

**Federal Cost Sharing Solicitation
PON-13-604
Questions and Answers**

General Note Regarding Questions Pertaining to Eligibility: Although the Energy Commission seeks to clarify the solicitation in these Questions and Answers (Q&As), as a general matter it is the responsibility of potential applicants to determine whether or not their specific project meets the eligibility requirements stated in the solicitation.

Q1. On page 3 under Eligible Projects, the passage indicates that “To be eligible for this solicitation, projects must have been awarded (actual, tentative, or proposed) federal funding between July 1, 2013 and November 1, 2013.” My company received a federal grant through ARPA-e for 3 years and this was granted in April 2013. Could you clarify for us if this statement also includes projects that are already currently funded at the federal level? What is the significance of the July 1, 2013 through November 1, 2013 dates?

A1: As to the first question, after consideration of comments from the November 14, 2013 Pre-Application Workshop, the Energy Commission will release an addendum modifying this eligibility criteria. Please refer to PON-13-604 Addendum #1 for more information. Pursuant to Addendum #1, projects that are already funded at the federal level are eligible under this solicitation, so long as the equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency has been officially announced on or before January 21, 2014. Please note that this solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.

As to the second question, the July 1, 2013 through November 1, 2013 dates are no longer significant in light of Addendum #1.

Q2. We also noticed that the solicitation indicates that there is a total of \$2,200,000 available for this solicitation. We recall that the original 2013-2014 Investment Plan Update for the ARFVTP that was published in May had outlined that there was \$4 million allocated for emerging opportunities. Has this amount been reduced to the \$2,200,000 that is mentioned in this solicitation? Does this reduce the number of projects that can be funded under this solicitation?

A2: Other previous Energy Commission funding opportunities have used funds from the Emerging Opportunities category. The remaining \$2.2 million has been allocated to PON-13-604. The maximum possible award for this solicitation is \$1.1 million per project. The Energy Commission expects to fund at least 2 projects from PON-13-604.

Q3. To be eligible for this solicitation, projects must have been awarded (actual, tentative or proposed) federal funding between July 1, 2013 and November 1, 2013. Projects that have previously identified match funding sources in an executed agreement with a federal entity are not eligible for this solicitation. I

- have project in mind; it is a public/private partnership (private company and a City), it is CEQA ready, match funds are available. Would this project be ineligible if they have not received federal funding or have some pending?
- A3: After consideration of comments from the November 14, 2013 Pre-Application Workshop, the Energy Commission will release an addendum modifying eligibility criteria. Please refer to PON-13-604 Addendum #1 for more information. The equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency must have been officially announced on or before January 21, 2014. This solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.
- Q4. Per the guidelines, to be eligible for this solicitation projects must have been awarded (actual, tentative or proposed) federal funding (ARFTVP) between July 1, 2013 and November 1, 2013. Can you direct me to a website or list that identifies applicants that received awards and are thus eligible to apply?
- A4: Information on past federal solicitations and awards can be found at <http://www.grants.gov>. After consideration of comments from the November 14, 2013 Pre-Application Workshop, the Energy Commission will release an addendum modifying this eligibility criteria. Please refer to PON-13-604 Addendum #1 for more information. The equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency must have been officially announced on or before January 21, 2014.
- Q5. I am asking if you can tell me which of the funding opportunities apply to EV charging stations and when, in the future, the Energy Commission anticipates posting a funding opportunity directly applicable to them. It is not clear from reading the descriptions posted at the website which opportunities are applicable to EV charging stations.
- A5: The Energy Commission has an active Electric Charging Infrastructure solicitation currently available, PON-13-606. Please refer to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-13-606/> for more information. Additionally, EV charging stations which have receive the equivalent of a notice of award from a federal funding agency on or before January 21, 2014 are eligible under this current solicitation, PON-13-604.
- Q6. If a California business is starting to develop new clean technologies with a potentially global impact on an awarded federal grant, but initial deployment of that technology will not occur in California, does using the funding provided by PON-13-604 to increase the scope and impact of the project and deploy the technology within California align with the intent of the PON?
- A6: Projects funded under this solicitation must be located in California and must demonstrate benefits for California. Projects implemented outside of California are not eligible. Funds awarded under this solicitation may not be used to expand or modify the project scope beyond the size of the project under the federal award.

