

**Notice of Intent to Issue  
Funding Opportunity Announcement No.: DE-FOA-0000245**

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) intends to issue, on behalf of the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled "National Energy Sector Cyber Organization." The proposed national energy sector cyber organization is envisioned as a partnership between the federal government and the energy-sector stakeholders to help protect the bulk power electric grid and integration of smart grid technology to enhance the security of the electric grid.

Approximately \$8.5 Million is expected to be available under this announcement for the purposes of establishing the new entity in the course of a 3-year Financial Assistance award. The funds will be distributed on an annual budget period basis with increasing cost share requirements. Initial funding is intended to establish the entity, including, but not limited to, setting up administrative and operational functions. It is expected that the entity will become self-sustaining through the energy sector partnership in future years.

DOE, through the subject FOA, seeks an applicant that possesses the expertise, capabilities, and experience in the energy sector critical infrastructure that will lead the formation, governing and implementation of a National Energy Sector Cyber Organization. This organization shall have the knowledge, expertise, capabilities, and capacity, at a minimum to: identify and prioritize cyber security research and development issues; identify and disseminate cyber security best practices; organize the collection, analysis and dissemination of infrastructure vulnerabilities and threats data; and work cooperatively with DOE and other Federal agencies to identify areas where Government entities with jurisdiction may best support efforts to enhance cyber security of the bulk power electric grid and energy infrastructure.

It is anticipated that the cyber organization will focus on:

- Security of emerging technologies for transmission and distribution, including; the formation of a Smart Grid Security Test Bed similar to the National SCADA Test Bed (NSTB) structure; identifying Smart Grid components and systems, testing security features and vulnerabilities; developing security solutions and mitigation strategies; and developing standards and metrics.
- Cyber risk identification, analysis, and management for the energy sector, including; the collection, analysis, and dissemination of cyber incidents, threats and vulnerabilities for the energy sector; and training and testing to improve energy infrastructure entities response capabilities to a cyber attack.

In addition, it is expected that this organization shall:

- Strengthen the cyber security posture of the energy sector by establishing a broad-based public-private partnership for collaboration and cooperation,

- Enhance electric energy infrastructure reliability and cyber security solutions development,
- Provide a path for rapid, tangible response to national priorities,
- Assist in creating a framework to identify and prepare for near term and future challenges to grid reliability,
- Collaborate and share information, best practices, resources, and solutions from domestic and international electric sector participants, and
- Stimulate support and interaction with key energy sector suppliers and vendors.

This organization will serve as a focal point to bring together domestic and international experts, developers, and users to assess and test the security of novel technology, architectures, and applications. In addition, the entity will promote attention to collection, analysis, and dissemination of infrastructure security vulnerabilities and threats. This organization will also address the development of products and deliverables necessary to enable industry and government to develop the systems, policies, and procedures capable of effectively addressing the challenges to electric sector reliability. This is expected to complement and enhance to development and implementation of key milestones and objectives called for in the *Roadmap to Secure Control Systems in the Energy Sector*<sup>1</sup>.

Interested parties are welcome to e-mail comments or input to DOE regarding the planned FOA to [cyberorg@netl.doe.gov](mailto:cyberorg@netl.doe.gov). DOE does not plan to respond to e-mail messages.

DOE plans to issue the Funding Opportunity Announcement in or around the March, 2010 timeframe. The Funding Opportunity Announcement will be available for viewing at Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) and at FedConnect ([www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net)). Applicants are strongly encouraged to register at these sites to receive notification of announcements posted by the National Energy Technology Laboratory. When the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released, applications will only be received through Grants.gov.

In anticipation of the Funding Opportunity Announcement being released, there are several one-time actions prospective applicants must complete in order to submit an application through Grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with Grants.gov). Due to the likelihood of a short response period, interested applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure these requirements have been met. Detailed information on the DUNS and CCR process is presented at <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. Applicants may use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/Organization-RegCheck.pdf> to guide them through the process. Designating an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants not yet registered with CCR and Grants.gov, should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements. It is strongly recommended that the process be started as soon as possible.

If your organization does not have a DUNS number, go to the Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) online registration located at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do> to receive a number free of charge or call 1-866-705-5711.

The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the Federal Government's trading partners in support of the contract award, grants, and the electronic payment processes.

To see if your organization is already registered with CCR, check the CCR website located at <http://www.bpn.gov/ccrsearch/scripts/search.asp>. You will be able to search CCR by using either your organization's DUNS Number or legal business name. If your organization is already registered, take note of who is listed as the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (E-Business POC).

If your organization is not registered in CCR, go to the CCR Website at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov) and select the "Start New Registration" option to begin the registration process. Please allow up to 7 days for processing of your registration which includes the IRS validating your Employer Identification Number (Taxpayer Identification Number or Social Security Number). The organization's E-Business POC will be designated during the CCR registrations process. A special Marketing Partner ID Number (MPIN) is established as a password to verify the E-Business POC.

The DOE will not entertain questions at this time. No reimbursement will be made for any costs associated with providing information in response to this notice or any follow-up information requests. Once the Funding Opportunity Announcement has been released, a "submit questions" feature will be defined.

#### DISCLAIMER

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the DOE's intention to issue this Funding Opportunity Announcement. Any of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change.

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Roadmap to Secure Control Systems in the Energy Sector*, January 2006. <http://www.oe.energy.gov/controlsecurity.htm>