilize artificial intelligence software tools, automation, etc, to help with the interconnection study process and accelerate that.

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Through the conversations that we've had in the past with industry and through some meetings with industry. Couple areas kind of risen to the top and one that we're really focusing on is the application intake process and in particular this whole idea of site control and verification of site control is an important area and we believe that, you know, AI might be able to assist in that.

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And we are keeping things very open. We're innovative ideas, that's what we're looking for.

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So if you have innovative ideas to bring to the table, we're very interested. In in those proposals.

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One of the questions that has come up is you know, from eligibility and who who are the partners that we would want to see.

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And, you know, one of the things that we've go to the next slide. You know, some of the project teaming, we want to be able to have teams that are able to come in from the the solution.

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Concept all the way through demonstration and so being able to bring the right players and stakeholders in that is really important.

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So, you know, whether it's a software vendor, AI solution provider, being able to partner up with.

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Utility Company, RTO, ISO. Our power marketing administrator so so some of the the PMAs and project developers we would like to see kind of the team with the, with the, soup to nuts kind of approach from solution to demonstration.

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So if we go to the next. Slide. Within our timeline. We are now.

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You know, at that office hour that December 17.th So we released this back in just before Thanksgiving in the holidays and we understand the challenge.

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We have have had have had a holiday and have upcoming holidays. And we understand the challenges associated with that.

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And so, the aggressive and ambitious schedule that we have over the holidays. Hopefully, you know, we have a streamlined process where the application process isn't too burdensome.

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The biggest challenge that we see. And just wanna make sure that the partnering arrangements that there's time to get this partnering arrangements in place.

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So the, there will be another office hours. As Grace mentioned, January 6, th but, the submission closes January 10.th

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So that's kind of the window that we're looking for. Our goal is to turn things around quickly as possible.

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And get selections made shortly thereafter. So. So we wanna get work started on this. In the spring.

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So that is in a upshell summary of what we're trying to do. And you know, I can turn it back over.

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Looks like we have some questions coming up, but Grayson, did you have? One more slide on the participation that you wanted to bring up.

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Thank you, Tom. Yes, we'll leave this up for a little bit again, just, some helpful links as well.

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Submission. I do see a few people coming in, through the chat.

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Okay.

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There was a change made to the QA if those would like to try that. I believe we've enabled that and I'll ask our, team at Connect Works to check that as well.

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Just to make sure you're able to post those. But we'll go ahead and open up.

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In the meantime, feel free to come off mute if you would like and ask questions. directly to the team.

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Can I ask one?

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Sure, go ahead.

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Great. My name is Vonage. I'm a deal. You've pointed on prepare, Labrador entrepreneurship program at O.

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Question is, we establish a company because this this topic is getting a lot of noise in Silicon Valley.

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So we are a venture better start up now. And when we were developing this company, we did a lot of market survey and we understood that developers can use an AI application as well.

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To actually validate before they file. So my question to deal with here is, why are we not allowing applications where a software vendor like ourselves and a developer are proposing a concept where developers will provided before this summit.

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The other reason to ask this question is because it's holidays time and it's very hard to get you to use or ISO commitment during this time.

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Yeah, we understand the challenge. Associated with that and in the. You know, the conversation that we had in the past, this question came up of.

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You know, can a team submit? Proposal. That might not have the end user. And so, you know, we've taken the approach of ideally.

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We would love to see from soup to nuts being able to you know, have the idea and do a demonstration.

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That from a partnering side.

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You know, from a partnering side, you know, understanding the the more that you have a team, if you look at the evaluation criteria.

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Kind of that team. You know we'll provide you know, higher valuation, for that criteria.

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But we're not saying you cannot submit something if you don't have an RTO or a utility on board.

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So.

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Okay.

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And just to double check. The Glover is an end user here. So. Yeah, if I'm summerting to the developer, there is an end user.

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Would that be acceptable or no?

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Depending on the approach that you have, it, you know, like I said, we are looking at how do you describe the impacts that are going to be made.

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How do you look at the overall goal of being able to reduce the interconnection to. And if there are are innovative ways to do that.

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Awesome. That's great.

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So hi, may I jump in with my questions?

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Okay. Go ahead, Joe.

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Hi, I've got 3 questions here. Joel Air for Clean Power Research. Regarding the project team, so some of our participating utilities.

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Go to name individual names. They prefer to just name teams, especially now over the holidays. You know exactly who they'd staff on things.

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Is that acceptable?

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I'm not sure I understand that they don't want to.

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Oh, okay. Yeah.

