

**DOCKETED**

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# **DRAFT SOLICITATION CONCEPT**

## **Clean Transportation Program**

### **Subject Area: Interoperability Testing Events**

***No proposals are being accepted at this time.*** This is a draft compilation of solicitation concepts. Do not design or submit proposals according to this DRAFT. The actual solicitation is subject to change.

Staff will take comments and questions submitted to the docket, by phone or by email prior to the workshops. Comments on this DRAFT will be discussed at the Scoping Workshop on January 19, 2021. Comments are due by Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Dockets Unit. (See Section 11 of this document, and the Notice of Staff Workshop, for additional details on how to comment.)



<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html>

State of California  
California Energy Commission  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

This “draft solicitation concept” document details the concept under consideration for a competitive request for proposals (RFP) to be issued by the CEC’s Clean Transportation Program. The purpose of this solicitation is to fund approximately three annual Interoperability Testing Events located in California. These annual events will support interoperability of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) for all on-road vehicle sectors.

The draft solicitation concept follows:

**1. AVAILABLE FUNDING**

There is \$1 million available for the contract resulting from this RFP. This is an hourly rate plus cost reimbursement contract.

**2. MAXIMUM AWARD**

The maximum award will be up to \$1 million for one award. The CEC reserves the right to modify this funding amount.

**3. NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS**

Each applicant may only submit one application.

**4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

This is an open solicitation for public and private entities.

Each agreement resulting from this solicitation includes terms and conditions that set forth the Contractor’s rights and responsibilities. Private sector entities must agree to use the attached standard terms and conditions (Attachment 8). The University of California, California State University or U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories must use either the standard or the pre-negotiated terms and conditions located at: ([DGS Lab Terms](#)). The Energy Commission will not award agreements to non-complying entities. The Energy Commission reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing agreements.

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 Energy Commission Business Meeting. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, bidders are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project(s) (should the application be successful). For more information, contact the Secretary of State’s Office at [SOS Website](#). Sole proprietors using a fictitious business name must be registered with the appropriate county and

provide evidence of registration to the Energy Commission prior to their project being recommended for approval at an Energy Commission Business Meeting.

## **5. PROJECT GOALS AND VISION**

This section serves to provide more context and background on:

- The CEC's goals for these events
- How the CEC envisions these events operating
- What a successful event may look like
- What may be expected of applicants to provide in their applications

This section is not meant to identify specific tasks and deliverables that will be included in the Scope of Work of the final RFP.

For California to achieve its transportation electrification goals, including 100 percent of passenger vehicle sales to be zero-emission by 2035, the industry must continue moving towards interoperability, where vehicles, chargers, and software systems work together, without special knowledge or effort by the user. The market is still nascent, and there are several competing standards for hardware and software. Furthermore, new products are rapidly entering the market, posing a challenge for interoperability. The contract resulting from this RFP will address this market need by providing approximately three annual Interoperability Testing Events to ensure charging hardware and software work as intended, and the various combinations of chargers and vehicles entering the marketplace are compatible.

These events are meant to convene key electric vehicle (EV) stakeholders to conduct informal interoperability tests, develop and finalize products, conduct implementation testing and test tool development for charging standards and protocols, and discuss means to overcome common technology barriers facing the industry. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to: EVSE manufacturers, automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and EV software/network providers. By gathering all of these stakeholders together, rapid testing and validation with many combinations of products and standards could be achieved and provide an invaluable resource for product development and standards implementation.

The overall goal of this effort is to further California's leadership on innovation in the EV and EV charging industries by establishing a recurring forum that will support interoperability testing, product development, standards implementation, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and a more competitive market composed of advanced and interoperable products.

The primary objectives of these events will be to:

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**Comments are due Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

- 1) Provide a venue for stakeholders to troubleshoot products at any stage of development and determine whether more research and development needs to occur, or if they are ready to move on to conformance testing and commercialization.
- 2) Provide a venue for stakeholders to conduct implementation testing and test tool development of charging standards and protocols. This type of event will help catch the “edge cases” and discover potential inconsistencies in software protocols and standards implementations.
- 3) Provide structure for product roadmaps to prepare for annual testing events.
- 4) Establish a forum for knowledge sharing through a conference component, engaging a variety of stakeholders.
- 5) Lower the barrier for stakeholders to participate in these events (e.g., reduce or eliminate registration fees, full or partial reimbursement of equipment/vehicle shipping costs).

CEC staff envision events that include the following core components. Applicants may include other components as appropriate.

