

connected natural fracture network is the exception, rather than the rule. These factors indicate that improved recovery technology and reduced costs associated with completion will increase recovery from this vital resource.

Although the high ultimate recovery from wells associated with large natural fractures systems are the exception, these wells can produce 5–10 Bcf. However, these wells often have problems associated with high water production because the natural fracture system connects to overlying or underlying water zones or because they are associated with a fault(s) that provides a pathway for large water influx.

Applications will be accepted for research and development (R&D) in two major areas: (1) Improved completion technology; and (2) identification/remediation of high water production problems from basin-centered gas plays. Priority basins and plays in which the R&D shall be conducted will be identified from previous United States Geological Survey, NPC and NETL studies, but will more than likely include: Greater Green River, Wind River, Anadarko, Permian, San Juan, Piceance, Uinta, Arkla-E.Texas.

Increasing reserves per well with better completion technology or reducing the cost to complete a well will vastly improve the recovery from marginally economic wells. Applications for improved completions can include (but will not be limited to): Cementing, downhole separation/reinjection, stimulation techniques, e.g., comparable fluids, composite fracturing plugs/baffles, and zonal isolation, improved identification of most productive intervals, tubulars (CO₂/H₂S), multi-lateral horizontal wells, and multiple stimulations from a horizontal well. By identifying the sources and mechanisms of high water production, industry can avoid these areas or complete the reservoir in a way that reduces or eliminates excessive water production. Applications for identification of high water production problems from basin-centered gas plays can include: Regional hydrologic study, water sampling and analysis, new/improved geophysical well log processing, and improved downhole fluid identification.

DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (Cooperative Agreement) awards. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards will be made. Multiple awards are anticipated.

Approximately \$2 million of DOE funding is planned over a 3 year period for this solicitation. National Laboratories may participate as team members; however, they may not act as the prime awardee and total funding to the Laboratory must not exceed 10% of the total project cost. If a project which includes National Laboratory participation is approved for funding, DOE intends to make an award to the applicant for its portion of the effort and to provide direct funding for the National Laboratories portion of the effort as a Field Work Proposal (FWP). DOE has determined that a minimum cost share of 20 percent of the total project cost is required for this solicitation. Details of the cost sharing requirement and the specific funding levels will be contained in the solicitation. The anticipated period of performance of the projects will range in duration from 24 months to 36 months.

Prospective applicants who would like to be notified as soon as the solicitation is available should register at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>. Provide your E-mail address and click on the "Oil & Gas" technology choice located under the heading "Fossil Energy." Once you subscribe, you will receive an announcement by E-mail that the solicitation has been released to the public. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on March 7, 2001.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Deputy Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 01-7748 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 01-24: Theoretical Research in Plasma and Fusion Science

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting new and renewal grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

announces its interest in receiving grant applications for theoretical research in magnetic fusion energy sciences. All individuals or groups planning to submit applications for new or renewal funding in FY 2002, should submit in response to this Notice.

The specific areas of interest are:

1. Magnetohydrodynamics and Stability,
2. Confinement and Transport,
3. Edge and Divertor Physics,
4. Plasma Heating and Non-inductive Current Drive,
5. Innovative Confinement Concepts,
6. Atomic and Molecular Processes in Plasmas.

More specific information on each area of interest is outlined in the general and program specific supplementary information section below. OFES may also solicit proposals from time to time under separate announcements of Initiatives to support coordinated, goal-directed community efforts. The Initiatives will be funded to achieve specific programmatic and scientific aims and will be subject to requirements that are different from those of this notice. Such grants, if funded, will be subject to periodic reviews of progress.

