

**New Funding Opportunity for Minority Serving through the Science and Technology Research Partnership (STRP) Program in Solar Innovation (Webinar)**

To learn more:  
 Watch the [Informational Webinar](#) held on Nov 19th, 2021 (passcode: [.Vfu@7D4](#))  
[View PowerPoint slides of the Informational Webinar](#)  
 STRP and Funding Opportunity Website: <https://www.msrdconsortium.org/doe>  
 Questions: [Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org](mailto:Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org)

| # | Question   | Answer  |
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| 1 | Where does agri-voltaics fit within SETO, if it does?  | It falls under our Strategic Analysis & Institutional Support team.   |
| 2 | Can you please elaborate what kind of collaborations are encouraged? Collaborations within MSIs? MSI with other major universities? international collaborations?  | Collaborations: MSIs + MSI/non-MSI/Private Industry/National Lab. International collaboration are not currently allowed.  |
| 3 | I don't see any research mention related to the "diffusion of Solar technology within low-to-moderate income households." This is a diversity/equity/inclusion issue. Is this topic area considered non-technical, and therefore not of interest to SETO and the present solicitation? | Rodney Kizito discussed this topic.   |
| 4 | On Focus Area 2: Can power Utilities can participate and can receive funds? Is cost-share required from Utilities?   | Utilities can serve as partners, but the head entity must be an MSI. I will doublecheck on if cost-share would be required for utilities.   |
| 5 | Is there a specific format/template for the required quad chart and abstract that are due mid-Dec.?  | Quad Chart Template is provided at <a href="https://www.msrdconsortium.org/doe-seto-funding-opportunities">https://www.msrdconsortium.org/doe-seto-funding-opportunities</a><br>Select your Programmatic Research (Focus) area. Click on 'Submit your Capabilities' to start the submission process. On the submission page, the Quad Chart template is found on Tap #4. Here is the direct link, <a href="https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5">https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5</a> |
|   | Is it appropriate for us to contact the topic points-of-contact as we develop our ideas (i.e. pre-submission)?   | Contact MSRDC at <a href="mailto:Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org">Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org</a>   |
| 7 | Are interested in funding theoretical projects focused on NEW photovoltaic materials development?  | The new photovoltaic material would need to be at the technology readiness level of having produced a proof-of-concept cell that generates power with potential cost /efficiency that would have to have a convincing path to commercialization.  |

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| 8  | If a multi-disciplinary project crosses topics, do you recommend submitting one proposal under multiple topics or breaking project into separate proposals? Related to that, can an institution submit more than one proposal for the same funding cycle?   | I recommend breaking the project into separate submissions. Topics must not be combined. Propose a research project for a single programmatic research area and topic. We have five total research areas.  |
| 9  | Any opportunities for Solar driven desalination or hybrid solar technology-electricity + heat?  | Yes.   |
| 10 | How much is the typical award from an MSI from this program?  | The award is of the amount of \$400,000 max, spread over 2 years.  |
| 11 | Can funds go to non-MSI US university? For purchase of material/services?   | Yes.   |
| 12 | Is PV module recycling an allowed research topic?   | Yes, it would fall under photovoltaics hardware section. Submit a quad chart.  |
| 13 | Thank you for the nice presentation! With respect to Focus Area 3 (Solar Market Analysis) - I am trying to have a better understanding of the envisioned scope here. For example, the concentration in a specific region or state to test methodologies related to identifying best site locations for solar and the integration of these projects with the existent grid would be something of interest? Looking at the benefits of these projects to help with the Energy Transition. | From a geographic location for topics under the 6 bullets points there are no geographic constraints. Other topics would be small cities of a population under 250,000.  |
| 14 | Providing contract compliance? Is this funding contract vs grant?   | This is a Contract with deliverables.  |
| 15 | I think my institution recently became an HSI. is there an updated list of MSI to qualify for the submission? Thank you!  | Please see the how to join the consortium for more information, <a href="https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/How-to-Join-MSRDC.pdf">https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/How-to-Join-MSRDC.pdf</a>                            |
| 16 | What is the review process? Who will review the proposals?  | The process is based on 2 stages, <a href="https://www.msrdconsortium.org/doi">https://www.msrdconsortium.org/doi</a> . MSRDC will conduct an initial internal round of reviews, followed by DOE second round of reviews and final decision and selection. |
| 17 | Is there an opportunity for fund and submission of a proposal under the title of Energy-Efficient Thermal Comfort Control in Smart Buildings?   | Please review the programmatic research areas and topics carefully before designing your projects.   |
| 18 | is this call for applied research for all five research areas?  | Yes.   |
| 19 | Are organic photovoltaics acceptable for proposals under research area 1? Specifically, monitoring performance of printed OPVs outside?   | If it meets criteria.  |
| 20 | Does your research interest include "solar indoor lighting systems"?  | That is close to the first example on the slide (15) for Topic 4 subtopic 1, yes that could be considered.   |

