

**Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0001094****Notice of Intent to Issue  
Funding Opportunity Announcement “Fuel Cell Technologies Incubator: Innovations in  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Fuels Technologies”  
(No. DE-FOA-0000966)**

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Fuel Cell Technologies Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Fuel Cell Technologies Incubator: Innovations in Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Fuels Technologies.”

The mission of the Fuel Cell Technologies Office (FCTO) is to enable the widespread commercialization of a portfolio of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies through applied research, technology development and demonstration, and diverse efforts to overcome institutional and market challenges. Fuel cell systems research and development (R&D) is working to reduce cost and improve durability for fuel cells used in transportation, stationary, and portable applications. Hydrogen fuel R&D continues to improve hydrogen-producing technologies from renewable resources, end use delivery, and lightweight, compact, low-cost storage systems. To accomplish this mission, FCTO has developed a strategic plan, or multi year program plan (<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/mypp>) to identify the technical challenges and barriers that need to be overcome. These technical challenges and barriers form the basis for FCTO to issue funding opportunities announcements (FOAs) for financial assistance awards in these specific areas. However, FCTO recognizes that there may be very novel and potentially disruptive ideas that do not necessarily satisfy the requirement of specific FOAs yet still meet the goals and mission of FCTO. The FCTO Incubator Program is intended to identify these potentially impactful ideas that are not addressed in FCTO’s strategic plan or project portfolio. It is NOT intended to fund projects that are incremental improvements to current products or processes or for established work in FCTO’s strategic plan or current portfolio.

It is anticipated that the FOA will be ‘open’ to any and all impactful ideas which significantly advance the mission of the FCTO.

**Areas of Interest** (The following list is non-exhaustive and non-exclusive.)

- Platinum Group Metal (PGM)-free catalysts and membrane electrode assemblies
- Fuel cell-based electrochemical conversion devices for stationary energy storage
- Completely innovative hydrogen production and delivery technologies (including hoses, meters, compressors, etc.)
- Breakthrough, low pressure hydrogen storage materials

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- Hydrogen infrastructure: Manufacturing solutions for low-cost, standardized skid-mounted hydrogen fueling stations; and game-changing business models/financial approaches to address infrastructure costs.

In addition to the above topic areas, this Incubator FOA is open to applications that aim to bring to market a novel, non-incremental technology that facilitates the FCTO goals in any area of fuel cell or hydrogen fuels deployment. Although the areas identified above are some of the most common areas addressed in applications, the full spectrum of technologies and solutions relevant to FCTO will be considered for funding.

### **Area specifically not of Interest**

- Proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the law of thermodynamics).
- Technologies/approaches leading to only incremental improvements, already commercially established and demonstrated (e.g. steam methane reforming of natural gas), or already well represented in the FCTO portfolio (e.g., PEM fuel cells and electrolysis, including low PGM catalysts and membrane assemblies; PEM fuel cells and components operating under dry and hot conditions (up to 120°C) for automotive applications; balance of plant components for automotive fuel cell applications and electrolyzers)

EERE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 12-24 months.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about **March 31, 2014** via the EERE Exchange website (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>). If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

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Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: [EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at [https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf)
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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