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Name, individual name. So in your little table, you say the team, right? You're all asking for names.

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So for instance, you know, transmission engineering team would be a participant, but they don't want to put a person's name in there.

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Okay, yeah, as long as there's, some demonstration of, commitment to that.

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As we go through the you know if selected going through that process of negotiations making sure that that project team is fully committed is going to be very important through that.

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Okay, okay. And my second question is, you know, I'm already looking for results.

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How How does that, what environment is that? Need to be demonstrated in. Can it be a test environment or a product?

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Doesn't need to be a production environment. I'm asking this because all our Participants are using our software right now and they're processing lots of applications.

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And so our goal is to use AI at ML to enhance what's happening. Some of them would prefer we do that in test.

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You know, some are okay with doing it in production.

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Yeah, I think that's gonna be open to the approach and concepts that's offered up.

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Okay, okay. And then, What's the requirements for? I'm calling it the validation phase.

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I know you're looking for results. From what we've read, there's really nothing that ever speaks to what's the expectations there.

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In terms of, say reporting or So, etc.

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Yes, yes.

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So, so from a validation that. Demonstration, whether it's live. Production operations. I mean that should be part of the approach that's taken to show in the impacts.

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And then as far as the reporting. That'll be once again, part of the.

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Business. Agreements that, are, signed, but, you know, we want to be able to make sure.

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Results are documented and available publically available so we can continue to expand and share results and approaches here.

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Okay, that's good that you mentioned 2 to the publicly available because I know that was it. Question for one of our participants do the results need to be used publicly.

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Oh.

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Yeah, we want to be able to share that if there are sense if there is sensitive information, obviously we can.

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Some things and have a publicly facing document. So, there are ways to, to ensure any sensitive information is protected there.

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Okay, good. Thank you. That's my questions.

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Okay, thank you.

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I think I saw Chris A. I think your hand was up 1st and then we'll, switch over to a couple of the Q&A features but go ahead Chris.

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Sounds good. Thanks, Gerson. And next time for taking this on. Couple questions, I guess just in general time I heard what you said in terms of you know the applications being reviewed on the merit of like which have the biggest impact on accelerating and reducing bottlenecks in the interconnection process.

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I think during the initial call you guys had it sounded like most of the focus was like How do we accelerate things in the interconnection process with the lens of site control and interconnection applications?

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Is that like the right way to think about this or are you guys saying, hey, anything that can be, you know, applying software to help?

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Accelerate products throughout the process for at large is it mainly with the lens of like specifically for site control and their connection applications that developer commit.

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Yeah, when we. You know, have talked about this before. There are a couple areas that popped up is where AI may be able to.

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Play role. One of those is looking at some of the modeling aspects and going through that iterative process.

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Okay.

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We've had conversations and it looks like industry has making progress there. So we looked at the other and it looks like industry is making progress there.

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So we looked at the other, option, you know, where there was, you know, bottlenecks and that was on the application intake and then the site control.

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So that's where we're focusing. Our attention on this in that area, you know, the question is if there are innovative approaches, beyond that, you know, what does that potentially look like?

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Outside the scope, but you know, if there are innovative approaches that we're not considering. You know, it's always of interest to look at innovation, innovative ways to help.

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Overall reduce the bottleneck but keep in mind

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Overall purpose is where we're trying to focus. Now, you know, I love this whole PM mechanism that we have because it creates flexibility.

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And so we want to offer up as much flexibility as possible, but then. We don't wanna open up the scope and mission space to.

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Okay.

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So that's kind of the balance that we're trying to create here. So trying to.

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You know, understand where the focus is going to be and that's kind of our main priority. But depending on what the quality of the applications are, maybe there's opportunities to look at innovative, other innovative ways.

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Got, okay, so just to say a packets like main focus and priority is site control and interconnection applications if you submit for something else that's out of scope.

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Maybe, there's a chance but that's like not the core focus and you guys will TBD on that.

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Yeah.

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Right, you're saying there's a chance, but. Right. So, but, you know, it's all gonna come down to the evaluation process and then ranking and then.

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If there are ways to to look at other. Other proposals outside the main focus and emphasis. You're saying there's a chance.

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Yeah.

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I think we should also emphasize that.

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A project which addresses The primary concern. Of the Pia. And provides additional benefit. Would be is essentially within scope and would likely be well received.

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Got it.

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So it's not that the only thing that can be done would be Site control, but it is the focus of this PA is application intake and improving the speed.

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Through it, that site control can be. Assessed and determined and that If there is a project which provides additional benefit, we'd love to.

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We'd love to. Understand that as well as part of the. Application.

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I'll be that that is well said because if we can go above and beyond you know, cause in my mind it's like you're kind of bucketing, but if you can go above and beyond what we're looking for.

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That'd be interesting. Yeah. So well said. Thank you, I mean.

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Okay, appreciate it guys. Yeah, I think just Generally, I would say like the. I love where you guys are going with this from our perspective like most of my team is like you 2 ISO engineers and the interconnection application process is a relatively small percent of where the bottleneck is and so it's like there's a way to resolve that but if we think about writ large.

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Where can you move the needle the fastest? Is actually a bunch of other buckets. So I will think about ways to tie this together, but just a little bit of context from our end at least.

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Thanks, Chris.

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We understand that, but, I wanna. Before moving on, there's a lot of other questions here, but I wanna reemphasize what Tom said earlier, right, that in our market research and our assessment of the landscape.

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What we learned is that there are lots. Of companies invested in and solutions being developed. For many of those other aspects of the interconnection queue process.

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Hmm.

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What we what we similarly learned is that this is something That is almost a precursor to the interconnection request process and it is it is.

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Gumming up the process before the models and the analysis can even begin for interconnection.

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And so we're trying to Excellent. The process by which projects even become considered and and and join into the phases and solution space that many many in the industry are currently working on through a variety of opportunities, including GDO funded.

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Thanks.

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Got it.

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And Tom, what I'd like to do, I know I see, thank you all for raising your hands.

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I see about 6 people with hands raised, due to the volume of questions we do see. I'm keep your hand up. We'll, get to you, I promise.

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If you wouldn't mind switch over to using the QA that way, we're gonna ask a couple, that popped in early from there and then I see, Chris, Josh, all of you all, we're gonna go through and ask those, but, moving forward, let's, migrate over to that.

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That way we can keep a good flow, going for that. So, one of the questions that came in, More let's see more on the teaming side so if a software vendor is prime on the submission with a network of partner organizations identified.

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Should individuals at the partner organization be identified in the project team table. Or should the project team identify only the members of the software vendor team?

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Yeah, so.

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The more that we can get from a commitment. From each of the partner organizations. I think the better.

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If those names can you know be offered upgrade if there's a reason why they're holding off i mean that's something that the the project team will have to figure out but at some point we're gonna need a, that point of contact.

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And Grayson, is this something that,

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From the intermediary perspective that You know, there needs to be. Kind of those names of the partner organizations.

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Yes, they can identify those and obviously contacts for those but that would all be you know finalized downstream as well but

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Correct. And then also there is we've set up for those. Interested in teaming.

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A direct teaming partner list page that's new from our last. That is available online. On connect work side or DAVE side we are not going in there and necessarily match making those.

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It's really up to each of you all if you're interested in doing so are those that have submitted their name.

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I think there's about a handful of folks who've done so but you're able to click or excuse me click and directly link to people's emails and contact so with that.

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Tom, I'll answer some of the next question we have in the QA and then I'll move over to those other hand raised.

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So is there a more detailed proposal submission process after the 6 page selection? Do we need to need letters to support from?

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Partners in this application. That is totally up to you all. The, nice thing is Tom and all of us have mentioned with the PA and what the team is set up is it is indeed just that upload that single document.

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So as long as you're keeping, within that page limit, if there's a single letter you would like to attach that's, that is your option to do so.

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There are just a few intro questions and then that single document. So, you are welcome to do so, but that is not a requirement to have letters to support, necessarily for this submission.

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Standard contract language, we hope to post that very soon. On the PSI, we are finalizing some of our 1st initial awards and so part of that will have a template and sample of some of our b 2 b agreements that we will post soon, hopefully very early in the new year.

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So be on the lookout for that. To be posted on our website. For that. The next one, Tom or obvious one is just the last question.

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Is the budget or for reimbursement of engineering hours at cost. Or commercial rates applicable.

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Okay. That's. That's a good question.

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Yeah.

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I think that's, I think that's something we're gonna have to address offline and respond to that question down the line.

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I, but, I think regardless of what is what is eventually determined to be permissible, I think it is important to understand that.

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Cost-effectiveness of the proposed project is an important aspect of the evaluation. So the difference.

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Between there may be a difference between what is permissible and what is optimal. And we'd leave that to the applicants to.

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Determine but we will get a formal answer on what is permissible. And publish it on the queue QA section of the site.

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I mean, the benefit of this approach is that there are no cost match requirements and a lot of times that can be limitations to projects, right?

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So it's really important to come in with best cost and for proposal. That's part of the valuation criteria.

