

# **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

BOEM - Acquisition Policy and Financial Assistance

2024

M24AS00314

05/03/2024

# Table of Contents

|                                                                           |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| A. Program Description .....                                              | 2  |
| A1. Authority .....                                                       | 2  |
| A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements.....                     | 2  |
| A3. Technical Assistance and Information for Prospective Applicants ..... | 5  |
| B. Federal Award Information.....                                         | 5  |
| B1. Total Funding .....                                                   | 5  |
| B2. Expected Award Amount .....                                           | 6  |
| B3. Anticipated Dates .....                                               | 6  |
| B4. Period of Performance.....                                            | 6  |
| B5. Numbers of Awards.....                                                | 6  |
| B6. Type of Award.....                                                    | 6  |
| B7. Other Federal Information.....                                        | 7  |
| C. Eligibility Information .....                                          | 7  |
| C1. Eligible Applicants .....                                             | 7  |
| C2. Cost Sharing or Matching.....                                         | 7  |
| C3. Other .....                                                           | 7  |
| D. Application and Submission Information .....                           | 7  |
| D1. Address to Request Application Package .....                          | 7  |
| D2. Content and Form of Application Submission.....                       | 8  |
| D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) .....  | 12 |
| D4. Submission Dates and Times .....                                      | 13 |
| D5. Intergovernmental Review .....                                        | 13 |
| D6. Funding Restrictions .....                                            | 14 |
| D7. Other Submission Requirements.....                                    | 15 |
| D8. Application Checklist.....                                            | 17 |
| E. Application Review Information.....                                    | 17 |
| E1. Criteria .....                                                        | 17 |
| E2. Review and Selection Process .....                                    | 18 |
| E3. CFR - Regulatory Information .....                                    | 18 |
| E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates .....                | 18 |
| F. Federal Award Administration Information.....                          | 18 |
| F1. Federal Award Notices .....                                           | 19 |

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements .....       | 19 |
| F3. Reporting .....                                             | 20 |
| G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s) .....                     | 21 |
| G2. Administrative/Budget Questions Program Office Contact..... | 21 |
| G3. Grants Staff Contact .....                                  | 22 |
| G4. Technical Support .....                                     | 22 |
| H. Other Information .....                                      | 22 |

## A. Program Description

### A1. Authority

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act at 43 USC §1345(e) authorizes BOEM to enter into cooperative agreements with States affected by energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf for purposes including the joint utilization of available expertise, the facilitating of permitting procedures, joint planning and review, and the formation of joint surveillance and monitoring arrangements to carry out applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and stipulations relevant to Outer Continental Shelf operations.

Under the Use of Cooperative Agreements authority (43 U.S.C. §1457b), BOEM is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with a state or political subdivision (including any agency thereof), or any not-for-profit organization if: (1) the agreement will serve a mutual interest of the parties to the agreement in carrying out the programs administered by BOEM; and (2) all parties will contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives.

### A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

In support of the rapid development of offshore wind (OSW) on the US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) has identified a priority need to ensure improved accuracy in animal telemetry.

Telemetry is an important tool to support animal movement and behavior studies to supplement survey efforts. Additionally, animal telemetry can be used to infer movements related to activities in the OCS, such as geophysical surveys, platform construction and demolition. Animal telemetry can provide relevant information for environmental analysis and consultations across program areas such as wind and hydrokinetic placement locations, oil/gas leasing, and even be used in monitoring impacts of climate change. A need for improved data on animal movement, behavioral, and foraging ecologies have routinely been identified in public comments related to energy development and marine mineral extraction.

Achieving true global coverage, including oceans and polar regions, requires placing receivers in space. The current Argos system, with its seven satellites in polar orbits, can only offer position updates intermittently with relatively low accuracy, and at high energy cost on the tag. Rapid advancements in small satellite technology over the past decade – particularly CubeSats – have made it possible to launch a dedicated network of wildlife-tracking satellites at relatively low cost. Commercial companies like Planet Labs currently operate constellations with hundreds of sub-ten-kilogram CubeSats. Such a network, dedicated to wildlife tracking, could deliver nearly continuous coverage over the entire Earth with accuracy comparable to the GPS system.

