Objective Strategic Sessions (OSS)/Informational Webinar
CWX-018-CARLA
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Anne Egger – Senior Project Manager, DOE Office of Electricity
Grayson Dorr – Program Manager, ConnectWerx

[Grayson Dorr] 14:01:08
Good morning and good afternoon, everyone. We're going to give just another minute for everyone to get into the webinar and we'll get started here shortly.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:01:57
All right, just after 2 PM. Eastern time, so we'll go ahead and get started.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:04
As I said, previously good morning and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Grace and Door.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:12
I'm the program manager for ConnectWerx and we are here today for the OSS slash informational webinar with the Office of Electricity's Solicitation.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:23
1st and foremost, thank you all for your patience. I know many of you have been tracking this funding opportunity maybe as early as the spring of last year summer.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:31
We originally accepted concept papers that were due back in the middle of the summer, and so, feedback has been provided for this.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:41
It submitted concept papers and we just thank you for your patience as we've had a period of pause and are now excited to be able to rejoin with you all and provide further details about this solicitation that closes the end of this month.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:55
Next line.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:02:59
Just a couple of housekeeping items that we asked for you all. If you wouldn't mind, just use the chat feature only for technical difficulties.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:03:08
If you're having audio issues or, problems with Zoom, you can use the chat feature and we'll have someone from our team respond to you all in that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:03:18

If you have questions and we will allocate plenty of time for that, use the Q&A box that allows us to track those questions and if for whatever reason we're unable to answer or provide a direct, a box that allows us to track those questions and if for whatever reason we're unable to answer or provide a direct comment back then we're unable to answer or provide a direct comment back then we can follow up with you all

[Grayson Dorr] 14:03:33
offline or provide a direct comment back then we can follow up with you all offline by capturing it there.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:03:36
Q&A box for those questions. This session is being recorded. And we will post not only the slides, the recording as well as the transcript on our ConnectWerx website that we found.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:03:51
On this opportunity page as well as under our events tab where you can see and click by the solicitation number and the date to find all of that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:05
Just a couple of quick things, on the ConnectWerx side before I turn it over to Dave and Anne and their team.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:10
To get into the meat of the presentation. We always welcome those who are joining us for the 1st time.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:17
If you haven't done so to join the K Networks network, it's simple.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:23
If you haven't done so to join the K Networks network, it's simple. It probably takes about 2, 3 min to fill out that form.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:24
Just allows us to stay engaged with you. I'll keep you informed about open opportunities, awards, things like that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:32
And just news, key news and events. On the virtual side, this is one of our core, meetings that we have as far as our webinars.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:41
We also, host office hours. The office hours for this session, which we'll show again later, is upcoming in a couple weeks and that is January 20 second at 2 p.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:04:52
M. Again, further allows you to ask follow-up questions kind of digest what you've heard today and finalize those questions that you have before considering submitting a response.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:04
We're out and about and we try to be, if you can't, if we have the ability to meet with you, this upcoming March.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:12
We will be at Tech Connect world. Hosting, and having a session with DOE, we'll have a booth set up.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:21
We're still finalizing details on that exact space. TechConnect is a division outside of ConnectWerx and so, there will be an SBI, segment of that, a critical material, minerals and material session, lots of great insights and, if you're able to join us in Raleigh, we've seen some folks that are in the network.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:41
In past tech connect events, stop by or who, so we welcome you there.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:46
So again, thank you for the time today. We'll post through the chat feature, just some helpful links for you all, our email, resources page if you're finding that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:05:58
So just be mindful of that. And with that, I will turn it over to Dave.

[David Parsons] 14:06:05
Great. Yeah, thank you so much, Grayson. And I just want to welcome everybody to today's webinar and thank you for your interest in our opportunity, the collaborations advancing rapid load editions or Carla for short.

[David Parsons] 14:06:20
My name is Dave Parsons. I'm the deputy director for resource advocacy at the US Department of Energy's Office of Electricity.

[David Parsons] 14:06:27
So thank you all for joining today and I also want to echo. Thanks for your patience and flexibility.

[David Parsons] 14:06:35
We've worked over the past year to open up this application window and respond to your concept papers and get to this point.

[David Parsons] 14:06:43
Okay, so let's dive in. So, on the next slide. Oh, one more actually.

