**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.

# **General/Administrative/Technical**

1. Seeking clarification on eligibility. “The applications to the INDIGO Program are open to existing industrial facilities located in California and to utilities, equipment manufacturers, energy service providers, aggregators, and developers who are implementing cutting-edge, emerging technologies in California industries. The applicant may include multiple industrial facilities located in California in one application.” As such, are non for profit organizations not eligible as a prime for this solicitation?

**CEC:**  Non-profit organizations are eligible to act as a prime recipient for this solicitation.

1. I registered for BRIDGE - and was interested in helping out the awardees from the first round of INDIGO with temporary power - we manage and lease microgrids on a monthly basis for industrial clients who have issues getting connected to the grid. I wanted to see if we would need to find a partner for round 2 or if we might be able to provide our services to any of the awardees from round 1 - and if leases on energy equipment are eligible expenses.

**CEC:** For collaboration with awardees from INDIGO Round 1, you would have to reach out to them directly to offer your services. For collaboration with applicants to INDIGO Round 2, you can use the Find a Partner feature on Empower Innovation under GFO-23-313. Please see the tutorial for using Empower Innovation found in the recording of the pre-application workshop to GFO-23-313:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2024-04/pre-application-workshop-gfo-23-313-deployment-decarbonization>

Empower Innovation GFO-23-313 website:

<https://www.empowerinnovation.net/en/custom/funding/view/42722>.

Please note: the most up-to-date funding information for GFO-23-313 is available on the GFO website, Solicitation Manual Addendum 04:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-09/gfo-23-313-deployment-decarbonization-technologies-and-strategies-california>.

1. Is this second round open now for proposal submission?

**CEC:**  Yes, INDIGO Round 2 opened for proposals on September 12, 2024. The submission deadline is December 20, 2024, by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time.

1. Are National Laboratories eligible for funding?

**CEC:**  National laboratories may be eligible for funding from GFO-23-313 as long as they accept the INDIGO Grant Terms and Conditions: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources>.

1. On the Funds spent in California section, it seems to me the funding opportunity is solely focused on California applicant’s entities? Please help me understanding this, an industry partner based in California would work then for the proposal?

**CEC:**  This solicitation is focused on deployment/demonstration of decarbonization projects at existing industrial facilities in California. Technologies that are sourced from vendors based outside California but demonstrated at an existing industrial facility in California are eligible. The “Funds Spent in California” Section I.L. of the solicitation manual describes how the CEC defines what portion of the budget can be counted as funds spent in California, which will affect how many points a proposal is eligible for, per scoring criterion 7.

1. Do the cost share match’s funds need to be a California partner/industry? Those match funds are at least 25%, right?

**CEC:**  The minimum match funding requirement is 25% of CEC funds requested. There is no requirement regarding the source of the match funds being a California-based industry/partner.

1. We are an equipment vendor with two site owners who wish to use our battery energy storage system (BESS) in their grant applications. Can the two site owners be eligible to send their applications for their specific projects, but they each add our product to their material list? The two applicants will not share the BESS; they will have their own. I would like to know if we can be listed as a vendor in each application without either project being ineligible.

**CEC:**  You may participate as a vendor on two separate proposals with distinct Scopes of Work. If the vendor has a decision-making role in developing a custom-designed piece of equipment and requires a budget over $100,000, it should be classified as a sub-recipient and must submit a separate budget.