**RFP-22-801**

**December 20, 2022**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Energy Efficiency Technical Support 2023**

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to questions for the above solicitation. The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received.

Q1: Will you be distributing a listing of attendees to today's Conference so that we might pursue partnering opportunities?

**A1: Yes. The list is posted here -** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023)

Q2: Can the deadline be extended? This is a very short timeline, especially over the holiday season.

**A2: Unfortunately, the deadline for applications cannot be extended.**

Q3: Will you accept multiple small companies - expert in each Task listed working together with one being the prime? or are you looking for one prime?

**A3: There can be only one Contractor. Page 4 of the RFP states that “the CEC is seeking a prime Contractor applying as a single entity or representing a team of companies. A single company, not a group of representatives from different companies, must submit a proposal as the prime Contractor.”**

Q4: What is the existing load flexibility and demand response scenario analysis tool related to the demand response task, Task 5? Is it available for reference in crafting a bid and where would it be made available?

**A4:** **The existing load flexibility and demand response scenario analysis tool related to the demand response task (Task 5) is still being developed and is not available for reference. The vision is a tool that will permit staff to assess the energy savings, GHG reductions, and operating cost savings from demand flexible end uses under different adoption scenarios. The tool will be available by June 2023 and the results will be at the hourly level by utility territory, climate zone, end-use, and building type, if applicable.**

Q5: Will CEC consider fixed software license fees related to delivery of the RFP tasks?

**A5: Please indicate your projected software licenses fees in Attachment 7 - Category Budget. This will be considered in the cost evaluation criteria.**

Q6: Does staff expect to execute all tasks and sub tasks included in this RFP? How many work authorizations are expected to be executed for this project?

**A6: Yes. CEC staff expects to issue worth authorizations for all tasks and sub tasks. However, per page 5 of the RFP, “the CEC reserves the right to reduce the contract amount to an amount deemed appropriate in the event the budgeted funds do not provide full funding of CEC contracts.” The number of work authorizations will be determined after the agreement has been approved and executed. Historically, there have been a maximum of nine work authorizations under previous technical support contracts.**

Q7: Could national labs submit a proposal?

**A7: Yes. See p. 5 of the RFP application manual, Eligible Bidders section, which opens the solicitation to all public and private entities. Also on page 5, it states that “the University of California, California State University or U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories must use either the standard or the pre-negotiated terms and conditions located at: (**[**DGS Lab Terms**](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/OLS/Resources/Page-Content/Office-of-Legal-Services-Resources-List-Folder/Contracts-with-the-Department-of-Energy-Laboratories#@ViewBag.JumpTo)**). The CEC will not award agreements to non-complying entities. The CEC reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing agreements.”**

Q8: Would you please drop Eileen's contact info in the Q&A section?

**A8: Eilene Cary, Commission Agreement Officer, Telephone: (916) 776-0739, E-mail:** **Eilene.Cary@energy.ca.gov****.**

Q9: Can you please send the link to the RFP? Thank you.

**A9:** **<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023>**

Q10: What is the demand response tool referenced in task 5? Where is it available to all bidders?

**A10:** **The existing load flexibility and demand response scenario analysis tool related to the demand response task (Task 5) is still being developed and is not available for reference. The vision is a tool that will permit staff to assess the energy savings, GHG reductions, and operating cost savings from demand flexible end uses under different adoption scenarios. The tool will be available by June 2023 and the results will be at the hourly level by utility territory, climate zone, end-use, and building type, if applicable.**

Q11: Can you help companies find primes to partner on?

**A11: The attendee list is posted and can be found in this link:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023)

Q12: Is there a minimum percentage of the work that should be done by the prime contractor?

**A12: The Contractor is expected to lead and to be involved in all the administrative and technical work under the contract. The Contractor will be responsible for all performance under the contract which results from this RFP.**

Q13: Attachment 7b (total expected labor costs) lists 7 main tasks while the Application Manual lists only 6 tasks. Can CEC staff review and update the task numbers/names and total hours by task in Attachment 7b to align with the Application Manual?