To accomplish this, BOEM requires a new generation of small, low-cost, low-power tracking tags that can be adapted for use across a variety of animals and environments, and a corresponding network of receivers for these tags that offers true global coverage with frequent position updates. Ultra-low mass tags (mass below 1 gram) have the potential to radically expand the ability to monitor animal behavior across taxa. While small GPS, VHF, and Argos tags exist, they trade mass for endurance, and do not last long enough to deliver rich data over weeks or months that are required by many current and anticipated studies. While many complementary methods for determining position and telemetering data from wildlife have recently been explored, the time of arrival (ToA) method offers a unique opportunity to deliver radically lower-energy communications and greater position accuracy. This key feature will enable tiny tags with lifetimes exceeding a year while reducing tag build costs to below \$50.

The overall goal of this cooperative agreement is to refine the design of space-based time of arrival (TOA) telemetry for use on the US OCS.

BOEM is seeking concept design, prototype construction, and deployment testing of satellite-borne TOA receive systems. These receivers will work in tandem with terrestrial and marine transmitters (tags) and auxiliary terrestrial TOA receivers to form a global ultra-low energy positioning system. BOEM is seeking teams with prior demonstrated expertise in both low-power time-of-arrival positioning systems and CubeSat design and mission operations. Information gained from movement studies enabled by this technology will feed directly into BOEM's environmental assessments and decision documents.

## 5. TASKS

### Task 1: Tag and Receiver System Design

A design trade study will be conducted to optimize transmitter tags, signals, and satellite receivers. The design objectives are to produce the smallest and lowest-cost tag possible while still achieving reasonable (< 100m position errors) accuracy and working within regulatory and spectrum licensing constraints. The output of this design study will be a document summarizing all relevant trade-offs that were made, extensive simulation results, as well as the final point design or designs if several alternatives are relevant.

### Task2: Positioning Algorithm Design

An algorithm and software development effort will produce positioning algorithms suitable for implementation on a combination of resource-constrained small satellites and ground-based cloud computing resources. These algorithms will determine positions from raw RF timing

measurements, along with GPS clock and position information recorded onboard the satellites. This study will include detailed simulations and Monte-Carlo analysis to evaluate the ultimate position accuracy of the system.

### Task 3: Field Testing

Hardware prototypes of both tags and receivers will be built and tested outdoors. Data will be collected in a variety of environments and under a variety of conditions, and the algorithms developed in Task 2 will be run on the data to compute positions. Theoretical accuracy predictions will be compared to actual hardware results to validate modeling predictions. The results of these field tests will be documented in a report and submitted for publication.

### Task 4: Marine Technology Development Roadmap

A technology development and maturation roadmap for deployment of an advanced TOA tracking system in marine environments on species of interest to BOEM will be developed. This includes development roadmap for marine-deployable tags, CubeSat-compatible receivers, CubeSat formation flying techniques, and ground infrastructure for mission operations and data processing. This roadmap will be documented in a report at the end of year one of the study.

### Task 5: Develop a summary

A table and accompanying text will be developed to describe the biases and limitations of current approaches and available data, and generate recommendations in terms of next steps. Future phases of the project could iteratively revisit this table as more results from the study are generated.

### Task 6: Prepare a Draft and Final Report

The Recipient will prepare a final report that describes how the analysis was undertaken and summarizes the findings. The final report will include a description of the biases and limitations of available data, recommendations in terms of next steps, including future monitoring and mitigation actions.

### Task 7: Prepare a peer-reviewed journal article

In collaboration with BOEM PO and ESPR, co-author a research paper which summarizes the study findings and recommendations. The paper shall be submitted to a journal that delivers content that is open access in perpetuity.

### Additional possible tasks

- Spectrum analysis for up/down links with global authorization
- Spacecraft formation flying actuation & control simulation AND prototype development.
- GPS reception with SDR on-orbit simulation and demonstration
- Flight-ready receiver prototype that is SWAP compatible with a CubeSat
- Spacecraft design relying on COTS hardware for bus, power, thermals, prop, pointing, etc
- Launch and operations for the in-space test, including cloud computing.

