

NATIONAL LABORATORY OF THE ROCKIES			
ACQUISITION SERVICES			
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Pre-Solicitation Notice PSN-2026031003

Notification of Intent to Publish a Full and Open Competitive Solicitation for “Distributed Wind Competitiveness Improvement Project”

INTRODUCTION

The National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) is the U.S. Department of Energy’s primary national laboratory for energy systems research and development. As the energy systems laboratory, NLR’s unique strength lies in developing and integrating a broad array of energy technologies into robust, resilient systems - bridging foundational research with practical applications to lower energy costs, drive economic growth, bolster national security, and deliver abundant and reliable energy.

BACKGROUND

The Competitiveness Improvement Project (CIP) provides financial and technical support to American manufacturers of distributed wind technology. CIP is DOE’s core distributed wind technology research and development (R&D) effort and is a high priority to congressional appropriators. NLR manages and administers the CIP and has helped more than two dozen small American businesses across the United States develop, improve, certify and commercialize distributed wind energy technology.

The CIP is specifically designed to support small businesses in multiple phases of the product development cycle—from prototype design through a certified and commercialized unit, including supporting innovation of existing products. The goals of the CIP are to improve the affordability of distributed wind energy relative to other distributed energy resources, improve interoperability with other distributed energy resources, increase the number of distributed wind turbine designs certified to national testing standards, and support product commercialization and field validation.

The research, innovation, and strategic partnerships developed under CIP supports NLR’s mission to deliver integrated solutions for an affordable and secure energy future.

DESCRIPTION

NLR intends to publicly publish for a minimum period of 30 calendar days a request for proposal (RFP) under the CIP to support continued innovation in distributed wind energy systems in 2026. Through CIP, NLR awards firm fixed-price subcontracts with price participation and technical assistance via a competitive process to: (1) innovate optimized distributed wind turbine and power electronics designs for increased energy production, grid support, and lower costs, (2) develop advanced manufacturing processes, (3) conduct testing for certification to national standards, and (4) commercialize and validate distributed wind technology.

The RFP tentatively planned for summer 2026 will include price participation or cost-share requirements. Offerors must provide evidence of incorporation in the United States, demonstrate strong team skills and capabilities, and provide financial information. Work funded under this effort is expected to take place in the United States or U.S. territories unless otherwise justified and approved.

For further detailed information about the project, visit the project website (<https://www.nlr.gov/wind/competitiveness-improvement-project>).

Please note that this solicitation is not ready to be issued as of this date. NLR will publish the solicitation on SAM.gov when it is available.

The anticipated period of performance start date is tentatively Spring of 2027.

NLR expects the resultant subcontracts to be a firm fixed price type agreement with price participation requirements.

All responsible sources may submit a proposal to the solicitation once posted. Electronic submissions to the public solicitation will be accepted prior to the response date and time, which will be publicized with the solicitation.

Proposals, questions, and submissions in response to this pre-solicitation notice *will not* be collected.