- Q7. In the "Eligible Projects" section of the PON it states that "Projects that have previously identified match funding sources in an executed agreement with a federal entity are not eligible for this solicitation." If the business has recently executed an agreement with a federal entity where the business has agreed to provide cost sharing from business internal research and development funding, does this classify as having an identified match funding source?
- A7: Funding from this solicitation cannot be used to supplant **specifically identified** and **committed** sources of match share funding under a federally-funded project. If a business has entered into an agreement with a federal entity and has specifically identified and committed a source of match funding, the project is not eligible under PON-13-604. This solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.
- Q8. The "Maximum Award Amount" section of the PON states that "Projects are eligible for up to 25% of the total project cost...defined as the sum of the amount of funds requested and match funding." Does the match funding refer to the \$100K contributed by the business, or the entire \$600K consisting of both the business and federal contributions? In other words, is the maximum California Energy Commission award amount in this scenario \$33K (25% of \$133K) or \$200K (25% of \$800K)?
- A8: The maximum award amount is 25% of the total project cost, up to \$1.1 million. For example, if the total project cost under a federal agreement is \$1 million (including both federal funding and match share), the applicant may request up to \$250,000 (\$1 million x 25%) under this solicitation. The remaining \$750,000 must come from other non-Energy Commission sources which may include the federal award amount.
- Q9. The "Match Funding Requirements" section of the PON states that "Applications must include a match share percentage equal to or greater than 75% of the eligible total project cost." Does the match share have to come from internal company funds, or can the match share come from a combination of company funds and federally awarded grant dollars?
- A9: The match share must originate from non-Energy Commission funding sources which may include a combination of company funds and federally-awarded grant dollars. The maximum award amount is 25% of the total project cost, up to \$1.1 million. For example, if the total project cost under a federal agreement is \$1 million (including both federal funding and match share), the applicant may request up to \$250,000 (\$1 million x 25%) under this solicitation. The remaining 75%, or in this example \$750,000, must come from other sources which may include the federal award amount.
- Q10. Are there specific federal programs or grants that this PON was developed in response to?
- A10: PON-13-604 was developed to be open for all federally-funded projects that meet the eligibility requirements of the solicitation including being eligible for funding

under the Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP). Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria.

Q11. We currently have a small business client located in Temecula, CA that is attempting to purchase and retrofit to new light weight delivery vans to run on compressed natural gas. I wanted to see if this type of project would be eligible to apply for funding under the Federal Cost-Share for Emerging Technologies Program?

A11: Assuming this project is otherwise eligible under this solicitation, this type of project appears to be eligible under PON-13-604. Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria.

Q12. Is a company with an existing Department of Energy-funded project eligible for PON-13-604? The multiyear federal project began in 2011 and will conclude in 2015. The company receives monthly awards/payments from the Department of Energy.

A12: Assuming this project is otherwise eligible under this solicitation, this type of project appears to be eligible under PON-13-604. Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria and note this solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.

Q13. Is a company with an existing federally funded project eligible to apply for PON-13-604 support for the final year of its ongoing project?

A13: Assuming this project is otherwise eligible under this solicitation, this type of project appears to be eligible under PON-13-604. Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria and note this solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.

Q14. Why did the California Energy Commission limit eligibility to PON-13-604 to federal projects that had been awarded during an arbitrary three month period? Why not make all federally funded projects eligible, regardless of award date, eligible for this solicitation?

A14: After consideration of comments from the November 14, 2013 Pre-Application Workshop, the Energy Commission will release an addendum modifying this eligibility criteria. Please refer to PON-13-604 Addendum #1 for more information. The equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency must have been officially announced on or before January 21, 2014. This solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.

Q15. Please elaborate on match funding requirements with an example. If a company proposed a 50-50 cost share to the Department of Energy, could a company

apply for PON-13-604 funding to (1) support its proposed cost share within the existing project size, i.e., 50% DOE, 25% Company, 25% California Energy Commission or (2) provide additional cost share to increase the size of its existing project, i.e., 50% DOE, 50% Company, 25% California Energy Commission?

A15: As to the first question, funds under this solicitation are only available for projects without adequate identified and committed match share funding sources. If, in the above example, the company had identified and committed funds for 50% of the proposed project cost, it is not eligible for funding under this solicitation.

As to the second question, no, funds under this solicitation may not be used to expand or modify the scope of the federally-funded project.. For example, a project that received a federal award to demonstrate 10 units of advanced vehicle technology cannot propose the demonstration of 15 units of advanced vehicle technology for PON-13-604.

Q16. We are unsure if our project under AQMD/DOE is eligible under this solicitation. We are a subcontractor to AQMD for a project under DOE to develop and demonstrate a Zero Emission Cargo Truck in Southern California. We are providing a 50% cost share on the project with the remaining from DOE and the contract was executed in June 2013. Since we have committed to the match funding, does that mean we are not eligible to receive funding under PON-13-604?