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That's part of kind of the work plan and overall budgets. So whether it's looked at as far as You know, at cost or commercial rates that.

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That project team will have to make that determination, but we're gonna base the evaluation on. The work that's being performed does that.

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Sound reasonable as far as from budget perspective.

00:27:51.000 --> 00:27:57.000

And let's go back to the letters of support. You know for this project we wanna make sure there's commitment.

00:27:57.000 --> 00:28:12.000

Of all the partners that are involved. And so we have not. Required letters of support. If there are multiple letters of support.

00:28:12.000 --> 00:28:20.000

Grace and we. You know, we have a page limit, but if they have multiple partners that are involved.

00:28:20.000 --> 00:28:24.000

They can just add an appendix, right? And just add letters of support.

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Yes, that will be fine as long as, every app you're just differentiating what is a part of that 1st or putting a break in there, whatever it may be.

00:28:33.000 --> 00:28:34.000

So.

00:28:34.000 --> 00:28:52.000

Right. So I would say a pen from an appendix if you have the letters of support showing that there was project team commitments and partner commitments that's going to increase the the from an evaluation perspective will say oh everybody is committed on here.

00:28:52.000 --> 00:29:00.000

So for an evaluation. It will be perceived as as higher than somebody that doesn't come in with that, right?

00:29:00.000 --> 00:29:12.000

So whatever way you can show commitments, it's really important. If you have multiple letters of support, they can be added as an opinion.

00:29:12.000 --> 00:29:18.000

Yeah, we'll go back to the QA. As well here in just a second.

00:29:18.000 --> 00:29:24.000

Tom or Avi as we're going back to those another hand race. If you see any in there, that we can.

00:29:24.000 --> 00:29:34.000

Address or call out please feel free to read those and then we'll mark them please feel free to read those and then we'll mark them complete as we move forward.

00:29:34.000 --> 00:29:37.000

I'm doing a quick, we'll mark them complete as we move forward. I'm complete as we move forward. I'm doing a quick time check. We, we're almost to 2 30.

00:29:37.000 --> 00:29:44.000

I think we about 13 outstanding questions to go through. So we'll try and move quickly, but if you wouldn't mind, for asking questions if we can keep it to.

00:29:44.000 --> 00:29:49.000

You know, maybe one or 2 direct questions or top of mind and then we can make sure that everyone has a chance.

00:29:49.000 --> 00:29:56.000

To go through it. So S, I'll turn it over to you. I think you were the next one.

00:29:56.000 --> 00:30:03.000

Have your hand raised.

00:30:03.000 --> 00:30:04.000

Oh, thank you.

00:30:04.000 --> 00:30:09.000

Thank you. I did ask it online as well, so it can be dropped off. Yeah, so my question was, about the demonstration.

00:30:09.000 --> 00:30:11.000

So at the end of the 12 month or 24 month period, you said you would like demonstrations.

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So how close to an operational system should the demonstration be? Our technology demonstrations acceptable. They, you know, they might not have the full features of what you're, what an end user would like or eventually you would need.

00:30:29.000 --> 00:30:38.000

But just to demonstrate the AI capabilities. If you can put together like a prototype, is that going to be acceptable?

00:30:38.000 --> 00:30:41.000

I, I can answer this one quickly. So. What is acceptable is in an application is what you are able to provide.

00:30:41.000 --> 00:31:00.000

The grid deployment office is focused on deployment. And deployment at scale. So the closer an application can get to a Scale demonstration.

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And that would naturally translate into deployment in the market, the better.

00:31:13.000 --> 00:31:16.000

Okay, thank you.

00:31:17.000 --> 00:31:21.000

Chris, I think you're next, Chris. Turn it over to you.

00:31:21.000 --> 00:31:23.000

Hey, thanks. Can you hear me?

00:31:23.000 --> 00:31:25.000

Yes. Yes, we can.

00:31:25.000 --> 00:31:30.000

Beautiful. I'm sorry, I'm on my SIP computer. It has no camera on.

00:31:30.000 --> 00:31:39.000

Sharing equipment. Yes, the question is. The definition of site control seems to be very important.

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And That definition. Does it is that related to site control algorithms, so full testing. Compliance of a system.

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Or it sounds like this is more about Hey, you got a patch of land. Can you connect it to the grid?

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Yeah, I think when we look at site control, it's. You know who has ownership and ensuring that there's accessibility and a way to have the project.

00:32:18.000 --> 00:32:38.000

Be able to be. You know, deployed there. So from a site control, there's all types of public documentation, legal documentation that's out there and all that is his part of the site control and being able to demonstrate say control.