Due to the limited availability of funds, Principal Investigators with continuing grants may not submit a new application in the same area(s) of interest as their current grant(s). A Principal Investigator may submit only one application under each area of interest as listed above.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for awards in Fiscal Year 2002, applications submitted in response to this notice must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., June 14, 2001. Electronic submissions of formal applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are requested to submit a letter-of-intent by May 17, 2001, which includes the title of the application, the name of the Principal Investigator(s), the requested funding and a one-page abstract. These letters-of-intent will be used to organize and expedite review processes. Failure to submit a letter-of-intent will not negatively prejudice a responsive formal application submitted in a timely fashion. Electronic submissions of letters-of-intent are acceptable.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications referencing Program Notice 01-24, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 01-24. The above address must also be used when submitting

applications by U.S. Postal Service Express or any other commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

Letters-of-intent referencing Program Notice 01-24, should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, SC-50, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, ATTN: John Sauter. Letters-of-intent can also be submitted via E-mail at the following E-mail address: john.sauter@science.doe.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. Specific contacts for each area of interest, along with telephone numbers and Internet addresses, are listed below:

Magnetohydrodynamics and Stability: Rostom Dagazian, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4926, or by Internet address,

rostom.dagazian@science.doe.gov.

Confinement and Transport: Curt Bolton, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4914, or by Internet address,

curt.bolton@science.doe.gov.

Edge and Divertor Physics: Walter Sadowski, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4678, or by Internet address,

walt.sadowski@science.doe.gov.

Plasma Heating and Non-inductive Current Drive: Walter Sadowski, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4678, or by Internet address,

walt.sadowski@science.doe.gov.

Innovative Confinement Concepts: Steve Eckstrand, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-5546, or by Internet address,

steve.eckstrand@science.doe.gov.

Atomic and Molecular Processes in Plasmas: Mike Crisp, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4883, or by Internet address,

michael.crisp@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the Application Guide for the Office of Science (SC) Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Guide and required forms is possible via the Internet using the following Web site address: <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no

obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application if an award is not made.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that about \$4,000,000 of Fiscal Year 2002, funding will be available to fund new work or renewals of existing work from applications received in response to this Notice. The number of awards and range of funding will depend on the number of applications received and selected for award. Since future year funding is not anticipated to increase, applications should propose constant effort in future years (allowing for inflation). Future year funding will depend upon suitable progress and the availability of funds. The cost-effectiveness of the application will be considered when comparing applications with differing funding requirements. Applications requiring annual funding as low as \$50,000 are welcomed and encouraged.

Collaborative research projects involving more than one institution, as well as basic work in support of the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing initiative, are encouraged. Applications submitted from different institutions, which are directed at a common research activity, should clearly indicate they are part of a proposed collaboration and contain a brief description of the overall research project. However, each application must have a distinct scope of work and a qualified principal investigator, who is responsible for the research effort being performed at his or her institution. Synergistic collaborations with researchers in federal laboratories and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), including the DOE National Laboratories are also encouraged, though no funds will be provided to these organizations under this Notice. Further information on preparation of collaborative applications may be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/Colab.html>.

Since we expect that reviewers will be asked to review several applications, those applications from individual PIs or small groups (1-4 people) should be limited to a maximum of twenty (20) pages (including text and figures), while applications from theory groups should be limited to thirty (30) pages. A few selected publications may be included in an Appendix as background information. In addition, please limit biographical and publication information for the principal investigator and senior personnel to no

more than one page each. A minimum of a signed original and seven copies of each application must be submitted as stated in the Application Guide.

However, due to anticipated number of reviewers, each applicant is requested to submit twelve (12) copies of his/her application. In addition, each principal investigator should provide an e-mail address.

In addition to the information required by 10 CFR part 605 each application should contain the following items: (1) A succinct statement of the goal of the research, (2) a detailed research plan, (3) the specific results expected at the end of the project period, (4) an analysis of the adequacy of the budget, and (5) a discussion of the impact of the proposed research on other fields of science.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR part 605 (www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/605index.html):

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project,
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach,
3. Competency of the applicant's personnel and adequacy of the proposed resources,
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

Proposals from theory groups will also be rated on the synergy of the group and the management of the group. With respect to synergy, the criteria are: (1) clear evidence of collaborative work and (2) the extent to which the group addresses difficult problems requiring a team effort. With respect to management the criteria are: (1) clear evidence of scientific leadership and (2) the extent to which the management evaluates the relevance and scientific impact of the group's work.

The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences shall also consider, as part of the evaluation, other available advice or information as well as program policy factors such as ensuring an appropriate balance among the program areas and within the program areas, ensuring support for computational teams, ensuring support for experiments, and quality of previous performance. Selection of applications/proposals for award will be based upon the findings of the technical evaluations, the importance and relevance of the proposed research to the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences' mission, and funding availability.

