Energy Research and Development Division

**Questions and Answers**

GFO-23-318

BRIDGE 2024: Bringing Rapid Innovation Development to Green Energy

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# General and Administrative

1. **QUESTION:** Will the GFO-23-318 BRIDGE 2024 workshop PowerPoint presentation and recording be available for the public?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, all materials for this solicitation, including the pre-application workshop presentation, workshop recording, attendee list, and questions and answers are posted on the solicitation pages of the CEC website: [GFO-23-318 - BRIDGE 2024: Bringing Rapid Innovation Development to Green Energy (ca.gov)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-07/gfo-23-318-bridge-2024-bringing-rapid-innovation-development-green-energy)

Note that any addendums to this solicitation and notices will be posted on the same link above.

1. **Question:** What is the contact information for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** For all administrative questions, please contact the Commission Agreement Officer at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. on the application deadline date (November 22, 2024):

Angela Hockaday: [Angela.Hockaday@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Hockaday@energy.ca.gov)

California Energy Commission, 715 P St., MS-1, Sacramento, California 95814

For questions related to submission of applications in the ECAMS systems, please contact [ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov](mailto:ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov) at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. on the application deadline date (November 22, 2024).

1. **Question:** Is it possible to view a list of previously awarded BRIDGE grants, and are the awarded applications available?

**RESPONSE:** Applicants who are interested in viewing a list of previous BRIDGE awardees or awarded applications can send a request to the Commission Agreement Officer, Angela Hockaday, at: [Angela.Hockaday@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Hockaday@energy.ca.gov)

1. **Question:** Will there be multiple rounds of applications for BRIDGE 2024 similar to BRIDGE 2020?

**RESPONSE:** At this time the CEC does not have plans to release additional rounds of funding for BRIDGE.

1. **Question:** How is the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation different from previous BRIDGE solicitations?

**RESPONSE:** The intent of the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation is in general similar to previous BRIDGE solicitations. BRIDGE 2024 seeks to 1) help start-up companies minimize the time between when their successful publicly funded project ends and new public funding becomes available; and 2) mobilize more early-stage capital in the clean energy space by providing non-dilutive, matching investments in promising clean energy companies in conjunction with investors and commercial partners. BRIDGE provides increased support for the most promising clean energy technologies that have already attracted interest from the market as they are developed and continue their path to market adoption.

There are certain applicant and technology eligibility requirements, as well as screening and scoring criteria, in this solicitation that are different from prior solicitations. In addition, this solicitation provides an opportunity for applicants to receive match funding waivers if the applicants meet the Match Funding Waiver requirements. Refer to the Screening Criteria Section IV.E.3 for more information on the Match Funding Waiver requirements.

The CEC encourages all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual, including the screening and scoring criteria to ensure that all the eligibility requirements are met, and the required information is provided.

1. **Question:** Can the CEC provide references to current challenges facing California in its effort to achieve its statutory energy goals?

**RESPONSE:** The Electric Program Investment Charge 2021-2025 Investment Plan: EPIC 4 Investment Plan includes strategic objectives to achieve the state’s energy goals and climate-related policies. The plan discusses various aspects of challenges and risks, such as technical and market challenges, to achieving those objectives and goals.

[The Electric Program Investment Charge Proposed 2021–2025 Investment Plan: EPIC 4 Investment Plan | California Energy Commission](https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/electric-program-investment-charge-proposed-2021-2025-investment-plan-epic-4)

In addition, there are multiple resources that outline challenges facing California to achieve its energy and environmental goals, including various California Public Utilities Commission proceedings, as well as the California Air Resources Board’s 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality, which includes an extensive discussion of challenges to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and lays out a plan to achieving the goal.

[2022 Scoping Plan Update (ca.gov)](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/2022-sp_1.pdf)

Please refer to Section I.J of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual for a full summary and references on the background of this solicitation. The Solicitation Manual addresses the energy goals described in the listed laws, policies, and linked documents*.*

1. **Question:** Are applied research and development (AR&D) and technology demonstration and deployment (TD&D) projects acceptable for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, the purpose of this solicitation is to fund “Applied Research and Development” (AR&D) and “Technology Demonstration and Deployment” (TD&D) projects for the most promising energy technologies that have previously received an award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency. However, Market Facilitation projects are not within the scope of this solicitation.

Refer to Section I.A. for a list of eligible technology categories and Section II.A.1. for further details on eligible and non-eligible entities.

1. **Question:**  Can a service provider become a primary applicant partnering with a private entity with rights to the intellectual property? The technology provider does not have registered business in California and our company is going to be the company who will demonstrate and conduct business in California.

**RESPONSE:** The prime applicant for this solicitation must be a private entity with rights to the intellectual property being advanced under the proposed project. Prime applicants and their project members (such as subrecipients and match fund partners) are encouraged to register with the California Secretary of State (SOS) as soon as possible as all corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs), and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to their projects being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting.

In the case of the service provider who is seeking to apply as a prime applicant partnering with a private entity that has rights to the intellectual property (IP) but is not a registered business in California, the private entity with rights to the IP can potentially register with the California SOS and apply to this solicitation as the prime applicant with the service provider as a subrecipient.

