

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 11th day of August, 2003.

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Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 03-20862 Filed 8-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-26; Fusion Science Centers

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), announces its interest in receiving grant applications for Fusion Science Centers with a research focus in fusion plasma science. The duration of the Center grant will be five years, with the possibility of a one time renewal for five more years. All institutions or groups planning to submit applications for funding a new center in Fiscal Year 2004 should submit in response to this Notice. Applicants are not being asked, in any way, to fund or establish a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

DATES: To permit timely consideration for awards in Fiscal Year 2004, applicants are required to submit a Preliminary Application by November 14, 2003. Following a review of the Preliminary Application, applicants may be invited to submit a Full Application in response to this notice which must be received by DOE no later than 4:30 p.m., March 1, 2004. Electronic submission of formal applications in PDF format is required.

Applicants are requested to submit a letter-of-intent by October 15, 2003. Letters-of-Intent should be sent by e-mail to the following e-mail address: john.sauter@science.doe.gov and the subject line should state: Letter-of-Intent regarding Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-26.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Preliminary Application should be sent by e-mail to: john.sauter@science.doe.gov with a subject line titled Preliminary Application Regarding Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-26. In addition, you must provide two CDs, with one PDF file copy of the Preliminary Application on each, to be sent Federal Express to: John Sauter, SC-55, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD

20874-1290. Full Applications in response to this solicitation Number DE-FG01-03ER03-26 are to be electronically submitted by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS, your business official will need to register at the IIPS Web site. It is suggested that this registration be completed several days prior to the date on which you plan to submit the formal application. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. *IIPS offers the option of submitting multiple files—please limit submissions to only one file within the volume if possible, with a maximum of no more than four files.* Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: helpdesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael D. Crisp, Research Division, SC-55, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4883, or by e-mail address: michael.crisp@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR part 605. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Guide and required forms is possible via the Internet using the following Web site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application if an award is not made.

Program Objectives

The development of new investigative techniques and research tools presents a window of opportunity for fundamental advances in the understanding of fusion plasma science. Many of the issues in

plasma science are sufficiently complex that significant progress requires closely interacting, critical-mass groups of scientists with a broad mix of skills and backgrounds. There is also a need to strengthen the connection between the fusion research community and the broader scientific community. The objective of this initiative is to establish one or two university-based Fusion Science Centers (FSC), which will focus on fundamental issues in plasma science. The FSC will be supported to perform fusion plasma science research in areas of such wide scope and complexity that it would not be feasible for individual investigators or small groups to make progress. For example, understanding the dynamics of plasma turbulence and transport requires the development of appropriate physical models, computational algorithms for treating disparate space and times scales, as well as complex magnetic geometries, efficient programming on massively parallel computing platforms, and an understanding of nonlinear physics. A well coordinated collaboration of a team of scientists is more likely to have the breadth of knowledge and skills required to tackle such large and complex problems successfully. The research team that will be assembled for the FSC should also promote connectivity with the broader scientific community.

Areas of Focus

The FSC will be a university-based center of excellence that will emphasize scientific issues that are of fundamental importance to fusion plasma science. Examples of topics that could serve as a focus of a FSC include, but are not limited to: turbulence and transport, chaos and self-organization, energetic particle dynamics, and high energy density plasma physics.

Educational Component

Since future manpower requirements of the fusion energy sciences program are an important concern, proposals should discuss effective ways in which education and training are integrated within their research programs. Centers should be expected to sponsor multidisciplinary workshops and summer schools that will bring together students and researchers from various fields and institutions to focus on basic plasma science. The workshops should also serve to communicate the advances and challenges of fusion science to the broader scientific community.

Eligibility Information

Applications are sought from academic institutions and groups,