

addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Patrick J. Sherrill,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Type of Review: New.

Title: Year 2000 Assessment Survey of K-12 School Districts.

Frequency: As required by OMB, The President's Council on Year 2000 conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: Responses: 2,884.

Burden Hours: 18,746.

Abstract: ED is actively participating on the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and this Year 2000 Assessment Survey is a departmental, as well as, a Council initiative. ED is taking a proactive approach in requesting elementary and secondary schools report on their Year 2000 readiness. ED needs to survey the progress of our nation's elementary and secondary schools in order to ensure the successful operation of its programs and to report to OMB. The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Additional Information: Given the impending time constraints on achieving Year 2000 compliance, ED is requesting an emergency review of the attached survey. Reporting on a 60-day or 30-day Federal Register notice would not give ED enough time to assist local education agencies with corrective action via education and awareness of Year 2000 issues.

Due to the critical nature of the survey and the time constraints for meeting Year 2000 compliance, ED will require respondents to complete the electronic survey in less than 30-days from the time of receipt. The estimated survey launch date will be March 19, 1999 and the estimated survey completion date will be April 9, 1999.

Frequency: As required by OMB, The President's Council on Year 2000 conversion and other Year 2000 oversight authorities.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden: Responses: 2,884.

Burden Hours: 18,746.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.116D]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Congressional Priorities for Postsecondary Education Notice of Final Priorities and Invitation for Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999

Purpose of Program: To implement the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999, as enacted in the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, Public Law 105-277. The law requires that \$9.5 million of the funds allocated to Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act be used to conduct a grant competition consistent with the subject areas outlined in the House Report 105-635, p. 188, Senate Report 105-300, pp. 241-243, and House Report 105-825, pp. 384, 1304-1305. Further, the law states that the competition be conducted in a manner consistent with current departmental practices and policies.

The Secretary funds only projects that focus on the subject areas contained in the House and Senate appropriations reports and the statement of the managers, as summarized in the absolute priorities section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The priorities in this notice take effect April 15, 1999.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education, other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies, or combinations of those institutions or agencies.

Requested Deadline for Receipt of Statements of Intent to Apply: April 16, 1999.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 30, 1999.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 29, 1999.

Applications Available: March 16, 1999.

Available Funds: \$9,500,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000 to \$1,500,000.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, and 86.

Absolute Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and P.L. 105-277, the Secretary gives absolute preference to applications that meet one or more of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet one or more of these absolute priorities.

Absolute Priority 1—Demonstration programs to encourage underrepresented groups, such as women and minorities, to enter careers in technology and business.

Absolute Priority 2—A project to endow a Contracts Chair-of-Excellence program to be administered in cooperation with a consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions with environmental science and engineering capabilities.

Absolute Priority 3—Demonstration programs to establish a state-of-the-art science and technology program that will explore the application of novel electronic materials that are used in the development of high temperature supercomputers.

Absolute Priority 4—Enhanced distance education and teacher-training activities.

Absolute Priority 5—Applications for conversion of library catalogs to electronic format.

Absolute Priority 6—For assistance with critical infrastructure needs, such as fiberoptic cabling, hardware, and communications equipment, and classroom renovations, in conjunction with a program specifically tailored to the needs of students with part-time employment with a goal of fully preparing participants for the skilled job opportunities of the future.

Absolute Priority 7—To support a university-based advanced mathematics teacher-student training program.

Absolute Priority 8—To establish off-campus and community-based delivery of educational programs and services to improve rural access.

Absolute Priority 9—To improve the skills of physical science teachers.

Absolute Priority 10—For an inter- and intravideo conferencing project.

Absolute Priority 11—For a demonstration project that establishes a center for technical education to serve young people who do not intend to go on to college.

Absolute Priority 12—To support innovative approaches to connecting community colleges to four-year institutions through a cooperative

curriculum, shared student services, and faculty collaborations.

Absolute Priority 13—A project of interinstitutional efforts dedicated to improving the scientific expertise and interest of undergraduate students.

Absolute Priority 14—Educational programs to train students for careers in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, the Secretary uses selection criteria chosen from the general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR. Under 34 CFR 75.201 of EDGAR, the Secretary announces in the application package the selection criteria and factors, if any, for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR

APPLICATIONS: The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: (202) 358-3041 to order applications; or (202) 708-5750, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, for information. Individuals may also request applications by submitting the name of the competition, their name, and postal mailing address to the e-mail address fipse@ed.gov. Individuals may obtain the application text from the Internet address <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/>.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact office listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that office. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

Anyone may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or portable document format (pdf) via the Internet at either of the following sites:
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To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S. Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1530 or, toll free, at 1-888-293-6498.

Anyone may also view these documents in text copy only on an electronic bulletin board of the Department. Telephone: (202) 219-1511 or, toll free, 1-800-222-4922. The documents are located under Option G—Files/Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases.

Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138-1128b and Public Law 105-277.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 99-6484 Filed 3-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nevada Operations Office; Notice of Solicitation for Research and Development of a Hydrogen Reformer, Fuel Cell Generator, and Vehicle Refueling System

AGENCY: Nevada Operations Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a research cooperative agreement solicitation for a Hydrogen Reformer, Fuel Cell Generator, and Vehicle Refueling System.

SUMMARY: The Nevada Operations Office of the Department of Energy plans to electronically issue a Financial Assistance solicitation for the cost-shared development and validation of an integrated reformer technology, 50 kW proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell electrical generating system and vehicle refueling system under Solicitation Number DE-SC08-99NV13578. Through this solicitation, the awardee will provide a 50kW fuel cell system, a reformer for hydrogen production, and a vehicle refueling facility. The vehicle refueling system will be multipurpose and capable of dispensing hydrogen, hydrogen enriched natural gas, and compressed natural gas (CNG).

DATES: All applications for Solicitation Number DE-SC08-99NV13578 should be received according to the solicitation's Due Date for Applications.

This solicitation is expected to be released electronically on or about March 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, Contracts Management Division, ATTN: Darby A. Dieterich, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All questions should be addressed to Darby A. Dieterich, Contracts Management Division, at (702) 295-1560 or via E-mail at dieterich@nv.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of the solicitation will be accessible via Internet at: <http://www.nv.doe.gov/business/procurement/solicit.htm>. There will be no printed or hard copies of the solicitation mailed. If you do not have access to the Internet, there is a public reading room available for viewing the document at DOE/NV's facility in North Las Vegas, Nevada. Additionally, most public libraries have resources available to electronically access and download the solicitation. **CAUTION:** This solicitation will be issued electronically as well as any amendments thereto. Because of this, the Government is under no obligation and is in fact unable to maintain a COMPLETE bidders mailing list. It is therefore incumbent upon interested parties to periodically access the above Internet address in order to obtain any amendments which may be issued. Failure to obtain any said amendments and to respond to them prior to the date and time set for receipt of applications may render your application nonresponsive and result in rejection of same. This solicitation is being conducted under the authority of Section 2026 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, and Title I, Section 103 of the Hydrogen Futures Act of 1996, Public Law 104-271. As a result, cost sharing requirements will be at least 50 percent of the total estimated cost of the project. In addition, it is a requirement for the awardee to be a United States-owned entity or that the foreign country in which the parent company is located meets certain conditions of reciprocity in the treatment of investments, access to research and development programs, and protection of intellectual property. The economic benefits of co-generation of hydrogen and electricity (from stationary fuel cells) has been studied by Directed Technologies, Inc. A synopsis of this evaluation can be obtained via the Internet at www.directedtechnologies.com. The period of performance for this action may be up to five years with total