1. **Question:** Is an entity that is not based in California eligible to apply for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, an entity that is not based in California is eligible to apply for this solicitation. However, prime applicants and their project members (such as subrecipients and match fund partners) are encouraged to register with the California Secretary of State (SOS) as soon as possible as all corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs), and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to a project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting. In addition, projects that maximize CEC funds spent in California will receive more points, so a recipient that is not based in California should be prepared to take the necessary action to facilitate spending in California. Refer to Section IV.F. of the Solicitation Manual, Scoring Criterion #6, for more details.

1. **Question:** Is a California-based entity eligible to apply for an energy project that is planned to be commissioned in a different state? Does a project need to be located in a California investor-owned utility service territory?

**RESPONSE:** Applicants are not required to be located in California; however, all corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs), and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to its project being recommended for approval at an CEC Business Meeting.

Please also note that one of the solicitation scoring criteria awards points based on funds spent in California. The more funds that are spent outside of California, the fewer points an applicant will receive under this criterion. Please see Section IV of the Solicitation Manual for more details.

Technology demonstration and deployment projects, however, must take place at sites located within one of the three largest California electric investor-owned utility (IOU) service territories. These IOUs are Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric.

All utility-scale renewable generation demonstration projects must take place at a facility that currently has, or would be seeking, a power purchase agreement (PPA) with one of the above listed California electric IOUs.

1. **Question:** What information must an applicant provide to fulfill the previous public funding requirements in this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Proof of prior funding is one of the eligibility requirements for this solicitation. Applicants must complete the Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14), which documents the key technical performance targets achieved under their previous publicly funded award. The CEC will review the application materials, including all the required attachments, to assess if an applicant has fulfilled the solicitation requirements. In addition, the Reference and Work Product Form (Attachment 8) requires that applicants provide references, information on past agreements, and other details on past projects. The Project Narrative (Attachment 2) requires applicants to describe the team’s history of successfully completing past projects, including subsequent deployments and commercialization activities.

Applications will be assessed using the screening and scoring criteria provided in Section IV of the Solicitation Manual.

1. **Question:** Does receiving a previous CEC grant award (e.g., a 2020 BRIDGE award) bias winning an award for this BRIDGE 2024 solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** TheBRIDGE 2024 solicitation requires that applicants have previously received a funding award from an eligible California state agency or eligible U.S. federal agency for applied research on the technology identified in the proposal (refer to Section II.A.1. of the Solicitation Manual for additional information on eligibility requirements). In addition, information provided in an application with respect to previous funding awards will be used in the screening stage (pass/fail) and the scoring stage.

Previous receipt of a BRIDGE award or other CEC award will not affect an applicant’s score differently than receipt of any other qualifying award, unless there were severe performance issues under one or more prior or active CEC agreements. This past performance screening criterion does not apply to applicants that do not have any active or prior agreements with the CEC. Refer to Section IV.E. for more details on this application screening criterion. In addition, the scope of work must not be the same as for a previous BRIDGE or other CEC award.

1. **Question:** Are subrecipients from previously awarded CEC and federal programs eligible to apply as primes in this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, applicants may include entities that were a subrecipient, a sub-subrecipient, or any tier of subrecipient on the previous award, if the core intellectual property currently resides with the applicant and the applicant can demonstrate a path forward for commercializing the technology in California.

The BRIDGE 2024 solicitation is open to all private entities and individuals that have previously received a funding award from an eligible California state agency or U.S. federal agency for applied research on the technology identified in the proposal, excepting any entities or individuals on the list of ineligible prime applicants.

List of eligible California state agencies and U.S. federal agencies:

* California Energy Commission
* California Public Utilities Commission
* California Air Resources Board
* U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
* U.S. Department of Defense
* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
* National Science Foundation (NSF)
* U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH)

Refer to Section II. A. 1. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual for additional eligibility requirements for prior awardees of CalSEED, CalTestBed, and the Regional Energy Innovation Clusters (Southern California Energy Innovation Network, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, Activate, and BlueTech Valley).

List of ineligible prime applicants:

* Public and private universities
* National Labs
* Utilities
* Private non-profit research organizations
* End-use customers of the proposed technology

These organizations are eligible to be subrecipients if they are providing technical consulting or testing and laboratory facilities or services.

Refer to the Solicitation Manual, Section I.C. for a list of eligible technology categories.

1. **Question:** Is receiving a prior funding award a requirement for BRIDGE 2024 eligibility?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, to be eligible for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation, applicants must be a private entity that received a prior funding award from an eligible California state agency or a U.S. federal agency within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date.

For additional eligibility requirements, please refer to the Solicitation Manual Section II.A.

1. **QUESTION:** The BRIDGE 2024 solicitation requires that projects must have previously received a funding award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date. When does the five-year period start?

**RESPONSE:** The BRIDGE 2024 solicitation requires that projects must have previously received a funding award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency, with a contract execution date within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date (November 22, 2024). This requirement was clarified in Addendum 1 to the Solicitation Manual, posted to the CEC website on August 28, 2024.