[David Parsons] 14:06:50
The office of electricity leads, the Department of Energy's research development, demonstration, and deployment efforts to strengthen and modernize our nation's power grid and maintain a reliable, affordable, and secure electricity delivery infrastructure.

[David Parsons] 14:07:07

Our main execution goals focus on stabilizing, optimizing, and growing the United States electric grid. We're working to address the immediate acute needs that are straining grid reliability, getting improved.

[David Parsons] 14:07:21
Performance from the grid while maintaining affordability. And expanding grid capacity and tapping into our many energy resources.

[David Parsons] 14:07:30
Okay, so on the next slide, as I'm sure everyone is well aware. let's go one more slide actually. Thanks.

[David Parsons] 14:07:41
So, I'm sure you all know, but over the past couple of years, the US has seen a surge in electric demand.

[David Parsons] 14:07:49
This is primarily driven by data center development, large industrial customers and increased domestic manufacturing. There are many forecasts available out there and there's definitely uncertainty in some of the segments.

[David Parsons] 14:08:03
Specific segments in some of these forecasts. But in general, we expect that electricity usage is going to grow substantially over the next 5 years.

[David Parsons] 14:08:12
It both in terms of electricity consumption and in peak demand. And our industry, our states, our regional planning practices and these frameworks are not always well equipped to accommodate all these requests.

[David Parsons] 14:08:27
There are new challenges associated with them, the particular kinds of loads that we're seeing trying to interconnect.

[David Parsons] 14:08:33
Of course, there's many challenges with them, the particular kinds of loads that we're seeing, trying to interconnect.

[David Parsons] 14:08:36
Of course, there's many challenges with supply chain, with availability of new electric generation. Permitting and, and other aspects of, of these complicated processes and, and this industry in particular.

[David Parsons] 14:08:48
So, to address some of the reliability and security and economic growth and national security issues associated with. What we're seeing, the Department of Energy is using this Carla funding opportunity to develop innovative solutions to solve these challenges.

[David Parsons] 14:09:07
So, let's go to the next slide and I'll talk a little more about this in particular.

[David Parsons] 14:09:14
So, the main objective here is to engage a collaborative or many collaboratives to develop new approaches for states, grid operators, and large energy customers to meet reliably and affordably to serve all of these large load requests.

[David Parsons] 14:09:30
Collaboratives that are developed as part of this program should reflect a wide range of needs and use cases related to load growth across the country and should include organizations of varying sizes and experience with government programs and government funding.

[David Parsons] 14:09:46
The collaboratives are going to provide support for analyzing electricity demand growth, planning for generation and grid capacity, and identifying opportunities to serve new customers and ensure reliable and affordable service.

[David Parsons] 14:10:01
We're hoping that as part of the program, the collaboratives will make use of new approaches and develop new approaches for site identification, load forecasting, grid planning, cost allocation, cost recovery structures, etc., to enable rapid accommodation of these load and interconnection requests and support the needed infrastructure development.

[David Parsons] 14:10:27
To accommodate all the customers that are out there.

[David Parsons] 14:10:34
So let's talk a little more about eligibility. So.

[David Parsons] 14:10:39
Applicants must be a domestic entity, which is defined here. As well okay so there's you can read the definition, but you must be a domestic entity the project team has to include at least one state entity, at least one grid operator has to include at least one state entity, at least one grid operator and at least one grid operator, at least one grid operator, and at least one large load customer or large load developer

[David Parsons] 14:11:05
proponent. The state entity is going to need to be the lead or the kind of prime applicant.

[David Parsons] 14:11:12
And all as part of the eligibility requirement there there's a couple other pieces in there, but one important thing is that applicants must certify they're not controlled by a foreign entity.

[David Parsons] 14:11:25
On the next slide, I'm going to talk about the overall process. So, the application is intended to be pretty straightforward and reasonable for folks.

[David Parsons] 14:11:38

So, we are asking for a pretty straightforward and, reasonable for folks. So, we are asking for a project summary slide, which is just one slide, a project summary slide, which is just one slide, and, reasonable for folks.

