

Objective Strategic Session (OSS) Informational Office Hours

CWX-026-CESER

Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)

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ConnectWerx (CWX) Resources



COMMUNICATIONS

Stay **engaged and connected** with our various outreach channels

- CWX web & opportunities page
 - Opportunities / Awards
 - Events
 - Resources
- CWX emails and outreach
- **Join the Network!**
- CWX social media



VIRTUAL EVENTS

Take part in **opportunities** through virtual events

- CWX & DOE Objective Strategic Sessions (OSS/Webinars)
 - Learn about PIA opportunities facilitated by CWX.
 - Overview of opportunity and additional details to participants.
 - Q & A
- CWX & DOE Office Hours
 - Ask direct question to DOE and CWX.
 - Note: review application prior.



CONFERENCES

Encourage & coordinate **involvement** at conferences



March 10-12, 2026
Raleigh, NC

The mission of ConnectWerx is to **Engage, Match,** and **Collaborate** across the US Industrial and Academic base to help the Department of Energy (DOE) address **energy, environmental** and **nuclear** challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.



@connectwerx



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Agenda

- Overview of CESER
- DCEI Risk Assessments (DRA) Overview & Opportunity
- Application & Review Process
- Q&A Session



CESER Overview

About CESER

- Mission
 - Strengthen the security of the U.S. energy sector
- Vision
 - A secure, resilient, and adaptive energy sector capable of withstanding emerging threats and providing reliable energy for national defense and all Americans.

CESER Core Capabilities



Risk Analysis

Develop and distribute actionable risk information to energy stakeholders to mitigate the impact of threats and disruptions.



Energy Infrastructure Hardening

Mitigate risk to the Energy Sector and its supply chains through planning, deployment of tools, training, and exercises.



Cutting Edge Innovation

Build resilience within the energy sector through research and development and capacity building activities.



Response, Restoration, and Recovery

Enable the Energy Sector to quickly respond, restore, and recover from disruptions.

The image shows an industrial facility at night, with various structures and lights visible. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color. In the center, the text "DCEI Risk Assessments (DRA) Overview" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are several white, stylized, overlapping arrow-like shapes pointing towards the right.

DCEI Risk Assessments (DRA) Overview

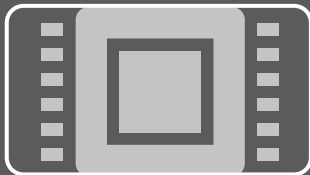
Program Objectives

- Enhance the cyber resilience of Defense Critical Energy Infrastructure (DCEI).
- Apply advanced risk assessment methodologies, including Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering (CCE) engagements and IEC 62443, to identify and mitigate cyber-enabled sabotage scenarios.
 - These will encompass comprehensive cyber-physical and cybersecurity assessments leveraging a blend of numerous frameworks.
- Ensure critical functions can operate effectively even in compromised environments.
- Strengthen national infrastructure security through proactive, engineering-based solutions.

Eligibility



Must meet the “domestic entity” definition for GSA (organized under US laws, majority domestic ownership/control, physical US place of business, and not owned/controlled by a Country of Risk).



Has the ability to conduct cyber-physical and cybersecurity assessments including but not limited to CCE engagements and IEC 62443. Applicants will be required to submit the Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosures and Certification before negotiating their award (linked in FAQs on opportunity page).



Certified by the Idaho National Laboratories (INL) in their Cyber Informed Engineering process known as, [Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering \(CCE\)](#).



Ability to demonstrate sufficient financial resources or access to capital to commence and sustain initial project activities prior to initial payment milestones. A basic financial health check may be necessary.

The background of the slide is a photograph of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, at night. The scene is filled with various structures, including tall distillation columns, storage tanks, and a complex network of pipes and walkways. The lighting is a mix of warm yellow and orange from the facility's lights and a cool blue from the ambient night light. A semi-transparent blue overlay covers the entire image. On the right side, there is a large, white, stylized arrow graphic that points towards the right, composed of multiple parallel lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

Application & Review Process

Application

File Title	Max Pages	File Type
Project Overview & Plan	5	MS Word, PDF
Project Schedule & Gantt Chart		Excel, PDF
Project Team Resumes / CCs	2 pages per person (submitted as one file)	MS Word, PDF
Letters of Support (optional)	5 (1 page max per letter)	MS Word, PDF

Application Timeline

Milestones to Consider:	Target Date:
Project Application Period Open: DOE begins accepting applications	Dec 10, 2025
Office Hours / Objective Strategy Session (OSS)	Dec 22, 2025 (1PM ET)
Submissions Close	Jan 7, 2026 (5PM ET)

Review Criteria

1. Technical Merit and Innovation

- **Understanding of the Problem:** Clarity and depth of understanding of the specific energy sector challenge being addressed.
- **Proposed Solution:** Soundness, feasibility, and technical approach of the proposed solution. How well does it address the problem statement outlined in the Topic Area Challenges to Address section.
- **Innovation:** Degree of novelty, creativity, and potential for breakthrough solutions. Is the approach unique or an improvement upon existing methods?
- **Technical Expertise:** Demonstrated expertise of the key personnel and their technical capabilities relevant to the proposed work.
- **Scalability and Adaptability:** Potential for the solution to be scaled up, applied across diverse energy utility environments, and adapted to evolving threats or technologies.

2. Impact and Broader Implications

- **Energy Sector Impact:** Potential for the proposed solution to significantly enhance the security, resilience, or efficiency of the US energy infrastructure.
- **National Security Implications:** Contribution to national security objectives through protection of critical energy infrastructure.

Review Criteria

3. Team Qualifications and Experience

Key Personnel: Resumes and experience of the principal investigator and key team members, emphasizing direct relevance to the project's technical domains.

Organizational Capabilities: Overall capacity and infrastructure of the small business to successfully execute the proposed work.

Past Performance: Documented successful past performance on similar or related projects, particularly those involving advanced technology development, R&D, or deployment. (Focus on relevance rather than the sheer size of past contracts).

4. Cost Effectiveness and Value

Budget Justification: Realism and reasonableness of the proposed budget, with clear justification for all costs.

Cost-Benefit Analysis: Potential for the proposed solution to deliver significant value or cost savings to the energy sector relative to investment.

Leverage: Any co-funding, in-kind contributions, or other leveraging of resources that demonstrate commitment and maximize the impact of DOE funding.



Open Forum Q&A

How to Participate

1. Review details on eligibility, evaluation criteria, and how to apply.
2. Review the Office Hours / Objective Strategic Session presentation.
3. Download the Project Overview & Plan template.
4. Complete the online application & upload completed Project Overview & Plan and other required documents in the application [link](#) for CWX-026-CESER.

**Submissions are due no later than Wednesday, January 7, 2026
at 5 PM ET.**