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Okay, thanks. So this is pre model testing.

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Cool, I just pointed out that site control kind of sounds like site control algorithms to us model testing guys and it'd be good to have a definition.

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Thanks.

00:32:53.000 --> 00:32:56.000

Okay, thanks.

00:32:56.000 --> 00:33:02.000

Colin, I'll turn it over to you and then we'll, shift back to the QA and then we'll, call at the last few.

00:33:02.000 --> 00:33:06.000

Super thanks. Hi, Colin McCormick, Carbon Direct and, Georgia University.

00:33:06.000 --> 00:33:10.000

So I have a question on the technical AI. Approach we've done a lot on training and deploying.

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In-house LLMs with reinforcement learning. We've built rags.

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We've done a lot of prompt engineering for public LLMs. Do you have a Preference.

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We'd love to try all 3 of those. I know the PNNL policy AI team, had a leaning with the NIPA.

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LMS or NEPA, contest early this year. Any, any thoughts or guidance on, that?

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Yeah, for us it's being able to. Offer up the biggest impact. So we, we don't have any.

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You know, areas that we think make the most sense. It's we want to be able to be as open and flexible as possible.

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Be able to demonstrate. Impact. Within that 1224 month period. And so where that best approach may address the mission and objectives of the program that's at the really the direction of the project team.

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Thank you.

00:34:23.000 --> 00:34:25.000

Sure.

00:34:25.000 --> 00:34:33.000

Tom and Abby, there was a question about, Is there will be there be a separate opportunity?

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I'm not for what DG AI 4 IX. I know.

00:34:38.000 --> 00:34:52.000

Yeah, this came up. I think this looks like Steve Pope, his question on the QA and you know, the question of boy the distribution side it's like the wild wild west and there's opportunities in that space.

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The mission and objectives of this is looking at the transmission level. That is the, at the transmission level. That is the intent.

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Trying to address the see in the queued up report that Lawrence Berkeley National Lab puts out.

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So those are kind of the metrics that we're looking at. The question of on the distribution side, if there's innovation innovative approaches, it almost goes back to.

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What we were talking about before, is this just application intake or, you know, if there are things that can go above and beyond where we are at the transmission level.

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You know, maybe that ties in with distribution. So, right now we're just focused on the transmission level.

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If there are innovative ideas that can go beyond transmission into distribution. That could potentially be considered. At this point You know, we don't have plans of releasing.

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On the distribution side looking at this AI, but there could be opportunities down the road and other. Other areas or that's something that we may be planning for down the road but right now there's no commitment to that.

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Stephen, I see with your hand raised. I know you mentioned, posted a question in the box as well.

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I'll just read that out and then, let you comment if there's anything further, but, you mentioned workshops and market research.

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We're where stakeholders mentioned site control being a big issue or any of those reports published anywhere.

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Yeah, that's my question. Or, you know, any related artifacts or anything.

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Yeah, so some of the, conversation that we have, we're with some of the industry folks.

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You know, there were there was a. A workshop. In Minneapolis.

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And. You know there were some notes that that came out of that and we can look and see how we would get that information out.

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Thanks.

00:37:01.000 --> 00:37:02.000

Sure.

00:37:02.000 --> 00:37:03.000

Kyle, same approach. I see your question. I'll call it out and then if there's anything further, thank you for posting that as well.

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Should we expect to leverage and established committee council co-OP of interconnection stakeholders for data AI.

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Governance definitions or collaborations or should we propose that structure method as well?

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Yep.

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Okay.

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Whatever works best for you and is most efficient with your time. And helps you best achieve the, end goal of your proposal.

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Yeah.

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Okay.

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As Tom has said many times by definition flexible and. We. If it's in your best interest to leverage an existing cohort of organizations and institutions, fantastic.

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If you feel that no existing cohort. Or set of partners. Would satisfy your project plan.

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And you need to create a new set of collaborations. That's also fine. Just be cognizant of the impact on the time for your application.

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Understood. Thank you.

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And I'll call out the last hand raise. I see the question, Ling. Thank you for posting those.

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Regarding applicant qualification of resources, will GDO get preference to 1st time applicants.

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So I can answer this and Tom, Zab, but I would just encourage you to review the evaluation criteria.

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If you do not see 1st time applicants called out there, as a quick, I do not believe it is there.

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We do track obviously with the PA and these, those that are applying for funding with DOE and that's 1 of the questions you'll see initially have you received prior funding.

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Yeah. Reaching those who may have not been awarded. Funds from DOW in the past, but, not necessarily putting a waiting on that, as far as the evaluation criteria.