[David Parsons] 14:11:48
So we are asking for a project summary slide, which is just one slide, plain language description of the project summary slide, which is just one slide, plain language description of the proposal, the proposed budget summary slide, which is just one slide, plain language description of the proposal, the proposed budget, information on the proposal, the proposed budget, plain language description of the proposal, the proposed budget, information on the problem that you're seeking to

[David Parsons] 14:11:52
address and the key considerations of the proposal, the proposed budget, information on the problem that you're seeking to address and the key considerations that inform your approach.

[David Parsons] 14:11:55
You should include a project narrative, a maximum of 9 pages, and this would be 2 to 5 pages on your project proposal, one to 2 pages on the team members and resources that you'll bring to bear.

[David Parsons] 14:12:11
One to 2 pages on your budget. The budget workbook should be filled out. There's an option to include a Gantt chart for the schedule, the tasks and milestones, etc.

[David Parsons] 14:12:23
We also would like you to include your resumes for your key personnel, any letters of support or commitments that you have from project partners.

[David Parsons] 14:12:32
These can be uploaded. Application and your resumes and letters of support etc. Those don't count toward your page limits, but there is a 1 page maximum per letter.

[David Parsons] 14:12:49
Okay. Okay, so on to timeline. So we had previously asked for concept papers and, although they're not required, they were highly encouraged.

[David Parsons] 14:13:02
Those who have submitted a concept paper have already been provided with a concept paper have already been provided with feedback from DOE.

[David Parsons] 14:13:09
Those who have submitted a concept paper have already been provided with feedback from DOE about your concept paper. So, thank you very much for those of you who submitted concept papers.

[David Parsons] 14:13:17
In 2 weeks on Thursday the 20 second of We will have another session similar to this. We will do, we call office hours.

[David Parsons] 14:13:25

This will be an informational webinar where we'll do we call office hours. This will be an informational webinar where it'll be an informational webinar where it'll be office hours.

[David Parsons] 14:13:31
This will be an informational webinar where it'll be, will be here again to along with the Connect Works team and other folks from DOE to help answer any questions that folks have as you're preparing your applications.

[David Parsons] 14:13:40
The submission deadline for this session is Friday, January 30.th At 3 pm eastern time.

[David Parsons] 14:13:51
We highly encourage you to submit your applications on time if you don't submit, on time, any kind of late submissions, we won't review those.

[David Parsons] 14:14:00
Okay. I'm going to talk a little bit about the criteria for review. And then I think we can wrap up.

[David Parsons] 14:14:09
So. The main component of the applications that we're going to score is the technical merit and impact.

[David Parsons] 14:14:17
So, this refers to the potential the projects have to allow for rapidly accommodating significant load growth while preventing or minimizing cost impact on customers.

[David Parsons] 14:14:27
We will also evaluate how the project will support analyzing or preparing for load impact. Or planning for an enabling grid capacity growth.

[David Parsons] 14:14:36
In addition, we're looking at the impact of the funding from DOE, how this proposed project is helpful and how it can be applied in the broader industry.

[David Parsons] 14:14:47
Okay, let's go to the next slide. The next 2 review criteria are project approach and feasibility and the team member qualifications and capabilities.

[David Parsons] 14:14:58
So these are pretty self-explanatory. But we'll score your applications based on how well scoped and feasible the proposed project is, including the outlined project management approaches, the project budget, the schedule, etc.

[David Parsons] 14:15:14
And finally, we'll also score your application on your team qualifications and capabilities. So this includes ensuring the necessary partnerships are in place.

[David Parsons] 14:15:24

For project success and there is effective project organization. Among the partners, the key personnel are qualified for the work that's proposed, etc.

[David Parsons] 14:15:34
Okay, so that wraps it up I think I'll conclude now and I believe we have plenty of time for any questions or anything that folks might have.