- Scaling receiver processing on cloud infrastructure

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number

15.423

Authorization Legislation

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act at 43 USC §1345(e), Use of Cooperative Agreements authority 43 U.S.C. §1457b.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act at 43 USC §1345(e) authorizes BOEM to enter into cooperative agreements with States affected by energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf for purposes including the joint utilization of available expertise, the facilitating of permitting procedures, joint planning and review, and the formation of joint surveillance and monitoring arrangements to carry out applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and stipulations relevant to Outer Continental Shelf operations.

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**Funding Goals**

Funding Opportunity Goals The overall goal of this cooperative agreement is to refine the design of space-based time of arrival (TOA) telemetry for use on the US OCS.

## **A3. Technical Assistance and Information for Prospective Applicants**

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **B1. Total Funding**

**Estimated Total Funding**

\$630,000

## B2. Expected Award Amount

### Maximum Award Amount

\$210,000

### Minimum Award Amount

\$160,000

## B3. Anticipated Dates

### Award Start Date

July 10, 2024

## B4. Period of Performance

### Length of Project Periods

36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods

### Length of Project Period Explanation of Other

36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods

### Project Period I Expectation Duration in Months

36

## B5. Numbers of Awards

### Expected Number of Awards

1

## B6. Type of Award

### Funding Instrument Type

CA - Cooperative Agreement

The award will be a cooperative agreement. This involves substantial involvement by BOEM scientists in various aspects of study development and/or study conduct.

BOEM will perform the following:

1. Work closely with the Awardee, to provide oversight of the project.
2. Participate in fieldwork and project oversight.
3. Provide real time direction or re-direction on data analysis, early results, and/or technical difficulties.
4. Provide feedback on data synthesis approach.
5. Participate in preparing conference presentation and drafting manuscript(s)

6. Provide oversight and funding.

## **B7. Other Federal Information**

### **Type of Competition**

Open to All Eligible Applicants

## **C. Eligibility Information**

### **C1. Eligible Applicants**

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

#### **Additional Information on Eligibility**

Single Source Cooperative Agreement with University of Colorado, Boulder

### **C2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

#### **Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement**

No

**Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:**

### **C3. Other**

#### **Excluded Parties:**

BOEM conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Bureau cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

### **D1. Address to Request Application Package**

The application from the CESU institution must be submitted through the [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) portal at "Apply for Grants." The applicant can locate the application package by visiting the

Grants.gov portal and searching on CFDA number 15.423 or Announcement M24AS00314 in the Grants.gov search engine. The announcement is also available in Grant Solutions.

## **D2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

### **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**

SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance

SF-424a Budget Information

SF-424b Assurances – Non-Construction Programs

Project Narrative Form (including Proposal Cover Sheet described below)

Budget Narrative Form

GG Certification Regarding Lobbying Form

(Complete the Optional SF-LLL Lobbying form only if lobbying has occurred)

### **Project Summary**

The proposal must be in 11-12 point Times New Roman, Arial, or similar font with 1" page margins. Non-conforming proposals will not be considered. Text, figures, etc. in support of items a-i below should be no longer than 15 pages.

### **Project Narrative**

The Project Narrative should include the Proposal Cover Sheet and Proposal Text:

#### **1. Proposal Cover Sheet**

The cover sheet of the proposal shall contain the following information:

- a. Project Title:
- b. Principal Investigator(s):
  - i. Name:
  - ii. Address:
  - iii. Phone:
  - iv. Email:
- c. Name of State or University/Department:
- d. Contact Information for Technical and Administrative Negotiations:
- e. Project Status: New/Continuation
- f. Project Duration: (years or months)
- g. Proposed Start Date:
- h. Proposed Draft Final Report Submission Date:
- i. Proposed Completion Date:
- j. Amount Requested From BOEM:
- k. Amount and Sources of Non-Federal Match (if applicable):
- l. Total Project Cost:
- m. Signature, Name, and Contact Information of State or University PI and Co-Investigator:
- n. Proposal Endorsement, including Signature, Name, Contact Information of Sponsoring University Department Dean or Institute Director:
- o. Signature, Name and Contact Information of Sponsoring University's Office of Sponsored Programs.

