**Questions and Answers Document**

# **Disclaimer**

The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to review the Solicitation Manual and to determine whether their proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. The CEC cannot give definitive advice as to whether a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all proposal details are known.

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# **General/Administrative**

Q1. We are working with affordable housing providers in San Francisco to build innovative decarbonization solutions for multifamily buildings and would be delighted to work with interested developers

**CEC:** Please utilize Empower Innovation ([Empower Innovation](https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/page/resources-and-tools-en)) to indicate your interest in partnering opportunities and identify potential partnerships.

Q2. Are applications limited to solar PV? Would the CEC entertain solar-thermal collection and storage to drive a heat pump system for larger commercial projects?

**CEC:** The configuration selected is required to eliminate HVAC loads on the grid during peak summer hours in accordance with the solicitation manual. The proposed technical solution must address the requirements presented in the solicitation manual.

Q3. What size heat pump systems do you anticipate for commercial projects?

**CEC:** The commercial projects will likely be between 5-20 tons.

Q4. Does the solar PV need to specifically run rooftop HVAC systems or can it be other types of HVAC systems as well (not rooftop).

**CEC:** The HVAC can also be a package unit located on the ground or elsewhere, but not a split unit, as this requires more specific onsite labor.

Q5. Why is Criterion 9 (DAC/LI) scaled so low, with only five points? Shouldn’t projects that positively impact these communities be prioritized and valued more? For a project to take on the additional barriers that inherently stem in DAC/LI areas, the project should be awarded more points.

**CEC:** Group 1 has a requirement that projects be located in an under resourced community and Criteria 8 “Benefits to Disadvantaged/Low-Income Communities and Localized Health Impacts “is worth 50 points. While Group 2 does not have this requirement, proposals that are sited in a disadvantaged or low-income community are prioritized and can earn up to 5 bonus points. .

Q6. For group 1, can the CEC give applicants an idea of the TRL (technology readiness level) that the CEC envisions for the pre- and post- project? I ask because this impinges on the demonstration and Tech 2 Market planning.

**CEC:** The equipment that is included in the project will require maintenance beyond the life of the grant and may be a higher TRL, such as TRL 8-9). However, the complete package may also be new and yet to be proven in the field (TRL 5-7). For this reason, specific TRLs are not required in the solicitation manual, and the applicant is required to state the TRL.

Q7. Will these slides or the recording be available to access after this webinar?

**CEC:** The recording of the pre-application workshop is posted on the CEC’s website:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-308-dc-hvac-nanogrid-module-development-and-demonstration>

Q8. There is no match funding required for Group 1 on GFO-23-308. When it comes to Criteria 8.d. will providing any match funding where none is required receive 5 points, or will the percentage be based on the CEC funds requested? For example, an application would have to provide 40-60% of the CEC funds requested to earn 3 points.

Thank you in advance for any clarification you can provide on this matter.

**CEC:** That is correct, Group 1 does not have a match requirement, and applicants that provide match funds between 40-60% of the CEC requested funds will receive 3 points. The Solicitation Manual will be updated in the near future with an addendum to clarify this. Up to 5 points are available based on the percentage of CEC funds, as described in the table in the solicitation manual.

Q9. This morning, I joined the workshop for GFO-23-308 DC-HVAC, but I couldn't understand the whole contents.

I would appreciate it greatly if you email me a copy of the recorded webinar.

**CEC:** See Q7

Q10. Is there a recording of the webinar and slides available?

**CEC:** See Q7

Q11. Hi, I wanted to see if you would send over bid documents for the bid for GFO-23-308 – DC HVAC Nanogrid Module Development and Demonstration

**CEC:** All of the required documents are on the CEC’s website: https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-03/gfo-23-308-dc-hvac-nanogrid-module-development-and-demonstration

Q12. We are an engineering company located in San Jose that works with consumer electronics organizations (Meta Oculus, Amazon) in providing manufacturing and R&D testing solutions. Our team has been working mostly with Meta in various engineering programs since 2019.

Last year we were contacted by LFP cell manufacturer in Korea that is in the process of moving its operation to Virgina to create an BMS for ESS using the latest certified IC and EE board design standards from Infineon.

We have recently begin searching for a California grant, and recently found the call for [GFO-23-308] DC HVAC nanogrid module development and demo. Despite the short time remaining, we believe our team can deliver this solution if given the opportunity given that our engineering team is top-class.

Would you be able to provide us with the reference design of existing ESS module and allow us to ask some quick questions via email, possibly over a quick zoom session, if project POC from is available from your side?

We apologize for the late request for information on this program.

Appreciate your consideration and help.

**CEC:** The CEC does not meet with prospective applicants prior to the application due date since the solicitation is competetive. Interested parties can view the recording of thescoping workshop, which includes references to similar projects.