



RFP-21-601 Pre-Bid Workshop: Vehicle Interoperability Testing Symposium (VOLTS)

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October 5, 2021



Housekeeping

- Muting on Zoom
- Zoom recording
- Questions & Answers
- Updates on solicitation documents including this presentation will be posted at the [Request for Proposal's webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2021-09/rfp-21-601-vehicle-interoperability-testing-symposium-volts):
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2021-09/rfp-21-601-vehicle-interoperability-testing-symposium-volts>



Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Solicitation Overview:

- Clean Transportation Program
- Purpose of Request for Proposal
- Available Funding
- Eligibility Requirements
- Project Requirements
- Attachments
- Submission Process

Questions and Answers



Commitment to Diversity

The California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted a resolution strengthening its commitment to diversity in our funding programs. The CEC continues to encourage disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities to engage in and benefit from our many programs.

To meet this commitment, CEC staff conducts outreach efforts and activities to:

- Engage with disadvantaged and underrepresented groups throughout the state.
- Notify potential new Applicants about the CEC's funding opportunities.
- Assist Applicants in understanding how to apply for funding from the CEC's programs.
- Survey participants to measure progress in diversity outreach efforts.



We Want to Hear From You!

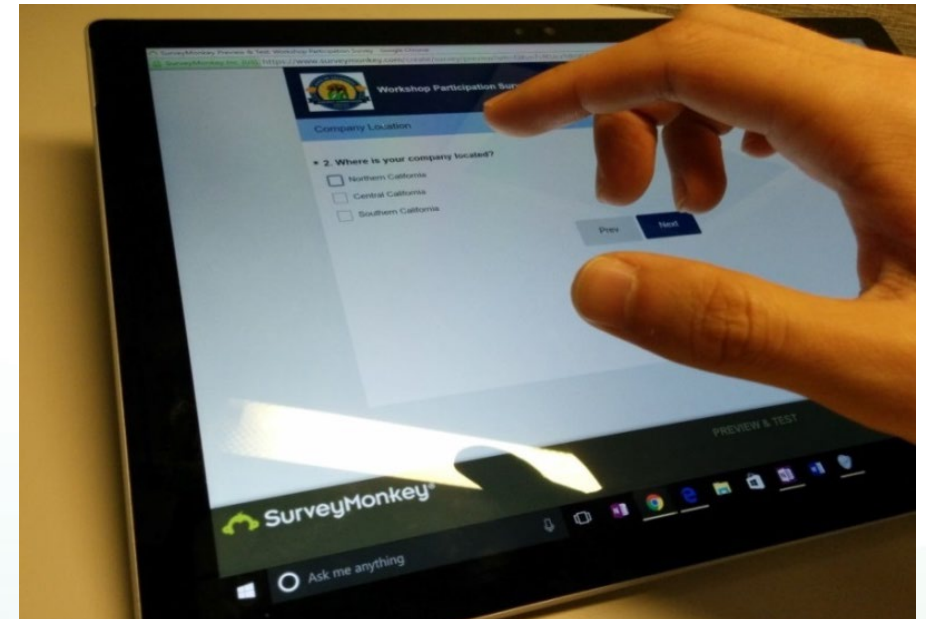
One Minute Survey

The information supplied will be used for public reporting purposes to display anonymous overall attendance of diverse groups.

Please use [this link to the survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RBI6rPQT9k6NG7qicUgZTr-yTq0EPzxCrHqjo8xgsAVURVE2U0FWV0hDUFhSMU9LRk1WQjI5M1FRUS4u):

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RBI6rPQT9k6NG7qicUgZTr-yTq0EPzxCrHqjo8xgsAVURVE2U0FWV0hDUFhSMU9LRk1WQjI5M1FRUS4u>

Thanks!





Find a Partner on EmpowerInnovation.net

Empower Innovation strives to accelerate your clean tech journey with easy access to funding opportunities from the CEC and other funding providers, curated resources and events, and connections to people and organizations.

FIND A PARTNER

Announce your interest in this funding opportunity and message other interested parties to find potential partners.

RESOURCES & TOOLS

Browse the collection of resources for clean tech innovators including Resource Libraries, Funding Sources, Tools, and Databases.

To connect with others for this GFO please go to [this link](https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/25222):
<https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/25222>

Please direct questions for the Empower Innovation platform to:
https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/contact_us



Clean Transportation Program

- This solicitation will award a project funded by the **Clean Transportation Program**
 - Formerly known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program
- Established by Assembly Bill 118 (Nunez, 2007)
- Has an annual budget of approximately \$100 million
- Extended to January 1, 2024 by Assembly Bill 8 (Perea, 2013)



Clean Transportation Program

“...to develop and deploy innovative technologies that transform California’s fuel and vehicle types to help attain the state’s climate change policies.”

- California Health and Safety Code 44272(a)

Complementary goals:

- Improve air quality.
- Invest in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Promote economic development.
- Increase alternative fuel use.
- Reduce petroleum dependence.



