AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: "TRUCK ENGINE IDLE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM"

ACTION: Request for Applications (RFA)

RFA NO: OAR-TRPD-05-09

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions/comments regarding the subject solicitation.

Question 1: I own a truck company and I'm interested in receiving some of these EPA funds. How do I get involved?

Answer 1: The Request for Applications, Section III (A), explains who is eligible to receive EPA grants. By law, we are only allowed to issue grants to certain entities. Section III (A) lists these eligible entities. For this particular grant, for-profit companies are not eligible to receive the money. However, once one of the eligible entities receives our grant, they may work with for-profit entities to study and evaluate the technology. The eligible entity will propose to us how they intend to work with the for-profit sector (if necessary), and we will evaluate the proposal against the criteria ranking factors in Section V (A) of the Request for Applications. Therefore, to get involved in this grant you will have to work with one of the grant recipients. You can check back to this web site to find out who received our grants. We hope to announce the awards in the Fall, 2005. We will issue a press statement and alert trade journals of our award decision as well. You can also contact us to find out the names of the grant recipients.

Question 2: I represent a non-profit organization and we are interested in applying, and we have certain industry partners in mind to work with. Do we need to list out our industry partners in our proposal?

Answer 2: The Request for Applications, Section II (D), addresses the issue of listing contractors. If you are a grant recipient you may need to issue a contract with for-profit entities to evaluate the technology. In the case where you do not own the vehicles and/or technology and you need to issue a contract, you must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by regulations found in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as applicable. Even if you identify the for-profit entities that you propose to work with this does not relieve you of your obligation to comply with competitive procurement requirements. Therefore, you do not need to list the partners you intend to work with since the for-profits will have to compete for the contract funds.

Question 3: Can Categories 1 and 2 be applied for separately?

Answer 3: Yes. You can apply to one or more categories. You will have to provide a separate narrative description and address all the evaluation criteria for every category you apply for.

Question 4: Can an on-board technology be combined with an off-board technology for the proposals (e.g., electric on board HVAC and off-board electrified parking spaces)?

Answer 4: No. EPA already funded a project to study and evaluate on-board electrical components as an idle reduction device, and this project is still active. Categories I and II apply to mobile technologies only, and these technologies must not rely on an off board power source such as electricity. Category III(a) applies to electrified parking spaces only, and the funds will not be use for any on board truck components. Category III (a) applies to electrical parking spaces, including the models manufactured by Shurepower and IdleAire Technologies. Category III (b) applies to electrified parking spaces that provide, among other components, a communication system whereby the facility owner/operator can communicate with the truck driver using the electrified parking space. If the technology does not have a communications system is not eligible for sub award under Category III (b).

Question 5: Can applicants use CMAQ funds as a match?

Answer 5: The RFA does not require a match. Generally, you cannot match Federal funds with other Federal funds. However, we are requesting that applicants leverage EPA funds with other sources of funding.

Question 6: Can projects be in one state or multi-state within a region?

Answer 6: Yes, state and regional projects will be considered, but individual state projects might not rank as high as multi-state or national projects.

Question 7: Do the award amounts change over the multi-year period?

Answer 7: No, the proposal should include the full cost of the project from start to finish, and funding is for the full project duration.

Question 8: If funding is passed to a for profit vendor to deploy technology, does the data need

to be generated before funding goes to the vendor?

Answer 8: You should comply with your own state's procurement requirements. As a contract, you are paying for data to be generated by the use of the technology, but it might make sense to provide some upfront funding to assist with the initial deployment. This is only a recommendation, and you should comply with your own state procurement requirements.

Question 9: Can vendors be given a sub-grant?

Answer 9: No, applicants can't give vendors a sub-grant, but they can issue a sub-award with a contract.

Question 10: Can proposals be submitted electronically?

Answer 10: Yes, the proposal should be e-mailed as a single PDF file to the contacts listed in the RFA

Question 11: What does the 10-page limitation include?

Answer 11: The 10-page limitation includes only the project narrative. It doesn't include the cover letter, project summary, budget, or key personnel information. The preferred font is Times New Roman 12pt or Arial 10pt.

Question 12: Would it be preferable for two states to each submit a similar proposal?

Answer 12: No, it would be preferable for these two applicants to submit a joint proposal.

Question 13: Should the applicant submit one proposal for each category?

Answer 13: No, the applicant should submit one proposal for all categories applied for. Each category is allowed a 10-page narrative, and each Category may have a different set of personnel and budget associated with it.

Question 14: Can applicants collaborate with Mexican or tribal partners?

Answer 14: Yes, the RFA does allow for partnerships with tribes and international organizations.

Question 15: Can local governments apply for the RFA?

Answer 15: Yes.

Question 16: If $1 million is available for a category, should the applicant apply for all the funding?

Answer 16: It depends on the project. Applicants should apply for what is needed for their projects.

Question 17: Can applicants contact EPA if they have additional questions?

Answer 17: Yes, please feel free to contact Paul Bubbosh or Mike Zatz with any questions.

Question 18: Would it be possible for EPA to compile a list of interested states?

Answer 18: Please contact Paul Bubbosh or Mike Zatz to see which states have expressed an interest in applying for the RFA.

Question 19: Can applicants use previous studies in their proposals?

Answer 19: Yes, applicants can rely on previous studies and also consider other methods or research.

Question 20: If, for example, a state energy office is used to collect data rather than a vendor, can staff time be considered as in-kind support?

Answer 20: Yes. For Category 3, another option might be requesting the vendor to provide data as part of the contract.

Question 21: Is this RFA funded annually?

Answer 21: No, it is a line item included by Congress in EPA's Appropriations Bill. Currently there is no line item for this type of RFA in FY2006.

Question 22: If on-board and off-board technology can't be combined, won't it exclude many APUs that can utilize electricity to operate?

Answer 22: As long as the APU doesn't rely solely on an off-board connection, it can be included in the proposal. Having plug-in capabilities along with stand-alone capabilities would be a bonus.

Question 23: How strict is the requirement for 50 trucks?

Answer 23: If it is a de minimus number of trucks above 50, it can be considered for funding. EPA doesn't expect applicants to know all the partners they will work with. This information is determined during the competitive bidding process.

Question 24: If engine control module (ECM) data is not available on the trucks, what other options are available?

Answer 24: EPA recommends ECM data as one option; however we will consider other data options. These options will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Generally, something like a log book would not be sufficient as a data source.

Question 25: What if there aren't any SmartWay partners available in the proposed project area?

Answer 25: Applicants can recommend that companies simultaneously apply for the contract and join the SmartWay Transport Partnership. Membership in SmartWay is free.

Question 26: Are discounts required for SmartWay partners?

Answer 26: No. Categories I and II contain a ranking factor that recommends working with SmartWay partners. Under Category III, since this involves studying locations and deploying at these locations, the technology vendor should be encouraged, as part of your competitive process, to provide a discount for SmartWay Transport partners using the technology.

Question 27: If it is a multi-state collaborative effort, can the grants be distributed separately to each state?

Answer 27: Groups of two or more eligible entities may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application for this assistance agreement. Coalitions must identify which eligible organization will be the recipient of the assistance agreement, and which eligible organization(s) will be sub awardees of the recipient. Sub awards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 40 CFR 30.2(ff). The recipient must

administer the assistance agreement, is accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of funds, and will be the point of contact for the coalition. As provided in 40 CFR 30.2(gg), sub recipients are accountable to the recipient for proper use of EPA funding. Coalitions may not include for profit organizations that will provide services or products to the successful applicant.