**A13: An attachment -7b addendum was posted to delete the 7 tasks with the hours listed and add the 6 tasks with updated hours that are in the application manual. Please see addendum here:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023)

Q14: Tasks 3-6 in the application manual each list only 4 expected general classifications while Attachment 7b lists 5. Can CEC staff revise the application manual to include all 5? Task 4 contains the following language in its scope “create and implement this functionality and capability using an ontology-based common platform”. This seems to be copied from Task 6 which has similar language. Is this intentional or a typo?

**A14: An application manual addendum was done to add “Director” to the “Expected General Classifications” for Tasks 3-6. Please see addendum here:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-11/rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support-2023)

Q15: Task 4 contains the following language in its scope “create and implement this functionality and capability using an ontology-based common platform”. This seems to be copied from Task 6 which has similar language. Is this intentional or a typo? Can CEC share any more specific requirements or vision for how it will use the ontology-based platform in Task 4?

**A15:** **This was intentional. It is envisioned that the work done in Task 4- Survey and Model Low Carbon Behavior and Inform Statewide Policy Improvements can be used in the performance of Task 6’s Common Platform Roadmap and Implementation.**

Q16: Can CEC share any more specific requirements or vision for how it will use the ontology-based platform in Task 4?

**A16: The vision of the common platform is to increase simplicity of the workflow for both data and model processing, to minimize duplicate handling of data, and to create a platform that will allow current and future tools (like a behavioral adoption tool) to scale easily so that current energy models and scenario development can be enhanced to reflect consumer behavior.**

Q17: Can CEC provide documentation in the tools that it mentions in Task 5 ("existing load flexibility and demand response scenario analysis tool" and FSSAT)?

**A17: The tool is still under development. The goal is for a tool that will permit staff to assess the energy savings, GHG reductions, and operating cost savings from demand flexible end uses under different adoption scenarios. The results should be available at the hourly level by utility territory, climate zone, end-use, and building type, if applicable.**

Q18: Has there been any work to date on developing or defining requirements for the "Common Platform" in Task 6? If so, can CEC share additional information about that existing body of work?

**A18: Staff has started work on the Common Platform by reviewing descriptions of all current demand forecasting and demand projection functionalities and capabilities within the CEC. As part of the evaluation process (p. 26 of the RFP), we are interested in the bidder’s technical approach to this Common Platform task, by describing the technique, approach, and methods envisioned for this task.**

Q19: Does CEC consider a bid with less than 3% DVBE participation to be non-responsive?

**A19: Yes- it is non-responsive. According to p. 32 of the RFP application manual, “This RFP is subject to a mandatory certified DVBE participation of at least 3%. Additional information about meeting DVBE participation requirements is included at p. 32:**

***Two Methods to Meet DVBE Participation Requirement:***

**• If Bidder is a DVBE, then Bidder has satisfied the participation requirements if it commits to performing at least 3% of the contract with the Bidder’s firm, or in combination with other DVBE(s).**

**• If Bidder is not a DVBE, Bidder can satisfy the requirement by committing to use certified DVBE Subcontractors for at least 3% of the contract.**

Q20: At what stage does the consultant need to obtain approval for deviations from the approved application architecture components listed in Section IV? At proposal stage or during project delivery?

**A20: There should be no deviations from the requirements, procedures, and guidelines stated in the RFP. Proposals cannot be changed after submission.**

Q21: We meet DVBE Participation Certification requirements and exceed 3%. I want to confirm that these employees do not have to reside completely in California.

**A21:** CEC does not have enough information about the specific facts of your situation to answer this question, including but not limited to not knowing who “these employees” are. There are requirements in California statute and regulations for domicile and residence in California, related to DVBEs. Also, the Office of Small Business and DVBE Services (OSDS) certifies SBs and DVBEs.

Q22: Was the meeting recorded?

**A22: The meeting was recorded and can be found at:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2022-12/pre-bid-conference-rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2022-12/pre-bid-conference-rfp-22-801-energy-efficiency-technical-support)

Q23: Can CEC staff provide a link to the Fuel Substitution Scenario Analysis Tool (FSSAT?

**A23: The link provided here:** [**https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/building-decarbonization-assessment**](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/building-decarbonization-assessment) **takes you to the CEC building decarbonization report, which has documentation on FSSAT**

Q24: How do you get the full 25 points for the total expected labor cost?

**A24: The Cost Criteria is discussed on pages 29-31 of the RFP. The Lowest Proposal Total Expected Labor Cost will get 100 percent of total possible points for this criteria.**