

Questions and Answers
RFP2011UN001
RFP Release Date: 12-20-11

Questions specific to this RFP must be made in writing and received electronically via email no later than 21 days after RFP posting. All questions and answers germane to the interpretation of RPSEA's requirements for this RFP will be posted below. Only the RPSEA Contracts Director may issue clarification and directions concerning this RFP. Direct your questions to Wiley Wells at: wwells@rpsea.org.

Date: 01-17-2012

- Q5. A. What NAICS code is being used for this proposal to determine if a firm is a small business?**
B. Are the exceptions to the subcontract included in the 30-page maximum page count?
C. Is the signature page included in the 30-page maximum page count?
D. Are the table of contents and acronyms list included in the 30-page maximum page count?
E. Is the executive summary included in the 30-page maximum page count?
F. What constitutes the research and development phase versus the demonstration phase?

- A5. A. The NAICS Code is 541712.
 B. No.
 C. No.
 D. Yes.
 E. Yes.
 F. The R&D phase is defined by research that is prior to "proof of concept" for a particular R&D project. If the research proposes a certain technical solution to a problem, yet to be proven or disproven, it is prior to proof of concept and within the R&D phase. The R&D phase may include field applications of a technology if the objective of those applications is to develop new information and data that will allow the concept to be further developed.

A research project in the demonstration phase is taking a research project that has passed proof of concept and is now being demonstrated in a commercial-scale application (usually in the field) to assess the performance of the new technology. The primary objective of the demonstration phase is to further define operating conditions under which the technology performs adequately, cost performance and other operational data, as opposed to continuing development of the technology.

- Q4. Regarding this RFP, could you please clarify if emissions from E&P operations is an acceptable topic for this solicitation?**

- A4. A proposal dealing with gas emissions from E&P operations could be acceptable under the topic "Minimize surface disruption associated with unconventional gas development and disposal of associated wastes" given the following clarification. The topic or proposal submitted must address a new technology or technology enhancement for

controlling emissions from E&P operations. What is not included would be characterizing the volume, type and location of emissions as other entities are addressing this aspect of gas emissions.

A new technology or technique for gas emissions control is the acceptable topic.

Date: 1-09-2012

Q3. Is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) eligible to submit a proposal to the above RFP? If yes, can it lead, sub or both?

A3. A FFRDC is eligible to submit a proposal in response to RFP2011UN011 or any other RPSEA RFP, and it can be the lead or a subcontractor.

Q2. The objectives for the solicitation state that in addition to previous areas of emphasis on various technologies, the solicitation seeks to build on technologies that address “additional areas,” such as “community issues surrounding high pressure fracturing operations in populated areas...” Further, in Section D, Scope, it is stated that proposals must “address one or more of the four listed Topics.”

In our review of the Topics, we notice that specific technological issues related to drilling operations are addressed, but we are not able to find reference to community issues.

A. We would like to know in which topic(s) you foresee incorporating community issues such as the identification and monitoring of social impacts of drilling and production in the shale areas.

B. Would you accept a proposal focused on community issues as they relate to hydraulic fracturing that touches on all the four points: waste disposal; protecting ground water; minimizing environmental impact by minimizing fluid requirements; and identifying appropriate regulations that are science-based? Or, are we required to specifically select one?

A2.

A. This program is primarily a technology development program intended to develop new technologies that will address the issues identified in the objectives for the RFP. Each of the four areas identified in Section D, Scope has the potential for technology development that will address community issues associated with high pressure fracturing operations in populated areas. However, “identification and monitoring of social impacts of drilling and production in the shale areas” is not within the scope of the RFP unless it is tied to the development of new technology in one or more of the four topic areas that will influence those social impacts.

B. As noted in the RFP, proposals “shall be directed toward one or more of the four topics described below and the specific topics to which they are addressed shall be identified in the proposal”. The RFP should be referenced for a complete description of the four topics rather than the characterization of those topics as given in the question.

Date: 01-05-2012

Q1. In collaboration with another company (a small, less than 10 employees) and my company (2 employees) we would like to apply for a subcontract with RPSEA.

My questions are:

A. Am I to apply to the Small Producer or to the Unconventional Resource Programs?

B. As the major applicant, am I regarded as a contractor or sub-contractor?

A1.

- A. Your organization may apply to either program or both, depending on the technology fit with the requirements of the RFPs. Please read the RFPs carefully to determine the RFP(s) to which you respond. The size of your organization is not the determining factor for responding to either RFP, and the RFPs do not impose size requirements.
- B. Your organization must decide who will sign the proposal submitted to RPSEA. RPSEA will view that organization as its prime contractor, although it will be a subcontractor to the Department of Energy (DOE) due to RPSEA having an executed prime contract with DOE. Other organizations providing services under the awardee's statement of work will be subcontractors to the awardee.