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| 21 | Does it support buying any relevant instrument for the project?   | Yes.  |
| 22 | What does this mean... "Only submitting MSIs will be recipients of any funded award." Does this mean that other non-MSI are not eligible to get funding? or can they be awarded a subcontract through our MSI university? | Non-MSIs are not eligible to apply. Potential partners, including non-MSIs, that are not members of MSRDC, can become members at a later time before starting to perform under the contract.  |
| 23 | Can a team submit two different topic areas?  | Yes.  |
| 24 | Is there any limit in the number of proposals one PI or university can submit?  | No limits.  |
| 25 | Is there any limit in the number of proposals one PI or university can submit?  | No limits.  |
| 26 | Are Solar Sister City efforts based on small cities in the U.S.?  | Yes, Work should be done in cities with a population of 250,000 or less.  |
| 27 | Could you share the link for the quad chart template?   | <a href="https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5">https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5</a>   |
| 28 | For Focus Area 4, sub-topic 2- Can you please explain further what you are looking for?   | A coherent picture of how perovskite photovoltaic technology being incentivized, developed, and brought to market making comparisons across major economic regions of the world. Proposals should discuss strategies, the source materials available and strategies to overcome potential barriers from language diversity therein. |
| 29 | Can a national lab receive partial funding as a team member?  | Yes.  |
| 30 | Would an international collaboration be allowed for Focus Area 4, subtopic 2?   | International collaborations are not allowed.   |
| 31 | Sorry for asking, but the quad chart template link was not available on the provided program website.   | <a href="https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5">https://show.zohopublic.com/publish/nc66vd6ae97a63fd94bfd983878fa891073d5</a>   |
| 32 | The deadlines for this round are approaching quickly, when should we expect the next RFA to be published?   | Stage 1 deadline: December 17, 2021 / Stage 2 deadline: January 21, 2022  |
| 33 | Do you encourage collaboration between MSIs or solo institute?  | Any type of collaboration is welcome.   |
| 34 | any education part you want to emphasize in the proposal?   | No.   |
| 35 | Can solar ponds for power production and desal be considered under CSP?   | Yes.  |
| 36 | Is there any selection for those kind of professional development opportunities? Like cohort fellows?   | The professional development opportunities for the four themes offered under STRP are expected to be fully completed by PIs and Research Associates.  |
| 37 | Will you share the Q&A recording with us?   | Yes.  |
| 38 | Are these curricula free to MSIs?   | Yes. MSRDC will partially fund the cost of the Radical Leadership course. Each research project awardee is requested to reserve \$6,000 in their proposal budget to cover the participation of 2-3 of their staff. Additionally, each awardee should  |

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|    |   | budget travel costs to the Minneapolis area for its participants, where they will meet for an in-person session.   |
| 39 | What will happen if the PI from MSI moves to a non MSI institution during the project duration?   | There needs to be a plan of action in place.   |
| 40 | Regarding the undergraduate student, must they be a sophomore now so that they will be on the project for the full two years?   | It would be best in order to receive full benefits from the project.   |
| 41 | If I submit a proposal for a focus area which contains 2 topics, does my project have to cover both topics or one of them?  | Do not combine topics. One submission for each topic please.   |
| 42 | Who will serve on the review committee?   | Initial review will be done internally at MSRDC. DOE will do second review and final selection decision.   |
| 43 | Can the research associates be a research assistant professor?  | This scenario will be ok, only if the Team has the minimum required undergraduate student fully performing.<br>Also, the research assistant professor can serve as the PI. |
| 44 | Is a single-PI proposal less favorable than a team proposal?  | No.  |
| 45 | Do we need to include in the budget, for the professional development activities?   | Only if you are selected as a finalist for proposal submission. There is a \$6,000 charge for the Leadership Course, that the applicant MSI would have to budget for.      |
| 46 | What is the Indirect Cost rate allowed?   | It varies, such Cost is determined by the Institution.   |
| 47 | Budget must be \$400K or it may be any from 0 to 400K?  | \$0-\$400 K.   |
| 48 | does the limit 400K include the indirect cost   | Yes.   |
| 49 | your selection is based on stages 1/2? full proposal needed?  | Finalist selection is based on Stages 1 & 2. Full proposal will be requested if you are a Finalist.  |
| 50 | under section "Solar Workforce Development: To meet the nation's clean energy targets by 2035 solar jobs must grow" most of the budget will be used for training and other activity. So, it should not necessarily have any research objective. | MSRDC does not fund Workforce Development.   |
| 51 | follow up - stages 1/2 are cumulative? or only enter stage 2 is stage 1 passed?   | Stages are cumulative. Enter Stage 1 first before going on Stage 2.  |
| 52 | Do you suggest we contact each area program director?   | Contact MSRDC at <a href="mailto:Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org">Fellowships@msrdconsortium.org</a>  |
| 54 | Is there any cost-share requirement?  | No.  |