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Not to say that won't be in the future for other opportunities. Some offices may look to do that, but for this opportunity, that is not necessarily called out in the evaluation criteria.

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Regarding minimum and maximum funding amounts, again, this is up to 30 million dollars. That is there is not necessarily a set minimum or set maximum.

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It's within the budget. That is allocated for this project and, Avi and the team and Tom will make, those recommendations within the budget.

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So Tom, Abby, anything else? That is, and Ling, if there's anything else, I'll let you allow you to come.

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Alright, Grace and I just want to emphasize, although there is no maximum, the total budget for this Pia is.

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30 million and we intend to make more than one award. So, although there is Not a defined maximum.

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There is a practical. Limit, to the scale of any individual project.

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So no 29 9 5 for anyone upon. Yeah. Well,

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That's exactly right. Right.

00:40:07.000 --> 00:40:19.000

So if you don't mind, the really is a question is that if there's 2 choice at the GDO, one is that, you know, a transaction be able to consolidate the whole like one interconnection and the versus you have like a more than dozen small projects.

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What's the preference the GDO will have?

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We're open to to different approaches. So depending on the approach concept. There could be some things real easy where, hey, we wanna focus on this specific area and it's a very narrow scope.

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Maybe that's a million dollars, right? It could be much more significant. That has, you know, more complexity to it.

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Broader scope. You know that could be a you know, half of the 30 million dollars, right?

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So depending on the approach. It's very flexible and we are trying to understand, bring some innovation to this and what's going to make the most impact.

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We are open to innovative ideas and trying to provide as much flexibility as possible.

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Thank you.

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Alright, I'll keep running down the open QA. I think we've addressed everyone with their hands raised.

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Thank you for doing so and thank you for also posting those. And the QA helps us keep track of those and going through.

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I'll ask some other folks on DOE on the line if we can go through these next couple thank you for these.

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The questions are, more on eligibility and corporation. So our company is incorporated in the US with place of business in the US.

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But don't think we comply with the majority domestic control. They have extensive history with R&D with the DOE and how it usually works is that they submit a waiver request.

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We didn't see an option for such a request in the solicitation. Can we include a request in our

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Yeah, I'm happy to take this one. I think So, we won't be making any specific determinations on any organization's eligibility.

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If you consider yourself eligible, you should apply and carefully. That being said, to be eligible for this opportunity and all friendship intermediary, group and opportunities, applicants must qualify as Mexican team.

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I don't know where it's going to be.

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Thanks, Eric. And why have you, I can maybe buggy for one more. Just on IP.

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So does the DOE or other entities claim rights on IP? Eventually developed during the execution of the projects in this program.

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Yeah, I think this is something that'll need to be followed up offline, but I think that the answer is that'll have to be finalized in the negotiation stage. Shouldn't that be selected?

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I think there's too many caveats and

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Thanks, Eric. Alright, I'll go back. I'll try and read through some of these quickly.

00:43:01.000 --> 00:43:17.000

Thank you all. For posting these. Is there any expectation that any AI tools or models develop through this project will be open source and accessible to other utilities, RTOs and relevant stakeholders.

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We're making no preference. Once again, what has the most impact, the ability to take these solutions and scale is important and that's grid deployment office focus, you know, deployment at scale as A mentioned.

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Thanks, Tom. Just another follow up from a previous question. I know we answer, but should we have a working prototype or desktop or design mock ups.

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And if so, How should we represent that in the submission? I think the more the question is should we have.

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Direct question working prototype or design mock-ups. We already do.

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Well, I mean. Going in as part of the application itself. I'm not sure where I see the question, but.

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As part of the application understanding the approach that's being taken what the impacts are gonna be who the project team is going to be.

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The the validation verification demonstration is going to be very important. And so having an approach that you can show and demonstrate impact is going to be important.

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So however best you're the project team determines what that looks like. You know, the other approach and then that will be evaluated based on.

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You know, the criteria.

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Great, thanks.

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Let's see, doing a quick scrub. Can you clarify whether proposals? Okay, Tom.

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Yeah. I was gonna say there are a couple here from Andrew, about should the application use space to show detailed and supported impacts for deficiency identification.

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And is the description of our technical coach how technical or how detailed. You know, oh, this gets into how do you tell the story to find the story the more that you can show what the impacts are what impacts the and improvements you're going to make in that process.

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You know that is up to you and how you articulate the story. So, we don't have any particular aspects, but assume that not everybody knows.

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All you know is we have reviewers if there are specifics to what the challenges are where the bottlenecks are, specific metrics used.