1. **Question:** If a previous funding award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency was originally granted before the five-year period requirement, but the project received additional funding within the five-year period requirement, does the subsequent additional funding meet the previous public funding requirement for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, subsequent public funding of an award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency received within the five-year period requirement in this solicitation, although the original grant was received before the five-year period requirement, meets the previous funding requirements in this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Does a previous funding award have to be fully completed to meet the previous public funding requirement for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** No, projects that have previously received a funding award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency do not need to be fully completed; that is, projects can be current/active. However, applicants must provide documentation that they met key technical performance targets under their previous publicly funded award. If the previous project is still early in its project term, and meaningful results have not been realized yet, it is unlikely to be a strong candidate for BRIDGE funding. Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal.

1. **Question:** We are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on two programs which will not be finished. We have completed a Phase 1 National Science Foundation award and we also have a program with Cal Fire. Will the Phase 1 award from the National Science Foundation make us eligible for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, the National Science Foundation is one of the eligible funding agencies for previous funding awards, as long as the previous award has a contract execution date within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date. However, applicants must provide documentation that they met key technical performance targets under their previous publicly funded award. If the previous project is still early in its project term and meaningful results have not been realized yet, it is unlikely to be a strong candidate for BRIDGE funding. Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal.

Please refer to Section I.A. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual for additional eligibility requirements.

1. **Question:** Does an applicant with a current award from the CEC qualify for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, applicants who have received grants from the CEC and have current agreements with the CEC are eligible for this solicitation if they meet the solicitation requirements. However, the BRIDGE 2024 application must propose a different scope of work from the applicant’s current project – i.e., the applicant cannot receive multiple awards for the exact same project activities. In addition, applicants must provide documentation that they met key technical performance targets under their previous publicly funded award. If the previous project is still early in its project term and meaningful results have not been realized yet, it is unlikely to be a strong candidate for BRIDGE funding. Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal.

1. **Question**: How closely must a proposed technology match the technology in the prior CEC or U.S. federal award? Are evolved or pivoted technologies or solutions allowed as long as they stem from the earlier award?

**Response**: Yes, evolved or pivoted technologies that stem from a previously funded award are allowed. In this case, applicants should clearly describe how the evolved technology connects with the previously funded project and the technology development path from the previously funded project to the BRIDGE 2024 application.

1. **Question:** Can the Commission Agreement Manager of a previous CEC project sign Section 4 of the Previous Project Form (Attachment 14) in the event that the final project report is not yet completed?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, if an applicant has not completed the final project report of a previous CEC project, the Commission Agreement Manager of the previous CEC agreement can sign Section 4 of the Previous Project Form (Attachment 14). Also, note that in such an event, the applicant must complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 and provide the form to the Commission Agreement Manager of the previous CEC agreement before the Commission Agreement Manager can sign Section 4 of Attachment 14.

1. **Question:** Are awards of the Regional Energy Innovation Clusters (REIC) (Southern California Energy Innovation Network, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, Activate, and BlueTech Valley) eligible to be considered as previously funded projects for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, awardees of the Regional Energy Innovation Clusters (REIC) (Southern California Energy Innovation Network, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, Activate, and BlueTech Valley) with projects that do not meet the previous funding requirements listed in Section II.A.1. of the Solicitation Manual are eligible for this solicitation. Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal. If the funded REIC award does not include technical performance metrics as described in Attachment 14, applicants must provide evidence that their projects met key technical performance targets under their REIC award. This was clarified in Addendum 1 to the Solicitation Manual, posted to the CEC website on August 28, 2024.

1. **Question:** Are previous awards for CalSEED and CalTestBed eligible to be considered as previously funded projects for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, projects that do not meet the previous funding requirements listed in Section II.A.1. of the Solicitation Manual but have substantially completed all requirements for their CalSEED concept award or their CalTestBed testing voucher are eligible for this solicitation. For further details on specific requirements for CalSEED and CalTestBed awardees, refer to section Section II.A.1. of the Solicitation Manual.

1. **Question:** Are prizes from the Department of Energy (DOE) considered prior funding awards even if the projects did not include performance metrics?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, prizes awarded by the DOE could be eligible for meeting the prior funding requirement. Please refer to the Solicitation Manual for additional eligibility requirements. Applicants must provide documentation that they met key technical performance targets under their previous publicly funded award, for example, a measurement and verification report, or a draft final report that shows the project results. If the previous project is still early and meaningful results have not been realized yet, it will likely not be a strong candidate for BRIDGE funding.

Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal and show how the current project builds on the success of the prior project.

1. **Question:** Can an applicant submit more than one application; and what are the minimum and maximum funding amounts per application?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, an applicant can submit more than one application. However, each application must be for a distinct project (i.e., no overlap with respect to the technical tasks described in the Scope of Work (Attachment 4)). Applicants may submit multiple applications under the same technology category and/or under different technology categories. Refer to Section I.C. of the Solicitation Manual for the list of eligible technology categories.

The CEC may conduct a clarification interview with an applicant to clarify and/or verify information in its applications to help the CEC determine whether each application is for a distinct project. The final determination shall be made solely by the CEC.

