

This project is to advance the competitive position of solar-power generation technologies by constructing facilities capable of generating up to 1000 megawatts of solar-generated electrical power and to create a sustaining manufacturing and technology infrastructure in southern Nevada. The mix of types of solar generation will be determined through a competitive process and will potentially include photovoltaics, dish/Stirling, solar trough, power tower, and other renewable technologies.

The unsolicited proposal submitted by CSTAR is considered to be meritorious and the proposed project represents a unique and innovative idea, method, and approach which would not be eligible for financial assistance under a recent current, or planned solicitation.

The project is of value to the DOE, other Federal agencies, the scientific and technological communities, and the general public through growth of a new manufacturing and technology industry in the southern Nevada area.

The project period of this grant is for four and one-half years and will commence on June 15, 1995, through December 31, 1999. The total estimated cost of the award is \$7,722,027 of which \$4,700,000 is Federal funding and \$3,022,027 non-Federal.

Issued in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 22, 1995.

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Acting Deputy Manager, DOE Nevada Operations Office.

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Office of Economic Impact and Diversity; Guidelines for Department of Energy Mentor Protege Initiative

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Final Guidelines.

SUMMARY: On August 22, 1994, the Department of Energy (DOE) published proposed guidelines for its Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative. The Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative is designed to encourage Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors to assist energy-related small disadvantaged, (8a), and women-owned businesses in enhancing their business and technical capabilities to ensure full participation in the mission of the Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene Tate at (202) 586-4556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Program Overview

The Department of Energy Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative is designed to encourage Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors, to assist energy related small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses in enhancing their business and technical capabilities to ensure full participation in the mission of the Department. The use of this integrated working arrangement between companies will promote economic and technological growth, foster the establishment of long term business relationships and increase the number of small disadvantaged, 8(a), or women-owned businesses that receive Department of Energy, other Federal and commercial contracts.

Comments to Proposal Guidelines

On August 22, 1994, the Department of Energy published proposed guidelines for its Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative and requested written comments on the draft guidelines and supporting materials on or before September 21, 1994 (59 FR 43098). Although the Department received numerous telephone inquiries regarding the Initiative, only 22 written responses or comments were received.

Issues raised by respondents were distilled into the following relevant issues:

(1) Expand the mentor base to include more than Department of Energy management and operating contractors.

DOE reviewed the Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative mentor participation limitations and decided to expand the mentor base to include Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors.

(2) Separate funding to operate the Initiative should be provided to approved mentor firms.

Unlike other mentor-protege programs which have appropriated funds, the Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative is a program conceived by the Department of Energy and operated within the constraints of available resources. The Initiative does not have any appropriated funding. The Initiative does not provide cost reimbursement.

(3) A clear definition of "energy-related" should be given when the final guidelines are published.

"Energy-related" refers to any business relevant to the mission of the Department of Energy.

A. General Policy

(1) Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and prime contractors who are approved as mentor firms may enter into agreements with eligible small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses as protege firms to provide appropriate developmental assistance to enhance the business and technical capabilities of small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses to perform as contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.

(2) The mentor-protege initiatives described in these regulations constitutes a pilot program that will have a duration of two years from the date of the published final notice. During this period, management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and prime contractors which have received approval by the Department of Energy to participate in the program may enter into agreements with protege firms.

B. Incentives for Mentor Participation

(1) Active participation in the Department of Energy Mentor Protege Initiative may be a source selection factor in the awarding of Department of Energy contracts.

(2) The award fee evaluation plans contained in all Department of Energy Performance-Based Management contracts may include a factor for evaluation of a contractor's performance associated with Mentor-Protege Initiative participation.

(3) Mentor firms shall receive credit toward Department of Energy subcontracting goals contained in their subcontracting plan.

C. Incentives for Protege Firms

(1) Protege firms may be eligible for noncompetitive subcontracting procurement opportunities with the Department.

(2) Technical and developmental assistance provided by the mentor.

(3) Development of business relationships with Department of Energy, its contractors, and procurement personnel.

D. Mentor Firms

Department of Energy mentor candidates must be:

(1) Management and operating contractors of Department of Energy facilities.

(2) Environmental Restoration management contractors.

(3) DOE prime contractors.