Program Specific Supplementary Information*Magnetohydrodynamics and Stability*

Grant applications are solicited for new research or continuation of past efforts in MHD theory in support of work on magnetically confined fusion plasmas. Current work includes advanced tokamak (AT), innovative confinement concepts (ICC), burning plasma physics and steady state high beta plasma issues. Additional work is particularly needed in the areas of nonlinear MHD, neoclassical tearing modes, extended MHD (including flows and various non-ideal MHD effects), and resistive wall modes. Both analytical and computational approaches will be considered. Finally, basic work in support of the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing initiative that involves the development of large-scale codes to explore non-linear MHD will also be considered.

Confinement and Transport:

Applications will be considered in the area of confinement and transport in plasmas. This area covers plasma turbulence, energy, particle, momentum and radiation transport in the core of the plasma. The work of interest includes work in support of tokamak as well as non-tokamak innovative concepts. Topics of interest include among others, electromagnetic effects on turbulence, shear flow generation and its impacts on transport, and understanding of the role of collisions in turbulent plasmas. Both analytical and computational work is of interest. Basic work in support of the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing initiative that involves the development of large-scale codes to explore turbulence will also be considered.

Edge and Divertor Physics

Applications will be considered in the area of edge physics theory. This area covers plasma turbulence, energy, particle and radiation transport in the edge of the plasma and in the neighborhood of the separatrix. The work of interest includes neutrals transport in divertors and plasma edge region, atomic physics processes affecting temperature, radiation and flame front propagation in divertors. Both analytical and numerical models are of interest. Techniques and algorithms for modeling fast particles in the edge region as well as adaptive grid methods and their application to modeling of plasma turbulence and transport in the edge region will be considered.

Plasma Heating and Non-Inductive Current Drive

Applications will be considered in the area of RF physics in plasmas. This includes RF propagation, heating and current drive. Of interest are both analytical and numerical treatments of interaction of plasmas with radio frequency waves. These include electron cyclotron, ion cyclotron, lower hybrid and Bernstein waves. Topics of interest include, among others, physical processes involved in conversion layers, power deposition for temperature profile control and interaction of waves of different frequencies to produce specific effects on the plasma. Applications for modeling radio frequency launchers and their coupling to the edge plasma will also be considered.

Innovative Confinement Concepts

Grant applications are desired for theoretical and computational research on innovative confinement concepts that have the possibility of leading to improved magnetic fusion systems. In 1996, the U.S. fusion program began supporting a broadening array of innovative confinement concepts (ICC). Increased theoretical and computational research is needed to make optimal use of these experiments as they come into operation and to support further development of these concepts. Additional work is needed particularly on macroscopic stability and turbulence/transport in innovative confinement concepts.

Atomic and Molecular Processes in Plasmas

Grant applications will be considered for theoretical research relevant to the description of atomic processes in plasmas. In addition to overall scientific merit, emphasis will be given to work that promises to aid the understanding of the basic atomic processes that are important for modeling of magnetically confined plasmas and high-density plasmas found in inertial confinement fusion experiments. The program has found understanding electron-atom and electron-ion collisions and the radiation emitted by atoms and ions to be of importance for the modeling of plasma behavior in experiments. Some current areas where atomic processes are considered to be important include the effects of transport, the effects of impurities and the understanding of diagnostics.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 22, 2001.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 01-7749 Filed 3-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Monday, April 23, 2001; 1 p.m.–9 p.m.; Tuesday, April 24, 2001; 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: North Augusta Community Center, 101 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerri Flemming, Science Technology & Management Division, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC, 29802; Phone: (803) 725-5374.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

Monday, April 23, 2001

1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Training Session—Basics of Radiation, Risk, Waste Definitions, and Environmental Laws and Regulations
5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Dinner Break
6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Public comment session
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Committee meetings
9:00 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

8:30 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Approval of minutes; Agency updates; Public Comment Session; Facilitator Update
9:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Waste Management Committee Report
12:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch Break
11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Strategic and Long-Term Issues, Public Comments
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Strategic and Long-Term Issues Committee