A16: If an organization has already specifically identified and committed to providing match funding under a federal award for a project, then that project would not be eligible for funding under this solicitation.

Q17. If we are developing a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with a U.S. National Laboratory, can this funding assist with our cost share or assist in broadening the statement of work? In addition to the fact that our contract is not signed, Andre mentioned that this project would not be funded since it is contractual in nature rather than a competitive bid. Is this true?

A17: As to the first question, funds under this solicitation may not be used to expand or modify the scope of the federally-funded project, which includes broadening an existing project's scope of work. Also, this solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place, but can be used to provide the necessary match share funding under a federal award. Furthermore, the equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency must have been officially announced on or before January 21, 2014.

As to the second question, if the CRADA project complies with the eligibility criteria for PON-13-604, it would be considered an eligible project. PON-13-604 does not require the project to have been competitively selected for the federal funding award.

Q18. Why does this solicitation fund cost share on projects already signed? In that type of project the cost share has already been secured. Why would the CEC want to structure a PON like this?

A18: Not all federally-funded projects have match share specifically identified or fully committed at the time the proposed award is announced. This solicitation is to provide funding to ensure federally-funded projects in California meeting the eligibility requirements of this solicitation are successfully implemented. Eligible projects are not required to have signed agreements at the time of application, but must have the equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency on or before January 21, 2014. This solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place.

Q19. PON 13-604 restricts eligible applicants to those projects that have been awarded federal funds between July 1 and November 1, 2013. DOE could announce an award related to our project at any time. Since we will be excluded from competing with your current solicitation, when does CEC anticipate releasing a follow-up PON for projects yet to receive federal awards?

A19: Addendum #1 modifies the eligibility requirement that an applicant must have the equivalent to a notice of award from a federal funding agency on or before January 21, 2014. There are currently no plans for additional solicitations from this category. Any future activities will be publically announced through the Energy Commission's website. Please see <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/> for more information.

Q20. Our obvious concern is that DOE may not make an award unless we can confirm cost share at the time of the award, yet we have no idea when CEC will follow-up with a second round of cost share applications. What is CEC's plan for issuing a second solicitation for projects that might receive federal funds in the next several months? If DOE will not accept this timing, and our project is deemed to be of considerable merit, would CEC have another option to provide a cost-share commitment to preserve our DOE grant?

A20: There are currently no plans for additional solicitations from this category. Any future plans will be advised by the interest level in PON-13-604, additional funds being available and several other factors. The Energy Commission administers numerous other solicitations throughout the year for which your project may be eligible. Please refer to www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/ for more information.

Q21. Is the award amount absolutely limited to no more than \$1.1 million? Our cost share requirement to build and deploy vehicles is in excess of this amount. We were hoping that if our project merited the amount of cost share that we requested from CEC, funds would be available.

A21: The maximum project award under PON-13-604 is \$1.1 million or 25% of total project costs, whichever is less.

Q22. I have a gas station with public access 24/7 and installing four CNG dispensers, the total cost is \$1.2 million. I have \$900,000 and I own the land and the gas station. Would I qualify for \$300,000?

A22: The facts listed in the above question do not indicate whether the project in question has obtained federal funding. Only projects that have previously received federal funding are eligible. Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria.

Q23. There is a California entity that has successfully concluded early phases of its project with a federal agency, has CEQA approval in hand, and was recently notified within the time period set by the Energy Commission (July 1- November 1, 2013) that the project was re-approved to complete the construction of the project in California. Funding from this solicitation will assure the project's successful completion. Will this project be eligible for funding under this solicitation?

A23: This solicitation has been designed to assist projects that have pending or existing federal awards that are contingent upon identifying match funding. This solicitation is not intended to reduce or replace specifically identified and committed match share funding sources already in place. Please refer to Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria.

Q24. Specifically, which federal programs is this solicitation targeting?

A24: PON-13-604 was developed to be open for all federally-funded projects that meet the eligibility requirements of the solicitation including being eligible for funding under the Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP). Please refer to the Section II of the solicitation (as amended by Addendum #1) for complete project eligibility criteria.

Q25. Can you provide a list of parties that have expressed interest in this funding category?

A25: In addition to the individuals on the PON-13-604 workshop attendee list, support and interest in this funding opportunity have been expressed at previous Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program Advisory Committee Meetings. Transcripts of those meetings can be found at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/transportation/>.