The minimum funding amount for each project is $1,000,000. The maximum funding amount is $4,000,000.

1. **Question:** Will the BRIDGE 2024 available funding be equally split between the eligible technology categories listed in Section I.C. of the Solicitation Manual?

**RESPONSE:** No, the available funding for this solicitation is not allocated to the eligible technology categories or to the type of projects (e.g., applied research and development versus technology demonstration and deployment) by any specific percentage or amount. All applications will be competing against all other applications, regardless of technology category or project type.

1. **Question:** Will a BRIDGE awardee who successfully completes a project be automatically approved for a RAMP award?

**RESPONSE:** No, a BRIDGE awardee who has successfully completed a BRIDGE project will not be automatically approved for a RAMP award. Each BRIDGE and RAMP solicitation has its unique requirements, including applicant and technology eligibility, which an applicant must fulfil before becoming eligible for consideration. In addition, BRIDGE and RAMP solicitations are competitive awards and an applicant must pass the screening and scoring criteria specific to the solicitations to be considered for an award.

1. **Question:** Why is there a long duration between the Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA) and the start of an awarded agreement?

**RESPONSE:** The time between the publication of the NOPA is a factor of the number of proposed awards and the time it takes to develop the agreements.

After applications are submitted, evaluated, and scored, they will be ranked according to score in a NOPA that will be posted on this GFO website as well as distributed to the EPIC listserv. The NOPA with the proposed recipients for grant funding is anticipated to be posted in the week of June 23, 2025. The CEC anticipates that it will take about three months for the Commission Agreement Managers to work with the proposed recipients to develop their agreements.

The agreements will then be presented at a CEC Business Meeting (anticipated to be in October 2025) for formal approval. If approved, the agreements must then be executed by the Recipient and the CEC (anticipated start date is November 21, 2025).

1. **Question:** Can research and development and measurement and verification (M&V) be part of the same project? Must the M&V study be conducted by an independent third-party?

**RESPONSE:** Measurement and Verification Plans are required for technology demonstration and deployment projects to describe how a project’s benefits, such as reduction in energy use, emissions and/or cost, will be measured and quantified. Although not required, applicants proposing applied research and development projects may propose M&V as part of their proposals.

This solicitation does not require that M&V be conducted by an independent third party.

1. **Question:** Can the grant be used to fund demonstration projects at multiple sites? For example, our technology is applicable to improving efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings. Would we be able to propose demonstrations in both building types in one application?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, an applicant can propose multiple demonstration sites in one application, such as demonstrating the same technology in different building types.

The applicant is required to provide specific information about the demonstration sites, such as addresses to show that a site is located in California electric investor-owned utility (PG&E, SCE, or SDG&E) territory, and provide commitment letters signed by an authorized representative of the proposed test, demonstration, or deployment sites that (1) identify the location of the sites (street address, parcel number, tract number, etc.); and (2) unconditionally commit to providing the sites for the proposed activities.

Refer to Attachment 9, Commitment and Support Letters Form, and Section III.C.9 of the Solicitation Manual for more information.

1. **Question:** We are considering submitting an application under Category 5: Advanced Power Electronics/Power Conditioning.The core technology that would be involved in the proposal has received previous public funding from an eligible federal agency. However, the technology's application was different in this previous project. As it relates to Attachment 14 - Previous Project Evaluation Form, some technical performance metrics from the previous project such as cost savings, efficiency improvement, and fault reduction would still be applicable to the new proposal/different application of the technology.
2. Does such a proposal meet the previous public funding requirement and is therefore eligible to apply?

**RESPONSE:** The technology described can potentially be eligible. Note that the previous project must have a contract execution date within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date (November 22, 2024).

Please also see response to Question 20 regarding evolved or pivoted technologies.

1. If so, would a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the eligible federal agency suffice as a final report for the purposes of Attachment 14?

**RESPONSE:** If a final report for the previously funded project cannot be provided, the applicant must have a representative from the previous funding agency sign Attachment 14 to validate that performance metrics were met during the previous award. Please see Section 3 – Applicant Signature of Attachment 14.

1. **Question:** Are small businesses with an ongoing U.S. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) phase II eligible?

**RESPONSE:** SBIR awards may qualify as an eligible previous public funding agency as long as the funding agency for the SBIR project is one of the eligible agencies listed in Section II.A.1. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual.

Please refer to Section I.A. of the Solicitation Manual for additional eligibility requirements.

1. **Question**: The recent BRIDGE addendum added Eligibility for Regional Energy Innovation Clusters Awardees: Entities that have received support from one of the Regional Energy Innovation Clusters (REIC) (Southern California Energy Innovation Network, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, Activate, and BlueTech Valley) with projects that do not meet the previous funding requirements listed above are eligible for this solicitation. Applicants are required to submit a Previous Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 14) with their proposal. If the funded REIC award does not include technical performance metrics as described in Attachment 14, applicants must provide evidence that their projects met key technical performance targets under their REIC engagement.

