

# **BIL 40103(b) Grid Innovation Program (GIP)**

## **Notice of Interest to DOER and Questions for Draft Concept Papers**

**December 5, 2022**

Please respond to this process to provide a Notice of Interest to Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for the BIL 40103(b) Grid Innovation Program (GIP). For each Proposed Project, please provide a Draft Concept Paper that addresses, as appropriate, the following questions. These questions address some of the goals and objectives of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#). Please review the full FOA for more information. DOER intends to review all responses to determine interest in developing Final Concept Papers with Proposed Project(s). All information provided will be maintained for the sole and confidential use of the Commonwealth, its agencies and offices. Please see below for more information on confidentiality.

Please limit responses to no more than 12 pages.

1. Please describe the Proposed Project Developer business and business structure and experience developing energy transmission and/or distribution projects, including experience in New England and Massachusetts. Please include in this description explanation of:
  - a. Whether the Project Manager and Project Team have the skill and expertise needed to successfully execute the project plan;
  - b. Whether the applicant has prior experience that demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity;
  - c. Whether the applicant has worked together with its teaming partners on prior projects or programs; and
  - d. Whether the applicant has adequate access to equipment and facilities necessary to accomplish the effort and/or clearly explain how it intends to obtain access to the necessary equipment and facilities.
2. Please include a description of the Proposed Project,
  - a. Which Area of Interest is addressed by the Proposed Project;
    - i. Area of Interest 1: Transmission system applications
    - ii. Area of Interest 2: Distribution system applications
    - iii. Area of Interest 3: Combination systems applications
  - b. Technical description
    - i. Please identify the Proposed Project's location and the technical issue the Proposed Project addressed.

- ii. Please indicate if the Proposed Project will include any of the following: distributed generation assets; load point flexibility enhancements; energy storage systems and other flexibility enhancements; technologies to increase the capacity of the transmission and distribution system; grid-edge technologies; sensing, communications, and control technologies and approaches; grid-forming power electronics; integrated system design
    - iii. How the project addresses the topic area's eligible uses and technical approaches.
    - iv. How the project supports State, community and regional resilience, in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events, decarbonization, or other energy strategies and plans.
    - v. The grid-benefitting outcomes to be delivered by the project.
    - vi. The impact of the project to reduce innovative technology risk; achieve further deployment at-scale; and lead to additional private sector investments.
  - c. Project design and development description
    - i. Please indicate if the Proposed Project will include any of the following: innovative financing and permitting solutions; uncommon or innovative regulatory structures, innovative planning, modeling, or cost allocation approaches, and other similar projects.
    - ii. Please include an initial breakdown of anticipated Proposed Project costs, including plans to meet the required 50% cost share, and describe how the Proposed Project will provide enhanced system value, improving current and future system cost effectiveness.
    - iii. Please include a project development timeline that demonstrates that the Proposed Project that can come to commercial operation in the required 60 to 96 month period of performance.
    - iv. Please describe why the Proposed Project requires federal funding to be completed and how federal funding will address the risks identified in the application and increase the likelihood of securing additional public and/or private investment.
- 3. Please describe how the Proposed Project meets the following DOE funding opportunity goals and Massachusetts clean energy goals
  - a. Grid Reliability and Resilience
    - i. Please indicate if your Proposed Project will address any of the following:
      - 1. increasing transfer capacity between regions,

2. addressing the most consequential system needs and challenges that cause or contribute to long and increasing interconnection queue time for clean energy, and/or
  3. increasing supply of a geographically and technologically diverse sets of location-constrained energy resources to enhance resource adequacy and reduce correlated generation outages
- ii. Please describe how the Proposed Project utilizes multiple approaches and how these approaches interact with each other and any existing infrastructure to increase overall system resiliency
  - iii. Please describe any other ways the Proposed Project will contribute to increase reliability and resilience in Massachusetts.
- b. Innovation and Decarbonization
- i. Please describe how the Proposed Project will contribute to the decarbonization of the electricity and broader energy system, including increasing distributed energy resources and electrification opportunities.
  - ii. Please describe if and how your Proposed Project addresses the New England States Transmission Initiative found at <https://newenglandenergyvision.com/new-england-states-transmission-initiative/>, including how the project supports or includes aspects of the proposed Modular Offshore Wind Integration Plan.
  - iii. Please describe how the Proposed Project can demonstrate a strategy that is suitable for wide-spread adoption.
  - iv. Please describe how the Proposed Project will enhance collaboration between and among eligible entities and private and public sector owners and operators on grid resilience, including in alignment with regional resilience strategies and plans
  - v. Please describe how the Proposed Project results will enable asset owners and operators to effectively articulate within local, state, and Federal decision-making frameworks the economic, technical, and societal benefits of new innovative approaches.
- c. Community Benefits Plan
- i. Please describe the Proposed Project's approach to creating a Community Benefits Plan that addresses the following four core elements:
    1. community and labor engagement leading to negotiated agreements;
    2. investing in job quality and workforce continuity;
    3. advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and

4. contributing to the Justice40 Initiative goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate and clean energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities.
  - ii. Please confirm that the Proposed Project can meet all Justice40, Buy America, and Davis-Beacon Act requirements.
  - iii. Please confirm that the Proposed Project developer agrees to work with DOER to develop and implement strategies to meaningfully monitor and report on progress towards the goals outlined in its Community Benefit Plan.
4. Multi-State Collaboration and Project Portfolio Options
  - a. Please describe if the Proposed Project provides benefits to multiple states and may be suitable for a multi-state application. Please confirm that the Proposed Project Developer would be willing to work with multiple states on a Full Application. Massachusetts is interested in and will prioritize regional projects that bring New England benefits along with benefits to Massachusetts.
  - b. Please describe if the Proposed Project Developer has pursued or identified potential partnerships or portfolios to form a GIP application
  - c. Please describe the Proposed Project Developer's willingness to be part of a portfolio of projects sponsored by Massachusetts and/or other states as part of a GIP application, and description of any terms or conditions that would be required for participation in a portfolio application
  - d. Please identify any project risks associated with joining a portfolio of projects as part of a GIP application
5. In addition to your responses above, please describe how the project would meet any other applicable GIP funding eligibility requirements (if sponsored by Massachusetts and/or other states), as outlined in detail in the FOA.

*Confidential Information provided in the Notice of Interest and Draft Concept Paper will be treated as confidential energy information, to the extent permitted by law. Pursuant to DOER's authority under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 25A, Section 7, certain energy and other information collected by DOER can be maintained for the sole and confidential use of the Commonwealth, its agencies, and offices. DOER may also apply any applicable exemption under the Commonwealth's public records law. Energy information collected under this section may be confidentially shared with the energy offices of other states which afford such information similar protection from public disclosure. In the event confidential information is submitted to DOER and confidential treatment is not afforded for any reason, by a governmental agency or otherwise, DOER shall not be held responsible.*