[David Parsons] 14:15:46
Thanks very much.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:15:48
Thanks, Dave. Before we jump in, I'll kind of address some of the ones, questions that have come through.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:15:54
Regarding or specific to the application, is Dave kind of touched on and went into the details the form online and the templates we have available align with those that are required, a submission documents.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:16:10
So, the project narrated budget workbook and project schedule. Each of those have templates available. The summary slide and the letters to support, there are no templates.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:16:20
Those are optional. As we highlight, if you would like to include a summary slide, you can do that via PowerPoint or PDF, whatever your preference would be, but via PowerPoint or PDF, whatever your preferences are, but feel free to use the project narrative opening page.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:16:35
That as well. So just to remind everyone of that, and so I know we there was a couple questions just around.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:16:43
Those requirements and documents pertaining to it. We don't get into the specifics as far as.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:16:52
You know, beyond the page count as far as specifying. Fonts and that type of thing, we really just hope everyone uses their best judgment on that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:04
Again, it's, it's Up to Do's review, but if you submit beyond 9 pages, They have full discretion to stop reviewing after that period.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:13
And so, please be mindful of that and, and target to keep all of your submissions, at that maximum page.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:22

Account as far as pertaining to the project narrative. So thank you for that. Again, that application will be cut off at 3 PM.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:32
Eastern time. So if you were trying to submit or starting your application during that time and not submitting until after that window, it will close the link and not allow you to submit.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:44
So the earlier the better with that and so we can help troubleshoot to have any issues.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:17:52
So again, I see a couple questions coming in just regarding in concept papers. Be mindful that this opportunity open in early last year and so that was not a requirement.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:04
To submit a concept paper, it was just a way to provide that feedback and we recognize folks may just be joining us or seeing this post through since our network has grown.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:17
So again, that's not a requirement that you had to have that concept paper in. So we will check and make sure I see a question around that feedback.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:25
Yeah, everyone who did submit one was supplied and either encouraged discourage. On that and so we'll confirm.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:33
That you did receive that. So.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:38
All right, let's. I believe that's overall. Some of the general admin questions pertaining to it.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:48
There's a question that kind of 1st came through Dave and Please correct me if I over speak on this.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:18:54
The expected start date. I'll just say that the goal of this is to make selections.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:19:00
In the spring. Dave and his team notified ConnectWerx the approval to post the solicitation close date, we did that and obviously wanted to move very quickly on that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:19:13
So our commitment obviously is to the DOE to move at the cadence they are pushing towards so selections in spring.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:19:21

Obviously, everyone's aware of this close in January. There has to be time for reviews, approvals, but we are anticipating those negotiations and the work as far as the selectees to commence in the spring and then move everyone to contract shortly after.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:19:38
So Dave, correct me if that's if I'm overstating there.

[David Parsons] 14:19:41
No, no, that's right. And I think, you know, obviously all the caveats of, you know, making sure we have all the right approvals internally and everything would apply to that but that's our intent and in terms of the timeline.

[David Parsons] 14:19:56
I believe this is on the website for folks, but we're expecting a 1 year period of performance and there's options to extend that I believe you know up to 2 additional one year periods of performance.

[David Parsons] 14:20:09
So. For total, I guess, of up to 3 years. So anyway, that's on the website as well for folks.

[David Parsons] 14:20:16
If just to kind of refer to.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:20:18
Yeah, thank you, David. There's a question around that. So, if please.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:20:23
Craft your proposal around that 12 month and you were able to if you need to specify the need to extend and that would all be negotiated obviously should you be selected.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:20:37
For award.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:20:41
Questions we've had come in, Dave, are on funding size. Obviously, everyone's aware and we posted online the total available funding for this the goal or expectation is to make around 5 to 10 awards so the funding for that would be obviously allocated across just under 29, but 29 million.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:21:03
So. Again, that will vary based on the project proposals that come in.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:21:10
Question on can the funds be used for capital goods such as natural gas fuel cell and for engineering consulting services.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:21:19
Dave, I'll just add and to this and clarify for everyone this is, if you're not familiar, firm fixed price agreement.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:21:29
It's milestone based and so all of your sub awards and sub agreements DOE does not request to see those nor do we ask for approval of those nor do we ask for approval of those ahead of time so any specifications stable and what's not allowed as far as those, the funding.

[David Parsons] 14:21:47
It's a good question. I think we should take that one back, Grayson, and provide sort of a kind of an official answer, which we can do and kind of get back to folks on that one.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:21:56
Okay.

[David Parsons] 14:21:56
On the capital question.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:22:01
A question Dave came in and I know we've had this the just further defining what a large load user is that on a daily annual power consumption what qualifies as a grid operator from DOEs perspective.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:22:15
So I, we can break those apart.

[David Parsons] 14:22:17
Yeah, I think. Let us put something again like on the website that kind of explains the definition of a large load user.