## 2. Proposal Text

Please include the following in the Proposal:

a. Abstract

b. Background/Relevance to BOEM Issues, Information Needs, and Research Topics: Give a brief introduction to the research proposed. Explain why the work is important and how the proposal addresses BOEM goals. Provide a brief summary of findings or outcomes of any prior work you have completed in this area.

c. Objectives/Hypotheses: Clearly define goals of the project.

d. Methods/Analyses: Provide a clear description of planned research methodologies and analyses.

e. Project Deliverables and Planned Products: Applicant shall provide plans for executing the project work listed in Section A2 above and the deliverables, including a rough timeline for these deliverables.

f. Project Management/Staffing Plan: All key personnel (including graduate student workers) shall be identified by name. List the University Principal Investigator first, followed by the names of other individuals. Indicate the role and anticipated level of effort for each key participant offering unique or specific contributions to the project (oceanographer, geochemist, field assistant, etc.). If names of any key participants are unknown, a proposal addendum with the names and curricula vitae must be submitted prior to award.

g. Performance Measures: Applicant shall suggest specific measures that will be used to monitor project progress, including progress of sub-awardees (e.g., quality and timely deliverables, timely completion of fieldwork or other project components, draft peer-reviewed articles). These performance measures will be incorporated in the cooperative agreement award and reviewed as part of any continuation request.

h. Critical Starting Dates (e.g., for season-limited field work): Identify any critical starting dates and the reason why project success is dependent upon that start date.

i. Publication and Presentation: BOEM strongly encourages the Awardee to publish project reports in scientific and technical journals, and present results to the scientific community, appropriate professional organizations, and local, State, and/or Federal agencies as part of the project. These publications and meetings should be included in the proposal and budget.

j. Bibliography: List all references cited in the text, as well as references that are relevant to the current proposal from your past work in the field.

k. Curricula Vitae (maximum two pages) for each identified key participant. Emphasize previous experience in the field of study that the proposal addresses.

l. Letters of Commitment: Provide signed letters of commitment by matching fund grantors, contractors, and sub-grantees.

### SF 424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In the “Budget Summary” section of the appropriate SF-424 budget form, use the first row for funding requested from this Federal program. Use subsequent row(s) for funding requested from this Federal program. Use subsequent row(s) for other Federal funding. Enter each Federal program’s CFDA number(s) in the corresponding fields on the form. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles per the

“DOI Standard Award Terms and Conditions”. The CFDA number(s) for this program appears on the first page of this announcement.

### **Budget Narrative/Detailed Spreadsheet**

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See 2 CFR 200.407 “Prior written approval (prior approval)” for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.

### **Budget Justification Narrative**

This information will provide more details than the SF-424a form and will provide adequate information for the Contracting Officer to conduct a detailed analysis of the costs to determine they are reasonable, allowable, and allocable. Please include the following:

- a. Salaries and Wages. List positions, and rate of compensation and estimated number of hours for employees.
- b. Fringe Benefits/Labor Overhead. Indicate the rates/amounts in conformance with normal accounting procedures. Explain what costs are covered in this category and the basis of the rate computations. Provide a copy of the negotiated rate agreement, if available.
- c. Lab Analyses. Briefly itemize cost of all analytical work.
- d. Supplies. Enter the cost for all tangible property. Include the cost of office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies separately. Provide detail on any specific item that represents a significant portion of the proposed amount. Provide a statement that supplies will be purchased in accordance with 2 CFR 200.318-326.
- e. Equipment. Show the cost of all special-purpose equipment necessary for achieving the objectives of the project. “Special-purpose equipment” means scientific equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and having an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per item. Each item should be itemized and include a full justification and a dealer or manufacturer quote, if available. General-purpose equipment (used also for purposes other than this project) must be purchased from the applicant’s operating funds. Title to non-expendable personal property shall be vested solely with the recipient. Under no circumstances shall property title be vested in a sub-tier recipient. Provide a statement that equipment will be purchased in accordance with 2 CFR 200.318-326 and managed in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.
- f. Services or Consultants. Identify the tasks or problems for which such services would be used. List the contemplated sub-recipients by name (including consultants), the estimated amount of time required, and the quoted rate per day or hour. Sub-applicant proposals should provide cost breakdowns at the same level of detail as the Applicant’s proposal. If contract employees are hired, include their total time, rate of compensation, job titles, and roles. Provide a statement that salaries will be charged at the actual rate and that the rate is comparable to others doing similar work within the organization.
- g. Travel. State the purpose of the trip and itemize the estimated travel costs to show the number of trips required, the destinations, the number of people traveling, the per diem rates, the cost of transportation, and any miscellaneous expenses for each trip. Calculations of other special transportation costs (such as charges for use of applicant-owned vehicles or vehicle rental costs) should also be shown.
- h. Publication Costs. Indicate an estimate of labor and other unique costs associated with

