

*[Questions answered by Marc Mueller-Stoffels except where noted otherwise]*

**Q: Due to the large difference between the "grand prize" and "technology seed" awards, we will end up presenting two very different project ideas as part of the application. If we end up determining that the "technology seed" award is actually more in line with our needs, can we instead apply just for that?**

A: So these are different awards and on the first page of your application you have to specify which of the two you are applying for. Feel free to submit two applications, one for the 'Technology Seed Award' (small awards) and one for a 'Microgrid Project' (grand prize award). Be aware those have to be separate applications.

**Q: Do you anticipate doing another solicitation like this in the future?**

A: We have tentative plans to do another round of this kind or a very similar competition. Once we see how this round works out we will provide more detail.

**Q: Would you consider an application for system modeling and testing rather than technology testing? In other words, we may have a microgrid that needs simulation testing but we don't have a 'technology' per se.**

A: Under this award we are targeting microgrid technologies on the pathway to commercialization, so while my team does exactly what you are asking about for our community and utility partners; we actually have a couple of active projects in this direction right now; this particular grant will not consider those kinds of applications. If you do not have a product or a service that you are trying to commercialize than this will not be the right competition to apply to. I suggest looking into technical assistance programs such as DOE START, or finding direct funding, for example through the DOE Office of Indian Energy or others.

**Q: Are there any other pools of funding that are aligned with this program to help with the direct costs of work with the center under this program?**

A: So there are of course other programs that might provide other assistance. I know of a program that DOE has put on for the national labs to do something similar where you can receive national laboratory funds, so that's again no cash, but further technical assistance. The folks at the SBDC might be able to aid/provide you with some seed funding to go after those SBIR grants or be able to point you in the right direction on how to apply successfully for these grants. So now there is a Phase 0 program for up to \$5,000 that provides assistance in developing a business plan and a larger proposal. So those are the kind of things you can look at. The folks at SBDC will be happy to support

you in finding other sources of funding that might help to defray your side of the cost here.

*[Adam Krynicki]:*

If you are looking for additional funding one of the best options are the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program through the SBA (<http://science.energy.gov/sbir/>). For a Phase 1 application up to \$150k are available. The SBDC runs a program called 'Phase 0 Program' which provides up to \$5k for prototyping and seed funding. This money can be used for data collection and prototype building in preparation for submittal of a SBIR proposal. Our office also helps with the process and requirements for these applications, providing outside consultations and expert advice where necessary. Furthermore, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced in July of this year funding of several million dollars for a variety of renewable energy projects (<http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-releases-new-hydropower-vision-report-and-98-million-funding-support>, <http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-11-million-advance-novel-innovations-solar-power>) They also made funding available for the commercialization of sensors through the National Science Foundation (NSF), DOE and Department of Defense (DoD).

Alaskan companies have received about \$960k in the last 8 months from SBIRs and STTRs, so this is a viable option for getting additional funding for your proposals.

Please feel free to email questions about the availability of SBIRs/STTRs either to me personally or to [acmtc.questions@alaska.edu](mailto:acmtc.questions@alaska.edu).

*[George Roe:]*

Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) that some of the services are offering are another option for additional funding. They tend to be fairly open in terms of their focus areas. None of these have pre-defined funding but if there is an intriguing idea these offices are able to identify resources and support projects.

**Q: An entity I am working with is wondering if it is possible to apply for the Technology Seed award, as compared to the Microgrid Project award, i.e., is there a separate application? And are the requirements less stringent? We do have in-kind contributions to make but not direct cash or hardware or other support. Is this disqualifying? And finally, if this entity did not respond during the statement of interest time frame, are they still eligible to apply for 8/26 deadline?**

A: You may apply to either the Technology Seed Award, the Microgrid Project Award or both (in separate applications). The proposal guidelines ask you to declare which type of award you are applying for on the title page.

In-kind contributions are counted towards the total match. Cash/equipment contributions are not a hard and fast requirement. Anyone is still eligible to apply by the August 28th deadline. We suggest you/your organization pre-register so that you receive important information such as updates to guidelines, changes to deadlines, and further additions to the Q&A.

**Sample data files:** netCDF high-resolution data can be downloaded from Alaska Energy Data Gateway: <http://acep.arsc.edu/>