[David Parsons] 14:22:28
I mean, I think in general we're looking for, you know, large commercial industrial customers data centers manufacturing facilities large industrial users but we can put a kind of a criterion or something that better defines that for folks if that's helpful.

[David Parsons] 14:22:49
In terms of the, I see it so there's a question about the grid operator. So that's pretty broad in our mind.

[David Parsons] 14:22:54
I think that includes utilities, you know, RTOs, ISOs, but, but generally.

[David Parsons] 14:23:01
You know even like a transmission owner operator could potentially qualify there too so that's pretty broad and then if I'm looking at the right one the word decision.

[David Parsons] 14:23:14
I think we addressed that one already.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:23:15
Yeah, we touched on just the spring. Yeah, spring as far as making decision and then. And I know another question which we touched on just regarding sub awards, as I mentioned, the agreement.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:23:30
And the business of disagreement and the milestones are set with the prime. So the sub award in all of those contracts and how they're reimbursed.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:23:39
We don't get into specifics on that. So that's up to the prime to manage that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:23:48
Dave, I don't know if we're able to. Answer this or specific just Texas qualify for this application.

[David Parsons] 14:23:51
Yeah.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:23:55
With their own grid.

[David Parsons] 14:23:57
Oh yeah, absolutely.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:03
Yeah, and there's another question just I think you touched on it just does a Ver vertically integrated utility qualifies a system operator team members?

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:12
Does it have to be? And Dave said yes, you can so thank you for that. Lot of great questions coming in.

[David Parsons] 14:24:14
Yep. Yeah.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:21
So thank you, everyone.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:25
So a question just regarding, so it says since submitting the concept paper, some of the project partners have decided not to participate.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:32
We may we submit an application with new partners. Yes, you can. We fully recognize that a lot has changed in our world in the last 6 months, 9 months.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:24:44
And so, a lot has changed in our world in the last 6 months, 9 months. And so, even if you were discouraged on a concept paper, but you feel that what you supplied merits another opportunity we fully you know encourage you to still do so that was just intended to allow do we an opportunity, early look, provide some insights as far as, full submission and so you're

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:07
still eligible obviously to apply. We're not going to restrict you for that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:15
Can we touched on, the Gantt template, the template setup?

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:20
It is 18 months. That's just a general template that we use across all solicitations and opportunities.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:24
So, you Again, keep that focus around the 12-month period if you need to justify sending it out.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:32
Be able to do so.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:42
Okay, we've touched on there's a question regarding how our funds distributed. Again, as I said, it's a firm Fix Press Agreement.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:49
That agreement is with ConnectWerx and the performer. Funds are paid out. Upon DOE, review and approval on a net 30 payment schedule in arrears.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:25:59
So think of it as your If you had 12 milestones and maybe 8 invoices tied to those milestones you would invoice at the completion of each of those they would be reviewed on the ConnectWerx side for completion and then sent over for DOE for concurrence and then paid appropriately after that time.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:26:24
So again, yes, specific questions on the funds and like how that's structured. That is all that will all be decided in the negotiation.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:26:31
Period and really a collaborative effort from DOE and the performer to come up with a set of milestones and invoices that provide enough runway and financial support early, middle, and end of the project.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:26:49
But also are tied to key deliverables.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:26:58
There's a question regarding, saving the submission or does it have to need to be done all it one time?

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:05
It does need to be completed, I believe, getting in this specifics. Will capture. Your inputs, but we just recommend always downloading all the attachments, get everything ready to go.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:17

And then when you're ready to submit, the question set that are in the actual application. Most of those are intended for just data metrics and just, consistently captured across or not specific to the project.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:31
So, best practice, just get everything downloaded, work offline. That's the reason we have the project narrative template.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:38
That's the meat of the application and then when you're ready to submit. Shouldn't just allocate at least 30 min or so to finish that up.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:50
All right.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:27:57
Let's see.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:28:04
There's a question just regarding missing the concept paper unfortunately with this solicitation being open, we're not able to provide any pre review or feedback of considerations of your application.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:28:18
So just take the time use not only This time in the coming weeks, office hours if you have those final questions to formulate your response.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:28:29
Before the deadline.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:28:35
Another question, Dave, just on funds regarding travel. Is that something we want to take offline and put all in a complete as far as allowable or?