Vehicle Interoperability Testing Symposium (VOLTS)



Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Goals

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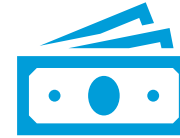
Convenience



Ensure that technologies employed in plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles work in a harmonious manner and across service territories.

Public Utilities Code 740.2 (e)

Cost Control



EVs should assist in grid and renewables management, and reduce fuel costs for drivers who charge in a manner consistent with grid conditions.


Public Utilities Code 740.12(g)

Customer Choice



Standardized, open charging systems that ensure easy access by all in a competitive, and highly innovative market.

U.S. DOE EERE Public Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Guiding Principles

 **Interoperability** “will provide standardized devices that are capable of functioning as intended with each other, without special effort by the user.”

US DOE/EU JRC EV-Smart Grid Interoperability Center



Purpose of Request for Proposal

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- Conduct a Vehicle Interoperability Testing Symposium (VOLTS) to support interoperability of EV charging



- Support light-, medium-, and heavy-duty on-road EV and EVSE testing

- Convene key EV stakeholders to:

- 1) Conduct informal interoperability tests in collaborative, low-risk environment
- 2) Develop and finalize products and standards
- 3) Discuss what is required to overcome common technology barriers



Project Objectives

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- 1) Troubleshoot products at any stage of development and determine whether more research and development needs to occur, or if the product is ready to move on to conformance testing and commercialization
- 2) Conduct implementation testing and test tool development of charging standards and protocols
- 3) Provide structure for product roadmaps
- 4) Establish a forum for knowledge sharing through a public conference component
- 5) Lower the barrier for stakeholders to participate in these events





Project Requirements

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- VOLTS must be located in California
- Bidders have flexibility in design of event, including:
 - 1) Location within California
 - 2) Host of event
 - 3) Duration of the event
- VOLTS must include:
 - 1) A private, closed-doors component for interoperability testing
 - 2) A public conference component focused on knowledge sharing and discussions around charging interoperability





Technical Project Requirements

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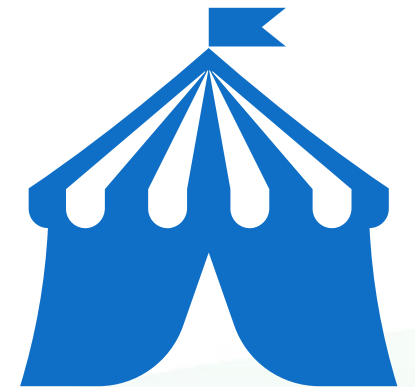
- Testing will focus on intra-protocol testing for ISO 15118 communications to ensure interoperable implementations between EVSEs and EVs
 - Must include cybersecurity testing such as certificate handling to ensure secure and interoperable public key infrastructure
- The public conference must include interactive components, such as live demos and hands-on activities with ISO 15118
- Bidders may choose to include additional components, such as testing for other types of vehicles, charging equipment, and standard or protocols, but these may not use CEC funds and will not be considered during scoring



Applicant Eligibility

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- This is an open solicitation for public and private entities
- Contractor and project team must have expertise and knowledge in:
 - 1) Transportation electrification
 - 2) Communication standards and protocols for charging
 - 3) Charging interoperability
 - 4) Designing and producing large-scale technical events





Task 1: Contract Management

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- Kick-off meeting
- Invoices
- Manage subcontractors
- Progress reports
- Final report



Task 2: Technical Advisory Committee

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- Create TAC to provide input on the VOLTS testing event and conference
- TAC must be composed of representatives from:
 - At least 3 EVSE OEMs
 - At least 3 automotive OEMs
 - At least 3 software/network providers
- TAC meetings held once per quarter



Task 3: Plan, Produce, and Manage VOLTS Testing Component

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- Pre-event management
- Pre-event materials
- Pre-event outreach
- Event management
- Post-event management



Task 4: Plan, Produce, and Manage VOLTS Conference Component

manual pg. 21

- Pre-event management
- Pre-event materials
- Pre-event outreach
- Event management
- Post-event management



Available Funding

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- \$1 million is available for one contract, with a minimum funding amount of \$900,000
 - Proposals **must** fall within this range
- Match funding **is not** required, but may be included





Evaluation Process



Proposal Requirements

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- Each Proposal will consist of:
 - 1) Administrative Response
 - 2) Technical and Cost Proposal



Administrative Response

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Each Applicant must complete and include the following:

Contractor Status Form (Attachment 1)	Darfur Contracting Act Form (Attachment 2)
Small Business Certification (if applicable)	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Form (Attachment 3)
Bidder Declaration Form GSPD-05-105 (Attachment 4)	Contractor Certification Clauses (Attachment 5)
TACPA Forms (if applicable)	Iran Contracting Act Form (Attachment 9)
CA Civil Rights Laws Certification (Attachment 10)	



Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Form

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- This RFP is subject to a mandatory certified DVBE participation of at least 3%
- Can be satisfied by Bidder or certified DVBE subcontractor
- Refer to Attachments 1, 3, and 4
- Preference points for DVBE participation above 3%
 - 1 point for participation above 3%, with maximum of 5 points for 7% or over



Technical and Cost Proposal

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Each Applicant must complete and include the following:

Technical Approach for Testing Component

Technical Approach for Conference Component

Organizational Structure

Relevant Experience and Qualifications

Client References (Attachment 6)

Previous Work Products

Budget Forms (Attachment 7)

Commitment and Support Letters (Attachment 11)



Technical Approach for Testing and Conference Components *manual pg. 31*

- Bidders explain entirety of Proposal:
 - Technique, approach, and methods to execute the testing and conference portions of VOLTS and provide the services listed in the Scope of Work
 - Highlight any outstanding features, qualifications, experience
 - Explain how tasks will be executed and coordinated
 - Discuss factors critical for success, risks, barriers, and limitations, and a plan to overcome these
- Read evaluation criteria (Section IV) carefully and respond fully.



Client References Forms (Attachment 6)

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- 3 client references are required for each bidder
- 1 client reference is required for each subcontractor



Budget Forms (Attachment 7)

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- Identify how CEC funds will be spent to complete the project
- All reimbursable costs must be incurred within the approved term of the contract



Letters of Support/Commitment

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- Follow guidelines provided for commitment and support letters
 - Commitment letters are required from entities or individuals that are committing match funding
 - Support letters describe a project stakeholder's interest or involvement in the project
- Any project partners that will make contributions to the project must submit a commitment letter
- Limit of two pages per letter



How Will My Proposal Be Evaluated?



Administrative and Completeness Screening Process

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- CEC staff screens applications per criteria in Section IV.
- Criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.
- Applicants must pass ALL administrative and completeness screening criteria, or the application shall be disqualified and eliminated from further evaluation.



Technical and Cost Evaluation

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- Evaluation Committee applies the scoring scale to the evaluation criteria.
- Applications must obtain a minimum passing score of 70 points in order to be considered for funding.
- Review Section IV of the manual and ensure the application provides a clear and complete response to each evaluation criterion.

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
1. Technical Approach for Testing Component	30
2. Technical Approach for Conference Component	15
3. Team Qualifications, Experience, and Resources	15
4. Budget	10
5. Cost Criteria	30
Total Points Possible	100
Minimum Points to Pass (70%)	70



Cost Criteria

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- Based on total budget (excluding any match share, if provided)
- The minimum CEC funding amount is \$900,000 and the maximum is \$1,000,000
- Proposals with lowest total budget receive 100% of possible points for this criterion. All other proposals receive a lower percentage based on how close their budget is to the lowest budget.
- **Example:**
 - Proposal A Total Budget = \$900,000
 - Proposal B Total Budget = \$1,000,000
 - Proposal A receives 100% of possible points
 - Proposal B receives $\$900,000 / \$1,000,000 = 90\%$ of possible points



GFO Submission Requirements

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- Method of delivery is [the CEC's Grant Solicitation System](https://gss.energy.ca.gov/), available at: <https://gss.energy.ca.gov/>
- Files must be in Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) and Excel (.xls, .xlsx) formats, unless originally provided in the solicitation in another format.
- Until further notice, any requirement in CEC contract, grant, and loan solicitations to provide a signature is waived (even if it is in the screening criteria). No signature, even electronic, is necessary.
 - <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations>
- First-time users must register as a new user to access system.



Key Activities and Dates

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Activity	Action Date
RFP Release	September 24, 2021
Pre-Bid Conference	October 5, 2021
Deadline for Written Questions by 5:00 PM	October 8, 2021
Anticipated Distribution of Questions/Answers	October 22, 2021
Deadline to Submit Proposals by 5:00 PM	November 19, 2021
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Awards Posting	December 17, 2021
Anticipated CEC Business Meeting	February 9, 2022
Contract Start Date	February 2022
Contract Termination Date	February 2023



Questions and Answers

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Three ways to ask questions:

1. Use the raise hand function in Zoom:

- Zoom Phone Controls:
 - *6 - Toggle mute/unmute.
 - *9 - Raise hand.
- Please introduce yourself by stating your name and affiliation.
- Keep questions under 3 minutes to allow time for others.

2. Type questions in the Q&A Box in Zoom:

- Please provide name and affiliation.

3. Submit written questions:

- Send written questions to Eilene.Cary@energy.ca.gov no later than **October 8, 2021 5:00 PM PST.**

Note that an official CEC response will be provided in writing and posted on the GFO webpage in approximately three weeks.



Additional Questions

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Please send all questions related to RFP-21-601 to:

Eilene Cary

Commission Agreement Officer

715 P Street, MS-18

Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 776-0739

Eilene.Cary@energy.ca.gov

Deadline to submit questions: Friday, October 8, 2021 5:00 PM

Deadline to submit Applications: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:00 PM