Are companies eligible if they have received support from one of the cluster programs (e.g., technical assistance through a REIC incubator/accelerator program)? Or does this eligibility extend only to the awardees of the REIC program, which was funded in 2016?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, entities that received support from one of the REIC are eligible to apply for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation. However, applicants must also meet other eligibility requirements in this solicitation. Applicants must have received support from a REIC within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date. Also, applicants must be private entities with the rights to the intellectual property being advanced under the proposed project, and they must be able to demonstrate a path forward for commercializing the technology in California.

Refer to Section I.A. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual for additional eligibility requirements.

1. **Question:** We were awarded a CEC project that ended in 2019 which was the basis for the CPUC CalFuse rulemaking and we were awarded a project from SCE which continued this work (all based on the CEC grant). Do we qualify to apply for BRIDGE 2024 even though the original grant ended in 2019?

**Response:** Subsequent additional public funding of an award from an eligible California state agency or an eligible U.S. federal agency received within the last five years (see Question 15 for details), even if the original grant was received more than five years ago, meets the previous funding requirements in this solicitation. In this case, if the entity received subsequent funding, the funding agency has to be one of the eligible public funding agencies listed in Section II.A.1. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual.

# Technology Eligibility

1. **Question:** What are the appropriate Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) for applied research and development (AR&D) projects versus technology demonstration and deployment (TD&D) projects?

**RESPONSE:** There are no specific TRL requirements for AR&D and TD&D projects in this solicitation. The BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation is aimed to help clean energy start-up companies bridge the gap from their previous public funding awards to private investment. This GFO provides increased support for the most promising clean energy technologies that have already attracted interest from the market as they are developed and continue their path to market adoption.

Applicants are ultimately responsible to determine the appropriate TRL level that best fits their project. Guidelines for TRL can be found at <https://www2.lbl.gov/dir/assets/docs/TRL%20guide.pdf>, (pages 9-10), which may help applicants determine where their technology is on the TRL spectrum.

1. **Question:** Are there specific definitions, TRL range, and/or specific technical requirements for the eligible technology categories listed in Section I.A. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual?

**RESPONSE:** No, there are no specific definitions, TRL level requirements, or technical requirements for the eligible technology categories listed in Section I.A. However, Table 1 in Section I.C. provides some technology examples for the eligible technology categories. Please note that these are not meant to be an exhaustive list of examples, and technologies that are not explicitly listed as examples maybe eligible.

Please also refer to Question 35.

1. **Question:** Is there an expected TRL target level at the start and end of a project, or an expected advancement in TRL? For example, are projects expected to advance two TRL levels?

**Response:** This solicitation does not require TRL target levels at the start and end of a project. However, applicants are required to include a description in the Project Narrative Form (Attachment 2) of the current TRL of their proposed technologies and the expected TRL to be achieved by the end of their projects.

Refer to Section IV.F. (Scoring Criteria) of the Solicitation Manual, and Attachment 2, the Project Narrative Form, for additional information.

1. **Question:** Are software only technologies eligible, or does there need to be a hardware component? Does a software technology that is focused on outreach and delivery of existing electrification technologies to consumers, supporting promotion, recruitment, concierge services and ultimately installation of electrification upgrades for residents, qualify as an eligible technology for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** In general, software technologies can be eligible if the technology falls within one of the eligible technology categories.

As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technology categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed in Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible.

In addition, this solicitation requires the prime applicant to be a private entity with rights to the intellectual property being advanced under the proposed project.

In the case of a software technology that is focused on outreach and delivery of existing electrification technologies to customers, it is not clear whether the software technology as described would be eligible. Note that market facilitation projects are not in scope of this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Are EV charging technologies eligible for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, advanced EV charging technologies are eligible under the end-use electrification technology category.

1. **Question:** Are transportation-related applied research and development projects eligible for this solicitation? If so, would hydrogen storage/refueling of aircraft be eligible?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, transportation-related applied research and development projects can be eligible if the project is related to the electricity sector and includes at least one technology that falls in one or more of the eligible technology categories listed in Section I.A. of the Solicitation Manual.

As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technology categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed in Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible.

Please note – Scoring Criteria 3 Impacts and Benefits for California IOU Ratepayers requires applicants to describe how their project will benefit California IOU ratepayers. Additionally, the overall goal of EPIC is to fund clean energy technology projects that meet the guiding principles of (1) improving safety, (2) increasing reliability, (3) increasing affordability, (4) improving environmental sustainability, and (5) improving equity, all as related to California's electric system.

A technology that applies to the refueling of aircraft is not eligible for this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Is converting biomass such as wood chips from forests or agriculture to carbon negative electricity and biochar using a gasification technology eligible for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, gasification technology to convert biomass, such as wood chips from forests or agriculture, to carbon negative electricity and biochar would be eligible under technology category 6, Zero- and Negative-Carbon Emission Electric Generation (Renewable Generation).

1. **Question:** Is a carbon removal technology eligible for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** No, carbon removal technology that is not accompanied by an energy conversion technology is not eligible for this solicitation.

1. **QUESTION:** We have a strong patent pending application towards geothermal energy that will lead to hydrogen price reduction and nationwide availability and commonality. Will this be a good candidate?