preparation of the draft final report. If publication of results of the research in the peer-reviewed literature (identify likely publications) is anticipated, include costs of drafting or graphics, reproduction, page or illustration charges, and a minimum number of reprints.

i. Other Direct Costs. Itemize the different types of costs not included elsewhere.

j. Total Direct Charges. Sum of above items.

k. Indirect Charges (Overhead). Indirect cost/general and administrative (G&A) cost. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for indirect costs based on the cost principles applicable to the Applicant's organization. If the Applicant has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and G&A costs, each charge should be shown. Provide a copy of the negotiated rate agreement with the applicant's federal cognizant audit agency.

l. Amount Proposed. Sum of Total Direct Charges and Indirect Charges (Overhead).

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Please reference the [Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act](#) for additional details.

#### **(a) Applicability.**

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) *Notification*. (1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

(c) *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

(d) *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it. (e) *Enforcement*. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

### **Single Audit Reporting Statement**

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's

fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

### **Certification Regarding Lobbying**

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than \$100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available on the "Packages" tab of this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regards to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision.

## **D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

**Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:** This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception

to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaces the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

### **Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)**

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; please be aware you can register and request help for free. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

## **D4. Submission Dates and Times**

### **Application Due Date**

05/03/2024

### **Application Due Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

## **D5. Intergovernmental Review**

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website and view the “State Point of Contact (SPOC) List” to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state’s prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

## D6. Funding Restrictions

### Indirect Costs: Individuals

### Indirect Costs: Organizations

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award.

### Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted with Application

All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application, and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

We are:

- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.
- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.
- A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, do not use this statement] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: "Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made." or "Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement."]
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our

cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] against [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs). However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in §2 CFR 200.68]. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.

- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization's indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.68. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the ["Program Title"], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR) 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR §200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from [insert Bureau Here] to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that [Insert Bureau Here] approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR §200.405, we understand that the indirect costs are not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.
- A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

#### **Prohibited Uses of Awards Funds**

#### **Reimbursement of Pre-Award Costs**

## **D7. Other Submission Requirements**

Please be aware that the electronic submission process requires first time users to register using an e- Authentication process. This registration process can be somewhat complex and

**can take up to 3 weeks to complete. Be advised that it is virtually impossible to begin the process of electronic submission for the first time if you start just a few days before the due date. If you are from a university, contact your Office of Sponsored Programs. They may already have completed the registration process and should work with you to submit the application.**

If you have any questions or problems with the registration process, or the completion of the application package, please contact the grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Briefly, when you submit a grant application package to Grants.gov, you will receive a confirmation screen as well as three additional emails over two business days from Grants.gov informing you of your application processing status: 1. Confirmation screen

2. Submission Receipt (with “Track My Application” link) 3. Submission Validation (or Rejection with Errors) 4. Agency Retrieval

**CONFIRMATION: Submission Confirmation Screen.**

After you submit your grant application package, a confirmation screen will appear on your computer screen. This screen confirms that you have submitted an application to Grants.gov.

**NOTIFICATION 1: Submission Receipt Email** Within two business days after your application package has been received by the Grants.gov system, you will receive a submission receipt email which indicates that your submission has entered the Grants.gov system and is ready for validation. This email also contains a tracking number for use while tracking the status of the submission as well as a “Track My Application” link, to use to see the progress of your submission.