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And what the impacts are going to be based on that. You know, that should, be part of the story.

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But that's up to the project team and submitted the application.

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Thanks, Tom. And if you see any others out there, please, feel free to jump on and call them out.

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I think we, look like we have a few open ones as well. Can you clarify whether proposals I think this may be more of a proposal?

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Direct question. But could you clarify whether it should include a discovery design phase before finalizing technical solutions?

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They go on a comment where particular interested in whether applicants can propose and initial period for understanding current interconnection processes or engaging with stakeholders.

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To develop the AI solutions or to inform the development of AI solutions rather.

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Yeah, I mean, that's a really good question. Lot of discussions on that within the industry side of, you know, really understanding the the specific nature of this.

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Okay. However, for for this program and for this opportunity. We are looking more than just. Problem definition.

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We are looking for the solution. You know concept and demonstration of that solution.

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Thank you.

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Let's see. The next question.

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So as they As we are familiar with the interconnection process from an IPP developer perspective. We understand the challenges, DSOs have, how much of the solution should apply to DSC, DSO evaluation context or says opportunity more focused on using AI to accelerate transmission system issues.

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Is there any guidance on whether the solution should focus on distribution bottlenecks or more on transmission bottlenecks?

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Yeah, we talked about the the focus on. Yep.

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Yeah, Grace and I think we answer this. Yeah. Focus on transmission if there are ways that it fits into the distribution.

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Right. If a proposal comes in, just on distribution, that will just be evaluated as is.

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And, you know, we have no say, but the intent here is at the transmission level. Innovation is really important if it can expand to distribution all the better.

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Okay. On the letter of commitments, Tom, for those, What is specific commitment that's required from the utilities, that someone may want to include in the project?

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Okay.

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Do all the LOC, other commitments need to include. Commitment to adopt the tool or can a LSC be a commitment to test and validate the performance of the tool?

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Is the expectation that some of the funding received would go to utility to support testing and adoption of the tool internally.

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All wide open, no expectations on that. That can be determined by. The the team and the approach.

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Whether the end user needs funding to do that that's once again that's gonna be determined by the overall approach.

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And project team. So. Very flexible and how that's done. Keeping in mind find the more that you can show impact within you know the how fast can we move on this the better.

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So Just something to think, but it's wide open.

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Yeah. And will the last question I think on that, they are not included in the 6 page limit.

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Will add a footnote to the page. So if you are including those, just welcome me to put a break and then just attach those in the back end.

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They, they will not be counted towards your 6 page limit, for that. So.

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Please feel free to. To use those, as far as in that total submission.

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I don't know. Let's see the last part of that or what are some of the key pain points in the site control verification process that we should keep in mind.

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Yeah.

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Or what are some of the common errors. That utilities observe. I think that may be more of a question directly to the utilities, but and some, and kind of discovery of what, where the market is, but.

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Yeah, that's all part of the approach. So.

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Let's see. Can applicants submit projects focus on the distribution? Again, going back to that, interconnection process or has to be transmission. We've addressed that.

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You're welcome to include that, but however the focus is on the transmission side. And see, terms and conditions for the PA.

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As I mentioned, we'll have those hope to have those available shortly as far as samples.

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We'll post on our website. And then the last one is can a team member apply on 2 separate applications with 2 different project teams?

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And I think, correct me for wrong time, the answer is yes to that. They can be a part of multiple teams as far as if they're.

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In that proposal. So.

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Yep, there are no restrictions.

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I think the next one again more directed to the RTOs or the site controlled documents made public.

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By the RTOs. I don't know, Tom. If there's a

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Yeah, just go. I mean, have those conversations. You can go through the application process itself and see.

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Depending on the region so That's part of the process to. To understand.

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Okay. Next question. There is one in the application on the statement on proposed use of proprietary data and tools.

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And the example is the proposed work, proprietary data and tools. And the example is the proposed work include does not include the use of proprietary tools and data that will.

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We not be publicly shared at the end of the period of performance. Can we clarify what this means exactly?

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Is there a preference for a response here?

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I think this gets to the open source 1st proprietary. Right. And so.

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Did the question will get to what's the approach in being able to demonstrate impact? What does that look like?

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Deployment at scale.

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Okay, and then the last thing I think one of the ones we have and then I'll do a last call for question.

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Does DOE prefer phasing of the proposed project over a 12 or 24 month period. It's the funny and allocated over the 1st 12 or could winners get allocations over 24 months.

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Yeah, the 30 million dollars is over the entire 12 months plus. If it's option for that.