**RESPONSE:** As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technology categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed in Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible to apply.

1. **Question:** Are vehicle-to-grid and/or vehicle-to-vehicle technologies eligible for this solicitation; and if so, which technology category would they fall under?

**RESPONSE:** Vehicle-to-grid and/or vehicle-to-vehicle technologies may be eligible for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation under technology categories 2 (end-use electrification) and/or 5 (advanced power electronics/power conditioning).

As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technologies categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed in Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible.

1. **Question:** Would combined heat and power technology community demonstration projects utilizing renewable fuels be eligible under this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** Combined heat and power (CHP) technology community demonstration projects utilizing renewable fuels could be eligible for the BRIDGE 2024 solicitation. However, the project must provide tangible benefits to California investor-owned electric utility ratepayers. Also, note that fossil fuel CHP systems are not supported as part of the EPIC program.

As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technologies categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible.

Technology demonstration projects are eligible if they involve the installation and operation of pre-commercial technologies or strategies at a scale sufficiently large and in conditions sufficiently reflective of anticipated actual operating environments to enable appraisal of operational and performance characteristics and of financial risks. The CEC encourages all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible to apply.

1. **Question:** Is a project with an internal combustion engine eligible for this solicitation? Is a project that includes an internal combustion engine operating on hydrogen and methane blends eligible for this solicitation? Is a project that includes an internal combustion engine operating on carbon neutral fuels, such as Biomethane and Biopropane eligible for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE**: Technologies that use any form of fossil fuel, even blended with hydrogen, are not eligible for this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Can a BRIDGE 2024 application be based on an existing CEC-awarded Hydrogen Blending and Lower Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions in Gas-Fired Generation (HyBLOX) project?

**RESPONSE:** Technologies that use any form of fossil fuel, even blended with hydrogen, are not eligible for this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Are the following items allowed to be included in a proposed budget for this solicitation: (a) the cost of hydrogen and methane blends; (b) the cost of green hydrogen generation hardware, and hydrogen and methane blending hardware at a demonstration site; (c) the cost of Biomethane and Biopropane?

**RESPONSE:** Technologies that use any form of fossil fuel, even blended with hydrogen, are not eligible for this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Can BRIDGE 2024 funds be spent in testing and certification, such as for sending a micro-CHP system to a third-party for further low emissions validation and for preparation for California Air Resources Board (CARB) prime-power DG certification?

**RESPONSE:** Yes,testing and certification costs can be part of an applicant’s technology transfer plan (Refer to the Scope of Work (Attachment 4) for more details on technology transfer eligible activities). The applicant should discuss in their proposal how this will lead to commercialization of their technology.

Please note that fossil fuel CHP systems are not supported as part of the EPIC program.

1. **QUESTION:** Can a BRIDGE 2024 application be based on DOE’s ARPA-E GENSETS program to commercialize a micro-CHP system that includes an internal combustion engine hybridized with a battery and PV that operates on methane with an overall efficiency exceeding 65% and CARB DG prime power generation NOx, CO, and VOCs compliance?

**RESPONSE:** Fossil fuel CHP systems are not supported as part of the EPIC program.

1. **Question:** Would a Kit of Parts Solution be an eligible project for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** The applicant must demonstrate in the proposal how their technology fits within one of the eligible technology topics. More importantly, applicants need to be able to articulate in their proposal how the proposed technology will provide benefits to electric ratepayers in California’s investor-owned utility service territories.

As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Technologies under this solicitation must fall within one or more of the eligible technologies categories shown in Table 1 of Section I.C. of the BRIDGE 2024 Solicitation Manual. The technology examples listed in Table 1 are not meant to be exhaustive, and technologies that fall within an eligible technology category but are not explicitly listed as an example are still allowed. We encourage all applicants to carefully review the Solicitation Manual and decide whether their technology is eligible.

1. **Question:** We are developing autonomous, battery electric rail cars to catalyze modal shift of freight shipments from trucking to rail. We have previously received an ARPA-E OPEN grant to facilitate development of our vehicle and train control systems. We believe a grant from the CEC would help us advance our charging system, a key piece of our technology that poses a unique opportunity to dynamically leverage California’s freight in support of a grid increasingly relying on renewables. This would likely include initial construction and demonstration of bidirectional charging technology for rail environments, demonstrating a “kinetic” charging concept where grouped vehicles charge each other through regenerative braking, and analysis demonstrating how a fleet of these vehicles could serve in demand response, energy storage, and/or as a virtual power plant with minimalimpact to the freight network.
   1. We believe this project most closely aligns with category 2, and has secondary impacts in category 1, category 3, and category 4. Would the CEC agree with this classification?

**RESPONSE:** As the applicant is more familiar with their proposed technology, it is ultimately the applicant’s responsibility to identify a primary technology category that best aligns with their technology. Applicants may include a list of other applicable technology categories. The CEC may modify the applicant’s primary technology category at their sole discretion.

* 1. This technology has the opportunity to remove obstacles associated with achieving California’s statutory energy goals per Senate Bill 100 (2018) by improving flexibility & efficiency of some of the larger loads on California's grid. Would you recommend also discussing how our technology helps California meet executive order N-79-20 (2020), even though it is not a statutory energy goal?