[David Parsons] 14:28:46
Yeah. No, I think. That's allowed. I think it can be included in your proposal if that's part of your budget.

[David Parsons] 14:28:54
So you can just, you know. Lay that out in your submission.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:09
There's a question I'm not tracking as far as specifics if you're able to.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:15
To provide more clarity on it. I think we can get you an answer, but it's saying.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:21
Are applying entities assigned IDs or control numbers applicants should be including in full application materials. So if you were if you did submit a concept paper there's no idea tied to that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:35
You're simply just reapplying. So, I don't. Hope that answers the question that you don't need to worry with that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:42
But please, there's more specifics to that. Follow up and we'll.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:47
We'll try to. Iterate off that further.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:29:56
A question regarding can partners contract with connect works directly if awarded or do we have to subcontract to the state energy office so that would be through the state energy office so connect works for this particular agreement, we have a deal we do not manage sub awards.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:30:14
So thank you for asking that.

[David Parsons] 14:30:20
And, Grace, and I think there was another question about, you know, whether the state or no large load customer needed to have a budget or could have like different kinds of.

[David Parsons] 14:30:33
Partnerships or different kinds of collaboration and I think the intent is for flexibility around how the collaboratives are designed, but we do have a restriction where the lead or the sort of primary applicant needs to be the state or PUC entity, but that that doesn't mean that and that's the end that will have the award, you know, with Connect Works and the agreement with Connect Works.

[David Parsons] 14:31:00
And as Grayson was saying, you know, how the kind of subs are arranged and how that works out is up to, you know, the applicant to propose.

[David Parsons] 14:31:10
But, so we're going to give folks a lot of flexibility how that could look, but ultimately in the end it does need to be the state or PC that could look, but ultimately in the end it does need to be the state or PC that is submitting the end it does need to be the state or PC that is submitting the application and will receive the award you know from Connect Works, if it's

[David Parsons] 14:31:25
selected.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:31:27
Thanks, David. We've seen, you know, with others where we have awards with a small consortiums that obviously all will be included and invited on those, those calls and how we set it up if that's the structure and approach you want to take.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:31:43

So we recognize some may be formerly leading the application process. That may not be a state.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:31:53
But obviously having them alongside from the start and obviously through the contract side will be key.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:00
So.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:03
Let's see. Thank you all again. Lots of great questions.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:09
Come in. I'm just trying to see if we have any that we're grouping or.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:20
Let's see.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:23
And Dave, if you see any that you want to call out, please do so. I'll, welcome to others from.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:32:30
If they see any specifics. We have a few representatives not only from OE but also office of technology commercialization present as well so

[Anne Egger] 14:32:41
And Dave, you want to answer the clarifying question.

[David Parsons] 14:32:43
Yeah. Yes, so. When we initially went so that I understand this is confusing.

[David Parsons] 14:32:52
So when we actually started this. Solicitation last year. It was coming at a grid deployment office a couple of months ago, DOE.

[David Parsons] 14:33:01
We did a realignment and now the grid deployment office is part of the office of electricity. So you'll see sort of going forward reference office electricity, but it's the same opportunity.

[David Parsons] 14:33:12
You know, so, so it's really hopefully won't be any different for folks on the outside.

[David Parsons] 14:33:23
Let me see if I can answer one of these questions. So, there was a question about. Going back to the project period if the proposal can be for a 3-year project or if it could be a 1 year.

[David Parsons] 14:33:36
So I think the way it's structured is going to be for a 1-year project with the option to extend.

[David Parsons] 14:33:42
But I think if you have a project approach that really would benefit from being, you know, 2436 month project. I think that's fine.

[David Parsons] 14:33:51
I think it just make sure that your approach is flexible enough that you could accommodated if, you know, DOE decided it was just going to be a 12 month project and also just show in your proposal how or what the benefit would be or why it should be a 24 or 36 month project if you think That would be beneficial.

[David Parsons] 14:34:10
And that will give us the flexibility to kind of think about your approach and your proposal and also just sort of accommodate the kind of default contract period which should be for 12 months.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:34:24
Thanks, and it's important everyone that I just be mindful that we'll be moving into cadence with all the performers, right?

