

facsimile to (303) 275-4788 or electronically to [james.damm@go.doe.gov](mailto:james.damm@go.doe.gov). Solicitation questions must be submitted through IIPS per the instructions contained in the Solicitation. Responses to questions will be posted on the IIPS Web site. Further information on DOE's Hydrogen, Fuel Cells, and Infrastructure Technologies Program can be viewed at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under this Solicitation, DOE seeks Applications for four specific activities intended to educate key target audiences, including teachers, students, and the public about the use of hydrogen as an energy carrier and the future path to a hydrogen economy.

Awards under this Solicitation will be Grants or Cooperative Agreements with terms of one to five years beginning in Fiscal Year 2004. Subject to the availability of annual congressional appropriations, the total cumulative DOE funding available under this Solicitation for all projects is anticipated to be between \$1 million and \$3.5 million over the five-year period. The minimum required cost share varies by specific activity and will be specified in the Solicitation.

Issued in Golden, Colorado.

**Jerry L. Zimmer,**

*Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a financial assistance solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue a Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-04NT41898 entitled "Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities." Pursuant to 10 CFR 600.6(b), DOE has determined that issuance of this financial assistance solicitation on a restricted eligibility is necessary and appropriate.

In support of advanced coal research to U.S. colleges and universities, financial assistance awards under this Program Solicitation are intended to maintain and upgrade the education, training, and research capabilities of our colleges and universities in the fields of

science, environment, energy, and technology related to coal. The involvement of professors and students generates fresh research ideas and enhances the education of future scientist and engineers.

**DATES:** The solicitation will be available for downloading on the DOE/NETL's Home page at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> and the IIPS "Industry Interactive Procurement System" Internet page located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about September 26, 2003. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions in the Program Solicitation and must be received by November 6, 2003. Prior to submitting your application to the solicitation, periodically check the NETL Web site for any amendments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jodi L. Collins, MS 107, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, *E-mail Address:* [jodi.collins@netl.doe.gov](mailto:jodi.collins@netl.doe.gov). *Telephone Number:* (304) 285-1390.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Through Program Solicitation DE-PS26-04NT41898, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. colleges and universities, and university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective universities. Applications will be selected to complement and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy programs. Applications will be subjected to a merit review by a technical panel of DOE subject-matter experts and external peer reviewers. Awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on: The scientific merit of the applications, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

### Eligibility

To assure this Program continues to support the performance of high quality fundamental research by professors and students at U.S. colleges and universities, applications must be submitted by U.S. colleges, universities, and university-affiliated research institutions provided the following criteria are met:

- Principal Investigator or a Co-Principal Investigator listed on the application is a teaching professor at the submitting university. If this condition is met, other participants, including Co-Principal Investigators or research staff, who do not hold teaching positions may be included as part of the research.

- Proposals from university-affiliated research institutions must be submitted through the college or university with which they are affiliated.

- At least one student registered at the university is to receive compensation for work performed in the conduct of research proposed in the Core and the Innovative Concepts Phase-II Subprograms. This criterion is not applicable in the Innovative Concepts Phase-I Subprogram where the grants are of shorter duration and funded at lower levels to develop unique ideas applicable to coal utilization and conversion.

- Under the Innovative Concepts Phase-I Grants, research may be done by either the Principal Investigator, postdoctoral students, or graduate students.

Additional restricted eligibility is also imposed on the Innovative Concepts Phase-II Grants. Only Innovative Concepts Phase-I grantees will be eligible to compete for subsequent Phase-II continuation of their Phase-I projects.

### Background

#### *FY 2004 Focus Areas/Technical Topics*

The current landscape of the U.S. energy industry, not unlike that in other parts of the world, is undergoing a transformation driven by changes such as deregulation of power generation, more stringent environmental standards and regulations, climate change concerns, and other market forces. With these changes come new players and a refocusing of existing players in providing energy services and products. The traditional settings of how energy (both electricity and fuel) is generated, transported, and utilized are likely to be very different in the coming decades. As market, policy, and regulatory forces evolve and shape the energy industry both domestically and globally, the opportunity exists for university, government, and industry partnerships to invest in advanced fossil energy technologies that can return public and economic benefits many times over. These benefits are achievable through the development of advanced coal technologies for the marketplace.

Energy from coal-fired powerplants will continue to play a dominant role as an energy source, and therefore, it is prudent to use this resource wisely and ensure that it remains part of the sustainable energy solution. In that regard, our focus is on pathways to clean, affordable energy achieved through a combination of technology evolution and innovation aimed at creating the most advanced collection of