**RESPONSE:** TheBRIDGE 2024 solicitation addresses multiple energy goals, laws, regulations, and policies (refer to Section I.J.). While Executive order N-79-20 is not outlined in the Solicitation Manual, the applicant can include it in the discussion in their proposal to address the relevant state policies and/or regulations to this solicitation.

Refer to Section IV.F. (Scoring Criteria) for more information.

* 1. For our reference, would it be possible to see applications from recipients of the 2020 BRIDGE grant? We would be interested in applications with technologies most similar to ours.

**RESPONSE:** Refer to Question 3.

* 1. Our understanding is we are not required to generate IP under the agreement (i.e. in the case that we are maturing pre-existing IP). Is this correct?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, applicants are not required to generate new intellectual property for their technology under this solicitation. However, applicants are required to be a private entity with rights to the intellectual property being advanced under their proposed projects.

1. **Question:** Our understanding is that the grant recipient is required to pay the CEC a 1.5% royalty for sale of all IP generated as part of the grant for 10 years following the agreement. Is this only regarding sales that result in transfer of ownership (e.g. selling a title to a patent), or does this include licensing IP? This is only for IP generated as part of the project, correct?

**RESPONSE:** The EPIC Grant Standard Terms and Conditions defines “sale,” “sales,” and “sold” to mean the sale, license, lease, or other transfer of intellectual property. Therefore, licensing is included in the royalty payments to the Commission.

Yes, this applies only to IP generated under this solicitation award.

For more information refer to: [EPIC GRANT STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS (ca.gov)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/EPIC_Grant_Ex_C_Standard_General_TCs_ECAMS_compliant_2023-11-29_ada.pdf)

1. **Question:** Is our previous award from solicitations through a DOE transportation program eligible? We have a technology that we want to demonstrate in California, but we did not receive any EPIC funding for the technology previously. However, we are looking for funding to support a real-life demonstration.

**RESPONSE:** Yes, the U.S. Department of Energy is one of the eligible U.S. federal agencies that meets the Previous Public Funding requirements. Please refer to Section II.A.1. of the Solicitation Manual for a list of eligible agencies.

Please note that the prior award must have a contract execution date within five years of the BRIDGE 2024 application due date (November 22, 2024). Also, the core intellectual property must currently reside with the applicant, and the applicant must show that they can demonstrate a path forward for commercializing the technology in California.

# Funding Requirements

1. **Question:** Is there a minimum number required for demonstration sites to qualify for the Match Funding Waiver?

**RESPONSE**: Yes, to qualify for the Match Funding Waiver, applicants proposing Technology Demonstration and Deployment projects must propose **at least one demonstration** site that is in a disadvantaged and/or low-income community. Applicants must provide specific information on the demonstration site(s) using online tools that are provided in the Solicitation Manual, also provided here:

* For the demonstration site(s) address(es), use the first tool: [CalEPA Disadvantaged Communities Map](https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/ghginvest/) to provide the “Census Tract” number (e.g., 6067001101), the “CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile” number (e.g., 78.3), and the “Disadvantaged Communities Category” description (e.g., CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Top 25%).
* For the demonstration site(s) address(es), use the second tool: [California Climate Investments tool](https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=6b4b15f8c6514733972cabdda3108348) to provide the “Census Tract” number (e.g., 6067001101), and indicate whether or not the site(s) is in a “Low-income Community” and/or a “Disadvantaged Community” per CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (CES 4).

In addition, applicants proposing demonstration sites in a disadvantaged and/or low-income community must state that in the Project Narrative Form (Attachment 2) and provide the demonstration site(s) address(es).

Applicants must also provide a letter of commitment for the demonstration site(s) (Attachment 9). Refer to attachment 9 for instructions on what information to include in the letter.

1. **Question:** Does match funding that is to be spent out-of-state impact the CEC funds spent in California?

**RESPONSE**: No, the match funding expenditure does not impact the CEC funds spent in California.

Refer to Section I.L. for more information on definitions and examples of CEC funds spent in California. Projects that maximize CEC funds spent in California will receive more points. Refer to Section IV.F. Scoring Criterion #6 for more details.

1. **Question:** Does matching funding need to be spent exclusively in California?

**RESPONSE:** No, match funding does not need to be spent in California. For more details on match funding requirements and examples of preferred match share, refer to Section I.K. of the Solicitation Manual.

Match funds must be spent only during the agreement term, either before or concurrently with CEC funds or in accordance with an approved Match Fund Spending Plan. Spending of match funds also must be reported in invoices submitted to the CEC.

1. **Question:** We have received another grant to provide infrastructure funds for our first commercial project. That grant does not fund additional research we need to complete the commercial project. Will those funds be allowed for match share?

**RESPONSE:**Cash or in-kind match funds can include funding awards earned or received from other agencies for the proposed technology or study (but not work identical to that proposed under this solicitation). If funds from the previous grant are not a CEC award (i.e., from other agencies), then the funds can be used for match funding in this solicitation. The funds must be available to be spent during the term of the BRIDGE agreement to count as match.