[Grayson Dorr] 14:34:32
And so some will. May have justification for that 24 months or, or further some. Maybe operating and choose to operate strictly on that 12 month or even sooner.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:34:44
Though all everyone will be going at different. Operating different periods of performance but a lot of that is intended to try to streamline and align.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:34:55
All the projects together as well. So, but we do recognize there's some variances there.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:35:02
A question again just on the particular project team submitting the application again it needs to come from that entity.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:35:11
I won't get into the weeds of if someone is submitting on behalf, but the key is the prime and the award would be with that state entity.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:35:25
So again, I would just coordinate with them if you're able, I think, best case, it's always recommended to have someone on that side submitting it, but we recognize.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:35:34
Some might be doing a lot of the leg work for them and doing that. So.

[David Parsons] 14:35:48
So there's a question here about the overall goal and you know whether our goal is to have a repeatable process that can streamline and condense timelines for interconnecting new loads and new generation.

[David Parsons] 14:36:04
And I think that is one of the one of the objectives. Yeah, I think it would be great to have some kind of approach that's developed to a collaborative that's applicable in other parts of the country.

[David Parsons] 14:36:17
Part of the objective so for this so I think you can see on the opportunity page at Connect Works sort of like the full list of objectives and the sort of review criteria which includes sort of you know how this approach could be have broader applicability and how the impact of DOI funding could be maximized that way.

[David Parsons] 14:36:42
But I would just encourage everyone to look at the kind of the full submission page, you know, for the full list of objectives and the review criteria.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:36:53
Thanks, Dave. I have a couple I can address and then I'll. Turn or pause a minute.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:37:00
I'm just doing a quick time check we have. Just over 20 min still remaining, so please, please get your questions in if you have any outstanding.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:37:10
So there's a question just regarding I'll pair these, pertaining to letters of commitment and Also, links on let the resumes again as we mentioned the letters to support commitment those are optional we just asked for a 1 page maximum per letter or per resume.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:37:31
There is no cap on that, but just be mindful. Other reviews and the volume as well. So just, we always recommend keep those specific to the project and, but there is no official cap on those.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:37:46
That you may be uploading or a requirement to do so. A question regarding will reviewers be asking questions of applicants midway through the review process.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:37:56
That is not typical that we have that included in the review period. But there has been times where as we close or get close to closing their review period, DOE may have a selected pool of applicants they may want to ask clarifying questions for.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:38:14
But currently in the process it's not designed to pause and ask or provide feedback, clarifying questions midway through, but we always want to reserve for DOE their opportunity if they need to ask any.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:38:26
Clarifying questions and those will be asked. Typically to all performers it would be a maybe something there was an oversight or just clarifying across the board today, is that is that fair to say as far as in the review process?

[David Parsons] 14:38:40
Yeah, I think that's right. Right now we don't have, a step in the process that that contemplates that, but that you're right, we have done that in the past and that could change depending on sort of what we see in the application pool and sort of our needs in terms of reviewing.

[David Parsons] 14:38:55
So if that does become a step in the process or anything like that, we'll let folks know that that would apply to.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:39:02
Yeah. I'm going to pull up our budget workbook. I know there's a question specific to it if there are multiple recipients should the description feel for each task be tailored to that recipients role.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:39:18
I'm going to open that up. Unless someone has a specific answer to that, But that's a great question.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:39:26
I just want to make sure we're maybe something we follow up offline as well. Specific to that budget workbook.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:39:35
There's a question Dave on national labs would have a sub award with the state entity so that is believe we said national labs that is correct, right?

[David Parsons] 14:39:45
So for D. O's national labs, we actually would. Probably work directly with the national lab to fund any work that that their kind of portion of the scope.

[David Parsons] 14:39:59
But other than that, that's specific to DOE's national labs. Other than that, other subcontractors or project partners or anyone else who's part of the collaborative would need to be to work together with the state or PC, the state, the lead entity, the lead applicant.

[David Parsons] 14:40:16
And that as Grayson was saying before, that's kind of up to the collaborative to determine sort of the structure and the approach that they want to take in terms of project partners.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:40:30
There's a question Dave, one of my favorites coming from a public power utility myself, but does a public power entity that is a subdivision of a public power utility myself, but does a public power entity that is a subdivision of a state qualifies the lead applicant.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:40:41
I'm assuming they're mentioning like a quasi state entity that operates under. A state RS or is that correct?