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Next 12 months. So if you're submitting an approach and need to. Extended 12 months over the 24 months that should include the entire budget that has to fall within the 30 million dollars.

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Does that make sense?

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I guess people, this is for talking to my QA.

00:53:47.000 --> 00:53:56.000

If it doesn't, James, let us know. So. I think that looks like it's everything.

00:53:56.000 --> 00:54:04.000

Yep, I believe we have. Those questions, just doing a

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There's 1 that just popped in.

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Does Bruno? Okay.

00:54:09.000 --> 00:54:18.000

Yeah, I'll turn it over to Bruno. I think Bruno, correct me, I believe we got your question answer, but if there's still something outstanding, please feel free to come off.

00:54:18.000 --> 00:54:29.000

Okay, thank you. So the, this is about the eligibility question. Thanks for answering that, but we couldn't hear but the final part of it, the answer. This is breaking up.

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But the, yeah, for the eligibility part, we have Get your mind, right, really, yourselves and say we wouldn't be comfortable with submitting without the, the waiver option, right?

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So the question is, very directed to the waiver. Or if it would be acceptable to include a waiver request.

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We thought our submission.

00:54:57.000 --> 00:55:02.000

Yeah, sure. I can rewrite. Yeah, we're not gonna make any specific comments on any organization to eligibility.

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That's a determination for you to make. I will however note there is a requirement. That an advocate must be a domestic entity and there's no waiver process for

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Okay, okay, okay. Thank you.

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Thanks.

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And I think we had some folks post in the chat. Thank you for that. The site control requirement docs for RTOs.

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Thank you for for helping with that and posting that. Just comment on, the.

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The awards for the projects will they be publicly available if they're selected. Or the project, excuse me.

00:55:48.000 --> 00:56:01.000

Usually they're publicly available. If somebody doesn't want. To be announced publicly.

00:56:01.000 --> 00:56:07.000

I don't know if there's something that can be done. To minimize that. And so.

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And that's something that is part of the negotiation. I think. But typically when.

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You know, awards are made, there is some type of. Public announcement.

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Correct. Yeah, that's, I think, can be flexible there. There's usually some kind of announcement.

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We can follow up at the super hard requirement or if there's flexibility there and generally speaking the details of the project are not made public and I'm not specifically required by that opportunity.

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So there may be a sentence or 2. On the general scope of what's being pursued, but typically.

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So Eric, sorry, just to clarify that. The award, obviously the number of awards, those will be public, but not necessarily the details of.

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Correct. Okay.

00:56:55.000 --> 00:57:00.000

Correct. Correct. Yeah, what a specific entity.

00:57:00.000 --> 00:57:03.000

Okay.

00:57:03.000 --> 00:57:15.000

Just to remind everyone again, for our team who have mind going to the last slide, you have, I think it's on there, our info at K Networks inbox.

00:57:15.000 --> 00:57:26.000

We do have, or excuse me, it might be on a previous slide. Please, if you have any questions as follow up or in the meantime, Feel free to submit those there.

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We will have. As I mentioned to start a final office hours, December 6, we do recognize that's very close to the deadline.

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But we had wanted wanted to at least a lot. Time in the new year, to, come back if there are any final questions before submitting, we recognize during that stage most folks will probably very close to submitting.

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Again, we encourage folks to get applications in early. Thank you for those. We see them coming in.

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So I know it's great to have those. We know it's a a challenging time as we close the end of the year and appreciate everyone's interest and willingness to engage and look into this opportunity.

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And, on behalf of our team at Connect Works, list everyone a wonderful holiday season. Hopefully everyone has time to relax and unwind after submitting a proposal.

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But with that, if I don't speak to you again, thank you for joining us. Hope to see some of you in January 6 and I'll turn it over to Tom.

00:58:23.000 --> 00:58:25.000

To wrap us up.

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Yes, thank you, Grace. And, thank you all for joining us here. We are really excited about this.

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I know there's a lot of questions and we're trying to create as much flexibility and not give.

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You, you know, the specifics of this is what we want because we are looking for innovative approaches and we are looking for that solution set from the project teams.

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So definitely, you know, get out there, get the teams pulled together and, you know, we, just want to see, love to see some innovative approaches.

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And, innovative proposals. So we can make an impact and helping to reduce the interconnection queue.

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Porting words.

00:59:16.000 --> 00:59:17.000

Yeah.

00:59:17.000 --> 00:59:31.000

No, just thanks everybody for your interest and we really look forward to. Seeing your project and learning about what your proposal is to solve this really pressing issue.

00:59:31.000 --> 00:59:34.000

Thank you all.