- A broad representation of companies and organizations, including at least 5 auto OEMs and 10 EVSE software/network/hardware providers per event
- Testing for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty on-road vehicles and associated charging equipment and software
- Testing for communications standards and protocols, including but not limited to: ISO 15118, Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP), and Open Automated Demand Response (OpenADR)
- Testing for security measures, including but not limited to certificate handling and interoperable Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- A conference component focused on knowledge sharing, advancement, and discussions around the latest trends in the EV charging industry, including international speakers

To achieve these goals, CEC staff envision receiving detailed plans from applicants, including but not limited to:

- Timeline for annual events and proposed host and site for each
- Goals for each annual event (e.g., number of participants, number of auto OEMs, number of EVSE manufacturers, number of products tested, conference discussion topics, proposed speakers, etc.)
- Expected outcomes for each annual event and/or the contract overall (e.g., supporting the industry adoption of a standard)
- Strategy to share and disseminate key findings, results, and lessons learned from the interoperability testing and conference portion
- Approach to ensure broad and diverse participation from industry stakeholders that is completely open to all, including competitors, which

may include registration fee waivers, shipping cost reimbursements, or other strategies

- Approach to ensure broad and diverse participation from underrepresented groups – including minority-, women-, and LGBT-owned businesses and disadvantaged communities

A successful applicant may choose to include additional components in event design, such as testing for other types of vehicles, charging equipment, and standards/protocols. However, these types of additions may not use CEC funds or contribute to the applicant's match share, and will not be considered when evaluating proposals.

## **6. MATCH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

Match funding is not required for this solicitation. However, proposals that include match funding will receive bonus points during scoring.

## **7. ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS**

Costs incurred for the following are eligible for CEC's reimbursement or as the applicant's match share:

- 1) Renting equipment for testing
- 2) Securing event sites
- 3) Shipping costs for equipment and vehicles
- 4) Technical supporting staff costs
- 5) Technical testing event logistics

Other costs for hosting Interoperability Testing Events, including but not limited to event planning, catering, and amenities, are not eligible for CEC's reimbursement, but may be counted toward match share.

## **8. HOW AWARD IS DETERMINED**

Applicants passing administrative and technical screening will compete based on evaluation criteria, and will be scored and ranked based on those criteria. Unless the CEC exercises any of its other rights regarding this solicitation (e.g., to cancel the solicitation or reduce funding), applications obtaining at least the minimum passing score will be recommended for funding in ranked order until all funds available under this solicitation are exhausted.

If the funds available under this solicitation are insufficient to fully fund a grant proposal, the CEC reserves the right to recommend partially funding that proposal. In this event, the applicant / proposed awardee and Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) shall meet and attempt to reach an agreement on a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of available funding.

The proposals will be evaluated in two stages, administrative and completeness screening, and technical and cost evaluation of proposals.

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMPLETENESS SCREENING**

The Contracts Office will review Proposals for compliance with administrative requirements and completeness. Proposals that fail Stage One shall be disqualified and eliminated from further evaluation.

**10. TECHNICAL AND COST EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

Proposals passing Stage One will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee to review and score based on the Evaluation Criteria in this solicitation.

During the evaluation and selection process, the Evaluation Committee may schedule a clarification interview with an applicant that will be held by telephone, videoconference, or in person at the Energy Commission for the purpose of clarification and verification of information provided in the proposal. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the contents of the original Proposal.

The total score for each Proposal will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members.

After scoring is completed, Proposals not attaining a score of 70 percent of the total possible points will be eliminated from further competition.

All applicable Preferences will be applied to all Proposals attaining a minimum of 70 percent of the total possible points. The agreement shall be awarded to the responsible applicant meeting the requirements outlined above, who achieves the highest score after application of Preferences.

**11. WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMENTS**

Comments on this "draft solicitation concept" document are due by **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please submit comments to the CEC using the e-commenting feature by accessing the comment page for this docket at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=19-TRAN-02>. A full name, e-mail address, comment title, and either a comment or an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format) is mandatory. Please include "Interoperability Testing Events" in the comment title. After a challenge-response test is used by the system to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the CEC's Docket Unit.

Please note that written comments, attachments, and associated contact information included within the documents and attachments (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. This information may become available via Google, Yahoo and any other search engines.



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Interested stakeholders are encouraged to use the electronic filing system described above to submit comments. If you are unable to submit electronically, you may email your comments to: [DOCKET@energy.ca.gov](mailto:DOCKET@energy.ca.gov) and include "Interoperability Testing Events RFP Concept" in the subject line.