Please note that Match funds do not include CEC awards, EPIC funds received from other sources, future/contingent awards from other entities (public or private), the cost or value of the project work site, or the cost or value of structures or other improvements affixed to the project work site permanently or for an indefinite period of time (e.g., photovoltaic systems).

For more information on match funding, refer to Section I.K. of the Solicitation Manual.

1. **Question:** Can equipment purchased using CEC funds under a previous grant be used as match funding for this solicitation?

**RESPONSE:** No, equipment purchased using previous CEC awards cannot be used for match funding for this solicitation.

1. **Question:** Are loans from a financial institution allowed to be used for match funding?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, eligible private investment sources include loans from a financial institution, angel investment, corporate strategic investment, foundation investment, and venture capital investments. Applicants may count private investments as match funding; however, a private investment counted as match funding must not be contingent on receiving a BRIDGE 2024 award, and the funds must be available to be spent during the term of the agreement.

Refer to the Section I.D.3. of the Solicitation Manual for further details on private investment requirements.

1. **Question:** We received a loan to manage cash flow for our first EPIC grant. Will those funds be allowed to count as our 25% match?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, but the loan must have been made within 24 months of the solicitation release date (July 24, 2024) to meet the private investment requirement. Those funds can also count toward match funding only if the funds are available to be spent during the term of the agreement. However, those funds cannot be counted as match for multiple CEC awards.

Note that applicants must submit commitment letters to declare the source and amount of funding to meet the requirements of both private investment funding and match funding. Refer to Attachment 9, Commitment and Support Letters, for more information.

1. **Question:** Can a bank loan be used to meet the private investment funding requirement for this solicitation? Is it acceptable to begin to pay that loan down before an award is received or the project begins?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, loans from financial institutions are eligible sources of private investment funding.

Applicants must provide proof, in the form of a commitment letter (see Attachment 9), that they have received private investment of at least 25% of the requested grant funds. The private investment must have been made within 24 months of the solicitation release date (July 24, 2024). Only the total private investment amount identified in the commitment letter(s) will be considered.

Applicants can potentially begin paying the loan down before an award, if the funds are used to meet the private investment funding requirements only. However, if the applicant chose to count the private investment funding as match funding, then the funds must be available to be spent during the agreement term (i.e., in this event, the applicant cannot pay the loan down).

Note that match funds must be spent only during the agreement term, either before or concurrently with CEC funds. Spending of match funds also must be reported in invoices submitted to the CEC.

1. **Question:** Are private investment funds contingent upon receiving a BRIDGE 2024 award acceptable for this solicitation? Are applications acceptable if the private investment funding was received after the solicitation release date?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, private investment contingent upon receiving a BRIDGE 2024 award, or received after the solicitation release date, is allowable; however, the applicant must furnish proof of receipt of the private investment before an award is approved at a Business Meeting. If an applicant is claiming private investment funds contingent upon receiving a BRIDGE award, then that funding **cannot** be claimed as match funding.

1. **Question:** Can clarification be provided, regarding this text on page 2, “The private investment must have been made within 24 months of the solicitation release date,” does that mean that private investment funds must have been received no earlier than 24 months before July 24, 2024, meaning no earlier than July 24, 2022?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, private investment must have been made within 24 months of the solicitation release date, which is July 24, 2024. This means that the private investment funds must have been made no earlier than July 24, 2022.

1. **Question:** Can an applicant use the private investment funds to meet the match requirements?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, applicants may count private investment as match funding; however, the private investment must not be contingent on receiving a BRIDGE 2024 award, and the funds must be available to be spent during the term of the agreement. In this case, the private funding would count toward both the 25% match requirement and the 25% private investment requirement.

Refer to Section I.D.3. of the Solicitation Manual for further details on requirements, including commitment letter requirements; also see Attachment 9 for what to include in commitment letters.

1. **Question:** Does the entire match funding required under this solicitation have to be available in cash at the start of the grant?

**RESPONSE:** Match funding is not required to be all cash – a combination of cash and in-kind match is accepted. Match funds must be available to be spent during the term of the BRIDGE agreement to count as match.

Commitment letters for both cash and in-kind match are required, and they must include a strategy for replacing the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost. For more details on match funding definitions, examples, and requirements, refer to Section I.K. of the Solicitation Manual.

1. **Question:** Is there a retention of funds being reimbursed?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, the CEC shall retain 10 percent of any payment request or 10 percent of the total CEC award at the end of the Agreement. For more details on retention, refer to Section 8.m. of the EPIC Grant Standard Terms and Conditions:

[EPIC GRANT STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS (ca.gov)](https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/EPIC_Grant_Ex_C_Standard_General_TCs_ECAMS_compliant_2023-11-29_ada.pdf)

1. **Question:** What does a “strategic corporate investment” mean; is it an investment from an external entity or can it be an internal investment?

**RESPONSE:** Strategic corporate investment refers to an investment made by an external individual or company with the goal of gaining strategic advantages from the partnership. Examples of strategic investment include, but are not limited to, buying equity, partnerships, mergers, and acquisitions.