**NOTIFICATION 2: Submission Validation Receipt Email – This is the important one!**

After you receive the submission receipt email, the next email you will receive will be a message validating or rejecting your submitted application package with errors. The Grants.gov system is designed to check for technical errors within the submitted application package. Grants.gov does not review application content for award determination. Grants.gov will not post the application if there are errors. Failure to correct errors and submit by the date and time for closing may not be a reason for accepting a late application.

**NOTIFICATION 3: Grantor Agency Retrieval Email** Once your application package has passed validation it is delivered to the grantor for award determination and further approval. After the grantor has confirmed receipt of your application, you will be sent a **third and final email** from Grants.gov. The grantor may also assign your application package an agency specific tracking number for use within their internal system. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS E- MAIL WITHIN FOUR DAYS OF THE CLOSING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONTRACTING OFFICER.**

If you need help entering your proposal, you can reach the **Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800- 518- 4726**. Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, and they are closed on Federal Holidays.

During the application period an applicant may submit a revised or corrected proposal through grants.gov. Include a cover letter as the first page of the proposal stating that the proposal is

revised and indicating that the previous submittal is to be withdrawn from consideration. See Section 11, Application Preparation Instructions, which describes requirements for the proposal and other application components.

**Please allow sufficient time for the proposal to be submitted electronically through Grants.gov and allow time for possible computer delays. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute for submission. A proposal received after the closing date and time will NOT be considered for award. If the BOEM determines that a proposal will not be considered for award due to lateness, the applicant will be notified immediately.**

## D8. Application Checklist

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance or Application for Federal Assistance-Individual

SF-424B or D, Assurances

Project Narrative

SF-424A or C, Budget Information

Budget Narrative

Indirect Cost Statement and related documentation (when applicable)

SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (when applicable)

## E. Application Review Information

### E1. Criteria

#### Scientific Quality and Impact

**Maximum Points: 20**

Is the proposed study of high scientific quality with clear objectives? What will the study achieve to address BOEM's information needs?

#### Work Plan/Methodology

**Maximum Points: 20**

#### Experience/Competence of Research Personnel

**Maximum Points: 20**

Has the applicant demonstrated (through bibliographic references, relevant education, experience, awards, etc.) that they are capable of doing the proposed research? Has the applicant demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the scientific problem? Have products been on schedule and within budget?

#### Budget Justification and Clarity

**Maximum Points: 20**

Is project staffing sufficient (e.g., experience, knowledge and skills) to accomplish the proposed goals? Are field expenses, supplies, lab work, and other expenses appropriate? Are expenses adequately itemized?

#### Planned Products and Dissemination of Results

**Maximum Points: 20**

Are the products clearly defined? Will they be useful for offshore energy planning and decision-making? Will the results be published in a peer-reviewed form? Does the proposal indicate the Principal Investigator will provide data and metadata in a format that meets Federal data standards? Will the products be accessible and comprehensible to the public?

## **E2. Review and Selection Process**

The proposal will be reviewed by BOEM scientists and program managers, and possibly external peer reviewers. Reviewers have expertise in Federal offshore programs and/or the specific scientific discipline of the proposal.

## **E3. CFR - Regulatory Information**

Recent Administration executive orders are included in this Announcement as follows:

- *Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which directs the Department and other federal agencies to prioritize efforts to reduce climate pollution; support climate resilience; support land conservation and biodiversity efforts, including the 30 by 30 initiative; maximize clean energy development and deployment; and leverage partnerships with youth and service corps to create conservation and resilience jobs in support of the Civilian Climate Corps initiative.
- *Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, which affirms the Department's responsibility to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity through its policies and procedures and directs federal agencies to allocate resources in a manner that helps address historic inequities to underserved communities and individuals, as defined by the order. Each office of bureau is expected to ensure that its financial assistance policies and procedures fully align with this direction.
- *Executive Order 14002: Economic Relief Related to the COVID-19 pandemic*, which directs federal agencies to allocate resources in a manner to address the current economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.
- *Executive Order 14005: Ensuring the Future is Made All in American by America's Workers*, which calls on federal agencies to ensure that terms and conditions of financial assistance awards maximize the use of goods, products, materials and services produced or offered in the United States.

