

NEVADA RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSORTIUM (NVREC)
REQUEST FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Due Date: April 29, 2010, 5pm

CONSORTIUM OBJECTIVES

The Nevada Renewable Energy Consortium (NVREC) is an association among the three Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) research institutions (Desert Research Institute, Universities of Nevada at Reno and Las Vegas), along with participating Nevada community colleges. The ultimate purpose of the Consortium is to help Nevada achieve its vision of being a national leader in renewable energy research, development, and work force development. Details about the Consortium can be found at <http://nvrec.dri.edu>.

The near term goal is to increase the national renewable energy research competitiveness of NSHE's research institutions by fostering research collaboration through the Consortium. First year (1 October 2009 – 30 September 2010) efforts focus primarily on biofuels, solar and geothermal energy because extant, potentially complementary projects already existed at member institutions. An NSHE-wide inventory of research capabilities, facilities, and education and outreach programs is also being developed. This database will enable the Consortium to formulate a clear strategic plan for future growth while avoiding duplication and maximizing collaboration and sharing of existing facilities and expertise within the NSHE. **In addition, new workforce development opportunities will be established in conjunction with participating NSHE colleges.** The Consortium will provide a point of entry for renewable energy-associated businesses, technical organizations, and academic entities seeking partnerships with NSHE.

NVREC spans NSHE with Chancellor Klaich assuming overall responsibility for the Consortium. The Desert Research Institute serves as administrative lead, with President Wells as lead PI. Dr. Michael Auerbach of DRI serves as project director, working closely with the renewable energy center directors of UNLV and UNR, Drs. Oliver Hemmers and Mano Misra, respectively. While the Consortium is envisioned to last 3-5 years, there is no guarantee of funding beyond the period covered by this RFP (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011).

PROJECT SCOPE

Funding from this project will be used to expand and accelerate basic and applied renewable energy research and development and to coordinate these efforts across the three research institutions. Active renewable energy research programs reflecting broad faculty expertise exist at each institution. The Consortium provides a mechanism to integrate and leverage expertise across the institutions. The Consortium also provides a means to coordinate the activities of the renewable energy centers (REC) being developed at each member institution and create a critical mass for high-impact competitive research. **In addition, the Consortium supports the**

expansion of workforce training programs in renewable energy technologies conducted primarily at NSHE colleges.

CALL FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

NVREC has approximately \$175,000 available to support development and/or expansion of workforce training programs during Year II of the consortium (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011). Proposals may focus on training in any area of renewable energy including, but not limited to, biomass/biofuels, geothermal, hydro & ocean, hydrogen and fuel cells, solar, wind, smart grid, and integrated renewable energy systems. Proposals may be for formal course/curriculum development or expansion, certificate program development or expansion, or internships or special traineeships. **Proposers (PIs) must be faculty/research faculty members at NSHE institutions.**

A major goal of NVREC is to expand renewable energy research collaborations among faculty at NSHE institutions. **Therefore, proposers are encouraged to forge collaborations across institutions; for example, students enrolled in renewable energy-relevant courses at NSHE community colleges may serve an internship in research programs at UNR, UNLV, or DRI.**

Proposals should be for a one-year period, 1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011. **It is unlikely that any no-cost extensions will be granted, so proposed scopes of work and budgets should realistically reflect what can be accomplished in this time frame. There is no upper limit on the size of proposals, but given the compressed time frame, requests exceeding \$50,000 will require special justification. Awards will be made as subawards from DRI.**

All proposals should include separate budgets for each institution requesting support. Each budget should include the approved overhead (F & A) rate for the institution. The Department of Energy has waived cost share on these projects. While use of facilities or collaboration with colleagues from non-Nevada institutions or from private sector firms is permissible, funding should be expended on NSHE faculty, facilities, and institutions.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection will be based on: (1) technical merit and soundness of the proposal, (2) likelihood of advancing work force training in renewable energy-relevant professions, and (3) extent of collaboration among NSHE institutions. Proposals will be evaluated by members of the NVREC Technical Advisory Board and the NVREC Management Committee.

DUE DATE

April 29, 2010 at 5pm

WHERE TO SUBMIT

Ms. Connie Arias

Office of the VPABD

Desert Research Institute

2215 Raggio Parkway

Reno, NV 89512

carias@dri.edu

Electronic submissions are required.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

General Instructions

Each proposal must contain the following items: cover sheet, abstract, description of project (**maximum of 5 single-spaced pages excluding references**), detailed budget and justification, and biographical sketches.

Cover Sheet (see attachment)

Each proposal must contain the signatures of the PI and his or her department/division chair/director and the authorized organizational representative for proposal submissions. If researchers from more than one department (division) or institution will participate in the proposed project, separate cover sheets should be included.

Abstract

Each proposal should include a non-technical abstract describing the objectives of the proposed project. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.

Description of Proposed Project

The body of the proposal should describe the background, relevance, and objectives of the proposed project. **It should also document any inter-institutional collaborations, as well as quarterly milestones and explicit deliverables. The description should not exceed five pages, including text, figures, and tables.**

Budget & Budget Justification

A detailed budget containing an itemized list of anticipated expenditures must be included. The budget should include the following categories: salaries (including percentage or hours of effort

and total dollar amount), fringe benefit rates and costs, itemized operating expenses, travel, equipment, and applicable indirect cost (F&A) rate. **A separate budget should be prepared for each institution represented in a proposal.** All proposals should include a brief justification of budgetary requests. **Funds should be expended on NSHE faculty, facilities, and institutions.**

Biographical Sketch

All proposals should include two-page (NSF-style) biographical sketches of each investigator that contain (a) a list of their professional degrees, (b) a list of their professional positions, (c) a list of up to 5 of their publications most closely related to the proposed work, (d) a list of up to 5 other significant publications, and (e) a brief statement of their synergistic activities (up to 5 examples of the broader impact of the individual's professional and scholarly activities focusing on the integration and transfer of knowledge).

Any questions should be addressed to:

Ms. Connie Arias

Desert Research Institute

775-673-7341

carias@dri.edu

Nevada Renewable Energy Consortium (NVREC) Proposal Cover Page

Submit proposal to: Ms. Connie Arias
Office of the VPABD
Desert Research Institute
2215 Raggio Parkway
Reno, NV 89512
carias@dri.edu ***Electronic submission required

Deadline:

Name of Project _____

Principal Investigator _____

Department/Division _____

Institutional Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Funding Requested _____

I certify that I am, or will be, a faculty or staff member of the Nevada System of Higher Education during the period covered in the attached proposal.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Department/Division Chair/Director _____ **Date** _____

Institutional Representative _____ **Date** _____