

Department of Energy Update

Recovery Act Funding for Geothermal Technologies

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The Department of Energy has been charged with investing \$400 million from the Recovery Act into geothermal technologies, an amount that dwarfs previous government commitments in this area of energy development. This funding will accelerate program targets, generate power and catalyze growth in the geothermal industry by funding more projects, more aggressively, in more parts of the country than ever before. Success in these activities will be judged by the number of jobs created, megawatts generated and speed in which projects are executed. This speaks directly to our program goal of supporting a large-scale ramp up of industry capabilities that adds 50,000 MWe of geothermal energy to the United States by 2030.

The Geothermal Technologies Program has developed funding opportunity announcements for projects that will address the broad portfolio of geothermal technologies. Recovery Act funding for geothermal technologies will support projects in five crucial areas: demonstrations; research and development; innovative exploration techniques; a National Geothermal Data System, Resource Assessment and Classification System; and Ground Source Heat Pumps. Over the last few months, our program has worked hard to create a comprehensive strategy for soliciting projects. These are wonderful opportunities to explore projects that reflect the broad portfolio

of geothermal technologies with the potential to exponentially advance deployment. I believe that there is an opportunity here for everyone in the geothermal industry and for new players that want to get involved in this rapidly growing energy sector. I encourage you to review the announcements and to register at www.fedconnect.net as soon as possible. I cannot overstate the necessity of registering early: while the process is not time-consuming, it often takes several days for the registration to activate. Secondly, by registering, you will automatically receive important information about amendments and modifications to the announcements.

It is my hope that our Program will engage many new partners as well as existing partners. I encourage you to pool your resources and create innovative teams that strengthen capabilities without duplicating efforts. These teams could include industry, Universities and national laboratories. On behalf of the Geothermal Technologies Program, I want to assure you that all applications will be thoroughly reviewed and evaluated against the identified merit review criteria listed in the funding opportunity announcements. Read carefully and submit questions if you need clarification but most importantly, do not let this opportunity pass you by. The Geothermal Technologies Program looks forward to receiving your applications and growing our partnerships. ■

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