Request for Energy Proposals from Stanford Faculty

from
The Precourt Institute for Energy
and
The TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy
and
Precourt Energy Efficiency Center
and
The Natural Gas Initiative

Issued: April 10, 2014
Letter of Intent to Submit Due: May 1, 2014
Proposals Due: May 30, 2014

Introduction

This call for proposals is open to Stanford faculty performing new research in energy and consists of three parts. With your submission, please indicate whether your project fits in Part I, Part II or Part III of this RFP.

Part I, is a general call for seed funding proposals related to energy, which will be supported by funds from the Precourt Institute for Energy and the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy. Expected seed funding for each proposed project in Part I is up to $100,000 per year. Projects for Part I will be funded for up to two years.

Part II, is a call for seed funding proposals that are related to energy efficiency, which will be supported by funds from the Precourt Energy Efficiency Center. Expected seed funding for each proposed project in Part II is up to $125,000 per year. Projects for Part II will be funded for a period of one year with an option to renew upon approval.

Part III, is a general call for seed funding proposals related to the new Natural Gas Initiative, which will be supported by funds from the Initiative. Expected seed funding for each proposed project in Part III is up to $100,000 per year. Projects for Part III will be funded for a period of one year with an option to renew upon approval.
Part II

Energy End Use Projects Supported by the Precourt Energy Efficiency Center

As part of its mission to identify and analyze potential working solutions for energy efficiency systems, policies, technologies, processes and behavioral changes, the Precourt Energy Efficiency Center (PEEC) is pleased to seek proposals from Stanford faculty for new research in all of its current high priority areas:

- Buildings: commercial and residential building design, construction, operations, and embedded technologies, including building energy models and other design tools
- Transportation/Vehicles: technology and regulation of passenger cars and light duty trucks; transportation systems analysis; vehicle electrification
- Systems: systems analysis, such as micro-grid/utility/home generation linkages, electricity storage/home generation/usage/real time metering tradeoffs, grid/vehicle/home electricity interactions, transport/generation/usage location choices
- Behavior: behavioral research, analysis, and intervention
- Modeling: economic modeling of the energy system, institutions, and economic impacts, including process modeling of use
- Policy: policy design, policy analysis, individual faculty advocacy; pricing policies policy interventions, R&D policy

Research in any specific area or combination of these areas is of particular interest. Many projects can be expected to cut across several of these areas. PEEC is also particularly interested in energy efficiency projects whose anticipated results could be implemented in the near term, including energy efficiency projects that would help California meet its carbon reduction goals under AB 32. In addition, PEEC is willing to consider innovative research in other areas of energy efficiency. If you have a proposal idea and would like a judgment on how well it fits within PEEC’s goals, please contact John Weyant or Jim Sweeney by e-mail (contact information at the end of this RFP) to discuss.

To be successful, a proposal must satisfy the following Precourt Energy Efficiency Center mission compatibility criteria, which will be used by reviewers of the proposals, in addition to the more general criteria that are described in the “Proposal Review” section of this RFP:

1. The potential for economic implementation, say by increasing benefits or reducing costs, including reasonable values for social benefits.
2. The potential to reduce energy use at a significant scale economically if the ideas
developed in the research are successful.

3. The potential to sustainably reduce global energy use by further diffusion of the proposed
ideas/technologies in the U.S. and abroad.

Proposal Submission and Review Process

Letter of Intent to Submit
Faculty members who intend to submit a proposal should provide a brief letter of intent by
May 1, 2014. The letter should describe the project in a paragraph. That description will
allow assembly of a review panel with appropriate background.

Please submit your letter of intent to: Sarah Jo Chadwick (PEEC-manager@stanford.edu)

If you have a proposal idea and would like a judgment on how well it fits within this
solicitation’s goals. Please contact: Jim Sweeney (jim.sweeney@stanford.edu) or John Weyant
(Weant@stanford.edu)

Proposal Submission
Full proposals (format and submission instructions described below) are due by May 30, 2014.
Proposed budgets need not be routed through OSR for this internally funded research. Once the
funding has been awarded a budget will need to be routed thru SERA. Proposals must be self-
contained with no links to additional information.

Proposal Format
• The proposal is subject to a five-page limit with fonts no smaller than 11 points this
  includes the text, figures, tables, and references.
• The budget and budget justification are limited to three additional pages.
• Each Principal Investigator who will be associated with the proposed work should
  submit a brief background limited to one additional page per PI.

Proposal Review
The objective of the review process is to identify high quality projects that are consistent with the
goals of this solicitation. The proposals will be screened for relevance and then reviewed by a
committee of faculty with expertise related to the areas of research but who are not involved in
the proposed projects. The opinions of additional experts at Stanford or outside of it may be
sought, with the requirement that the reviewer maintain the confidentiality of the proposed
research.

Please do not propose projects that are duplicative of ongoing projects sponsored by any other
Stanford faculty grant programs without prior discussion with the program directors.

Awards
It is anticipated that awards based on this solicitation will be announced by mid-August, 2014, and projects selected for award may begin during on October 1, 2014 or anytime thereafter. Award decisions do not require further approval.

**Project Funding and Duration**

Expected seed funding for each proposed project in Part II is up to $125,000 per year. Projects for Part II (PEEC) will be funded for one year but can be renewed for a second year, upon approval by James Sweeney and John Weyant.

The source of funding is gift funds; therefore, no project may charge indirect costs, even if non-Stanford investigators would complete some part of the project. The budget should include direct costs plus the university infrastructure burden of 8%. Budgets should identify any effort committed to the project. Principal Investigator (PI) effort is not required on University Research awards. The infrastructure charge for the project funding will be paid directly by PEEC.

Please note that the primary Principal Investigator (PI) must be a Stanford faculty member and be eligible per Stanford policy. Preference will be given to projects that build capability at Stanford, but projects that absolutely require collaboration with an investigator outside Stanford will be considered. Neither internal Stanford nor external institution overhead charges can be included in the budget for any proposed project.

**Eligibility for Future Seed Grant Funding**

Interim and/or final Reports must be current for all projects in order to apply for either future seed grants or a no-cost extension involving a PI or Co-PI. Papers/abstracts and project summaries will be posted on the PIE, PEEC and/or TKC website. Working papers, dissertations, or publications for Part II projects will be included in the appropriate PEEC publication series.

Requests for No Cost Extensions need to be submitted 6 months prior to the end date of the award for consideration and all reports must be up to date. The remaining unspent balance on the award will be transferred back to the awarding center during the closeout process.

**Project Reporting**

PIs of funded projects will be required to prepare an interim progress report at the end of the first year and a final project report and presentation. Project PIs and students will be expected to participate in annual technical review sessions, workshops in related areas, and other activities that report on the research being performed.

**Contacts**

For technical issues or questions please contact: Jim Sweeney ([jim.sweeney@stanford.edu](mailto:jim.sweeney@stanford.edu)) or John Weyant ([Weyant@stanford.edu](mailto:Weyant@stanford.edu))
For submission of your proposal and questions associated with the submission process contact: Sarah Jo Chadwick (PEEC-manager@stanford.edu)