## **E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

Application is due by 5:00 p.m. EDT on the Application Due Date listed in Section D4.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

## **F1. Federal Award Notices**

Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by BOEM are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

BOEM uses the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) financial assistance payment system, managed by the United States Department of the Treasury, to provide electronic invoicing and payment for funds under this award. With the award of each cooperative agreement, an account will be set up from which the Recipient can draw down funds. Recipients must be registered in the ASAP system and must be linked to BOEM's Agency Location Code prior to award in order to make the funds available. Once an award decision has been made, if your organization has not received a financial assistance award from BOEM in the past, the Financial Assistance/Contracting Officer will initiate the process in ASAP for your organization. The Financial Assistance/Contracting Officer will need the name of your organization's ASAP contact in order to do this.

## **F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

See the “DOI Standard Terms and Conditions” for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

The link to the DOI Standard Terms and Conditions is <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions>.

### **Data Availability**

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#): (a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification. (b) The Federal Government has the right to: (1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and (2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

See the Service’s General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

## **F3. Reporting**

### **Financial Reports**

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

### **Performance Reports**

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a final performance report. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit interim financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. See Service policy 516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance for more information.

### **c. Significant Development Reports**

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify [Insert Bureau Here] in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

### **d. Real Property Reports**

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, as applicable.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics

website for more information on these restrictions. The [Insert Bureau Here] will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

### **Other Mandatory Disclosures**

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

### **Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance**

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

### **First Name**

Dominique

### **Last Name**

Bruce-Morton

### **Address**

45600 Woodland Road, VAE-AMD

### **Telephone**

703-787-1342

### **Email**

dominique.bruce-morton@bsee.gov

## **G2. Administrative/Budget Questions Program Office Contact**

**For programmatic technical assistance, please contact:**

**First Name**

Jacob

**Last Name**

Levenson

**Address**

45600 Woodland Road, VAE-AMD

**Telephone**

703-787-1710

**Email**

jacob.levenson@boem.gov

### G3. Grants Staff Contact

**For financial, awards management, or budget assistance, contact:**

**First Name****Last Name****Address****Telephone****Email**

### G4. Technical Support

**For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:**

**Name**

Grants.gov Customer Support

**Telephone**

1-800-518-4726

**Email**

Support@grants.gov

### H. Other Information

**SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY**

Scientific integrity is vital to Department of the Interior (DOI) activities under which scientific research, data, summaries, syntheses, interpretations, presentations, and/or publications are developed and used. Failure to uphold the highest degree of scientific integrity will result not only in potentially flawed scientific results, interpretations, and applications but will damage DOI's reputation and ability to uphold the public's trust. All work performed must comply with the DOI Scientific Integrity Policy posted to <https://www.doi.gov/scientificintegrity>, or its equivalent as provided by their organization or State law.

## **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement**

### **Geospatial Data Act**

All geospatial data\* collected for or produced through the use of the Department of the Interior financial assistance funds are required to meet all relevant standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) as authorized by Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §§ 751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811. Interior requires fully compliant metadata on all Geographic Information Systems files developed for financial assistance projects. If a funded financial assistance project involves acquiring or collecting geospatial data, the recipient is required to search GeoPlatform.gov to determine that no existing Federal, State, local or private data meet the Government’s needs and are available at no cost before acquiring or collecting additional geospatial data.

Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §§ 751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811 - Federal recipient collection of geospatial data through the use of the Department of the Interior financial assistance funds requires a due diligence search at the GeoPlatform.gov list of datasets to discover whether the needed geospatial-related data, products, or services already exist. If the required data set already exists, the recipient must use it. If the required data is not already available, the recipient must produce the proposed geospatial data, products, or services in compliance with applicable proposed guidance and standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) posted at [www.fgdc.gov](http://www.fgdc.gov).

Recipients must submit a digital copy of all GIS data produced or collected as part of the award funds to the bureau or office via email or data transfer. All GIS data files shall be in open format. All delineated GIS data (points, lines or polygons) should be established in compliance with the approved open data standards with complete feature level metadata.

\*Geospatial data refers to data regarding natural or man-made, imaginary, or physical features. It also includes location information, and information referring to boundaries, points of interest, and mobility data.

### **Requirements for Availability of Data (2 CFR § 1402.315)**

All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

The Federal Government has the right to:

1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.