[Grayson Dorr] 14:40:47

That's eligible.

[David Parsons] 14:40:48
Yeah, so for that, could you send for the person who asked that question, could you send, your question in to connect works to the Connect Works email so that we can look at the specific circumstance that you're talking about.

[David Parsons] 14:41:02
Just to make sure that we don't. Have any issues there. I, the, the reason why I'm saying is actually there's maybe a little more than folks need, but the, the restriction on sort of the, the prime and everything is, not, it's sort of more tied to the funding source than anything else.

[David Parsons] 14:41:18
I just want to make sure that we're we have the full understanding of the particular case. That you're describing.

[David Parsons] 14:41:26
And we'll get back to you.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:41:32
I'll do a, another call for questions and just do a quick review. We have, Just under 20 min, about 15 million before we wrap up, but thank you all for the great questions that have come in and the patients with us as we've gone through these.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:41:52
Obviously, as they mentioned, we're excited about this opportunity, obviously moving forward this month and in reviewing.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:41:59
If it's a follow-up from the concept paper or brand new submission both equally so just a couple reminders on the screen.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:08
That you see, there is a link on our website and obviously when, when you click on this.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:13
Webinar when you download it afterwards there's a link to register for the office hours. We are holding just 30 min, so we'll jump on really quick do a very brief recap, but really allocate the majority of that time for you all.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:28
The project near to template, we always recommend just starting with that, get that downloaded.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:32
That is the bulk of the, the application itself. Starting there along with the budget workbook in parallel, I will kind of streamline the work and you can do that offline and then as you prepare for submission.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:46

Our goal and commitment is to have the slides and, and the transcript posted today and then early next week we'll have the actual recording as well.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:42:55
So you're welcome to go back and review it. If that suit you or you have someone from your team that wasn't able to join.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:03
Or a partner that's unable. We do also have I should mention a teaming list setup if you're interested or may not be a prime, but looking to team with others.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:14
We've had a handful of folks that submitted that. Early in the process but you're also welcome to do that.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:20
Folks can go on and click your contact and directly reach out. There's a section where you can just submit a little blurb about your capability.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:29
What you're interested in as far as what you could provide. So that is an option too, that we always open up when we have.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:38
Project proposals that call for. A team or consortium, submission. So, thank you to our team.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:43:49
We posted those helpful links. In the chat so you could see those.

[David Parsons] 14:44:02
I see, Grace and I see one more question. Which I can answer, but I guess if there's any other questions from folks that want to, you know, type their question into the Q&A we can we can try to answer before we go but this question about the budget workbook.

[David Parsons] 14:44:20
If there are multiple recipients, should the description field for each task be tailored to that recipients role?

[David Parsons] 14:44:26
Yes, definitely in your budget submission you can kind of explain sort of the different tasks and different roles and sort of how the budget all rolls up together.

[David Parsons] 14:44:37
Thanks.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:44:44
All right, well, I don't see any outstanding questions. I will wrap us up. Not our own ConnectWerx side and I'll turn it over to you today for the final word but thank you again.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:44:56
Please join us if you need to on for office hours. Up coming in here on January 20 second and get started as early as you can on the submission.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:45:06
So, we always welcome early submissions, although we know folks like to maximize the time. And getting those in.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:45:12
Before we quickly moved to February, which is hard to believe. Already in the new year. So, thank you again Dave.

[Grayson Dorr] 14:45:22
I'll turn it over to you.

[David Parsons] 14:45:25
Okay, yeah, thanks, Grace. And so, I just wanted to thank everybody again as well. I think it's been a winding road to get to this point, but we're really of your patience and a partnership that we have with Connect Works to offer this funding opportunity.

[David Parsons] 14:45:44
Again, it's designed and intended to be flexible and hopefully, you know, easy for folks to submit their applications.

[David Parsons] 14:45:54
But, but again, if you have any questions or there's, you know, further you want to talk with us more about the process.

[David Parsons] 14:46:00
We do have office hours coming up. And. Yeah, I Just want to thank everybody again for their interest and we'll see hopefully see some of you again in a couple of weeks.