

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-03NT41757-0 entitled, "Ground Breaking Innovative Technology Concepts For Mining." The Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is seeking white paper applications on behalf of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Mining Industries of the Future Program, for advanced concepts that span the mining industry and are capable of revolutionizing the industry as a whole or for discrete segments as regards energy intensity (*i.e.* energy used to achieve a unit output).

**DATES:** The solicitation will be available on the "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) webpage located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about February 14, 2003. Applicants can obtain access to the solicitation from the address above or through DOE/NETL's Web site at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Juliana L. Murray, MS 921-107, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran's Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940, E-mail Address: [murray@netl.doe.gov](mailto:murray@netl.doe.gov), Telephone Number: 412-386-4872.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The objective of this solicitation is to support the stated national interests by providing seed funding for development of "revolutionary" concepts or "unique" approaches that would define the direction for potential future research and development projects that address needs that broadly fall in the domestic mining industry. These approaches should represent significant departures from existing approaches, not simply incremental improvements. This solicitation seeks "out-of-the-box" thinking; therefore, mature ideas, past the conceptual stage, are not eligible for this program. Cost sharing is not required because of the fundamental nature of the requested research under this solicitation, but the DOE/NETL will only contribute up to \$50,000 per project selected for award.

DOE has identified specific mining industry activities where energy efficiency improvements would have the most significant impact. This solicitation encourages prospective concepts to be developed in the following areas:

**Area of Interest 1: DE-PS26-03NT41757-1**

*Energy Efficient Alternatives to Current Technologies in Materials Handling*

Interests include energy alternatives with regard to energy use per unit of output to current technologies involving the used of equipment or processes to transport ore and waste.

**Area of Interest 2: DE-PS26-03NT41757-2**

*Energy Efficient Alternatives to Current Beneficiation and Processing Technologies, Particularly Crushing and Grinding*

Interests include energy alternatives with regard to energy use per unit of output to current technologies using equipment or processes to crush, grind, concentrate and/or separating the ore from the unwanted material.

**Area of Interest 3: DE-PS26-03NT41757-3**

*Mineral Extraction Processes To Reduce Downstream Material Handling and*

*Beneficiation and Processing Requirements; Efficiency Alternatives to Pumping in Mining Applications*

Interests include energy alternatives to mineral processes using equipment or processes to explore, mine and process ore.

Once released, the solicitation will be available for downloading from the IIPS Internet page. At this Internet site you will also be able to register with IIPS, enabling you to submit an application. If you need technical assistance in registering or for any other IIPS function, call the IIPS Help Desk at (800) 683-0751 or E-mail the Help Desk personnel at [IIPS\\_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov](mailto:IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov). The solicitation will only be made available in IIPS, no hard (paper) copies of the solicitation and related documents will be made available. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on February 6, 2003.

**Dale A. Siciliano, Director,**  
*Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Executive Order 13272; Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking**

**AGENCY:** Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of procedures and policies.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) is adopting procedures and policies to ensure that the potential impacts of its draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process. These procedures and policies, which are published for the benefit of the public, also are available on the Office of General Counsel's Web site: <http://www.gc.doe.gov>.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The procedures and policies in this notice are effective February 19, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael W. Bowers, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., GC-74, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-2902.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 13, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13272, "Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking," 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002). E.O. 13272 generally calls on agencies to establish procedures and policies to promote compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* More specifically, section 3(a) of the Executive Order requires all Executive agencies to "issue written procedures and policies, consistent with the Act, to ensure that the potential impacts of agencies' draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process." It also requires agencies to make their procedures and policies available to the public through the Internet or other easily accessible means. Section 3(b) of the Executive Order requires agencies to notify the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration ("Office of Advocacy") of any draft rules that may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Such notification must be made either: (i) When the agency submits a draft rule to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget under