



Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0003098

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0003099

The Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC) intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 40207(b) Battery Materials Processing and 40207(c) Battery Manufacturing Grants Round II”. Projects awarded under this FOA will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy through enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the world, creating good jobs, and ensuring stronger access to economic and other benefits for disadvantaged communities. The BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) to deliver a more equitable clean energy future for the American people by investing in American manufacturing and workers; expanding access to energy efficiency and clean energy for families, communities, and businesses; delivering reliable, clean and affordable power to more Americans; and building the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

The BIL will invest more than \$7 billion in the batteries supply chain over the five-year period encompassing fiscal years (FYs) 2022 through 2026. This includes sustainable sourcing of critical minerals from secondary and unconventional sources, reducing the need for new extraction and mining; sustainable processing of critical minerals; and the end-of-life battery collection and recycling.

1. Policy Priorities

The activities to be funded under this FOA support BIL Sections 40207 (b) & (c) and the broader government-wide approach to upgrading and modernizing infrastructure, including by strengthening critical domestic manufacturing and supply chains to maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition as the nation works to curb the climate crisis and advance environmental justice. These BIL Sections are focused on:

Growing domestic industry and supporting manufacturing workers

It is a priority of the Administration to retain and increase good-paying jobs across the entire battery supply chain, including mineral processing, battery manufacturing for vehicles and storage, and recycling.

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- Retaining good-paying union jobs in the manufacturing workforce;
- Creating new, good-paying jobs, where workers are properly classified as employees, free from discrimination and harassment, with a free and fair choice to join, form, or assist a union;
- Investing in communities that have historically contributed to U.S. manufacturing output and/or have experienced deindustrialization. The restoration or retooling of industrial assets can have positive returns to the local economy and the Administration's goal of building resilient supply chains;
- Supporting inclusive and supportive workforce development efforts to strengthen America's competitive advantage based on innovation, efficiency, and a skilled and diverse workforce up and down the supply chain;
- Ensuring that the United States has a viable battery materials processing industry to supply the North American battery supply chain;
- Expanding the capabilities of the United States in advanced battery manufacturing;
- Enhancing national security by reducing the reliance of the United States on critical minerals, battery materials, components, and technologies from foreign entities of concern.
- Enhancing the domestic processing capacity of minerals necessary for battery materials and advanced batteries; and
- Ensuring that the United States has a viable domestic manufacturing and recycling capability to support and sustain a North American battery supply chain.

In awarding grants to entities under the program, Foreign Entities of Concern (FEOCs) are not eligible. In addition, DOE will give priority to applicants that (1) will not use battery material supplied by or originating from a FEOC, and (2) will not export recovered critical materials to a FEOC. The Department intends to issue draft guidance on the definition of a FEOC, prior to the issuance of any FOA under this NOI and intends to issue final guidance prior to making selections.

Promoting equity and environmental justice

As part of the whole-of-government approach to advance equity across the Federal Government, and in alignment with sections 40207 (b) & (c), this FOA and any related activities will seek to encourage meaningful engagement and participation of underserved communities and underrepresented groups including Tribes.

- Consistent with Executive Order 14008, the FOA will be designed to support the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to underserved and overburdened communities (in accordance with the Justice40 Initiative).
- Pursuant to BIL Section 40207(b), the Department will take into consideration whether projects selected under the FOA: provide workforce opportunities in low- and

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moderate-income communities; encourage partnership with universities and laboratories to spur innovation and drive down costs; partner with Tribes; and take into account greenhouse gas emissions reductions and energy efficient battery material processing opportunities throughout the manufacturing process and supply chain logistics.

- Pursuant to BIL Section 40207(c), DOE also construes congressional prioritization of projects that: provide workforce opportunities to low and moderate income communities; provide workforce opportunities in communities that have lost jobs due to the displacements of fossil energy jobs to include those related to internal combustion engines (ICEs or ICE vehicles); encourages partnership with universities and laboratories to spur innovation and drive down costs; partners with Tribes; and takes into account greenhouse gas emissions reductions and energy efficient battery material processing opportunities throughout the manufacturing process and supply chain logistics.

2. Opportunity Details

The high-capacity battery supply chain consists of five main steps including: 1) raw material production, 2) materials processing including material refinement and processing, 3) battery material manufacturing and cell fabrication, 4) battery pack and end use product manufacturing, and 5) battery end-of-life and recycling.

It is anticipated that the FOA would increase domestic battery manufacturing and create good-paying clean energy jobs. The overall FOA scope includes commercial facilities for battery-grade precursor materials, constituent materials, battery components, and cell manufacturing and recycling. Applicants should consider and identify potential downstream domestic customers of their material or product.

It is anticipated that the FOA may include the following Topic Areas:

Topic Areas	Title
1	Commercial-scale Lithium Separation from Domestic Sources
2	Commercial-scale Separation, Processing, and Recovery of Battery Critical Minerals (non-Lithium)
3	Commercial-scale Domestic Processing of Crucial Precursor Materials for Battery Manufacturing
4	Commercial-scale Domestic Production of Battery Cathode/ Anode Materials and Cathode/ Anode Electrodes

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5	Commercial-scale Domestic Production of Electrolyte Salts and Electrolyte Solvents
6	Commercial-scale Domestic Production of Cell Manufacturing for Small and Specialized Markets
7	Commercial-scale Domestic Production of Non-Lithium Based Battery Cell and Systems
8	Commercial-scale Domestic Manufacturing of Other Cell Components (Open Topic)

Estimated Funding

MESC expects to make a total of approximately \$3.5 billion of federal funding available for new awards under this FOA, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. MESC anticipates making approximately 19-41 awards in the form of grants under this FOA. MESC may issue one, multiple, or no awards. Individual awards may vary between \$50,000,000 and \$300,000,000. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 24-60 months.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the MESC’s intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. MESC will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, MESC will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

MESC plans to issue the FOA on or about October 2023 via the Infrastructure Exchange (<https://Infrastructure-Exchange.energy.gov>). If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from MESC regarding this FOA, they should register in Infrastructure Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through Infrastructure Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in Infrastructure Exchange (<https://Infrastructure-Exchange.energy.gov>). This account will allow the user to apply to any open MESC FOAs that are currently in Infrastructure Exchange.

It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Questions related to the registration process and use of the Infrastructure Exchange website should be submitted to: InfrastructureExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM

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registration annually. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through Infrastructure Exchange.

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