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## DOE Announces Additional Funding for Transformational Energy Research Projects

On Monday December 7, 2009, the Department of Energy ("DOE") announced a second round of funding through the DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy ("ARPA-E") for innovative and cutting-edge clean energy projects. This latest round of funding, in which up to \$100 million is available, is focused on spurring development in three specific technology areas: electrofuels, carbon capture technologies, and batteries for electrified transportation.

ARPA-E, inspired by the military's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency ("DARPA"), and established by Congress in 2007, provides support for the research and development of energy technologies to overcome long-term and high-risk technological barriers. In April of this year, President Obama announced the availability of \$400 million for the initial funding of ARPA-E projects.

During the first round of the program, the DOE selected 37 projects, representing a diverse group of technologies and institutions, as recipients of a total of \$151 million dollars in funding. As the program is designed to support research and development of high-risk technologies, the application and review process is much more technically focused than many of the other DOE funding programs.

The latest solicitations from ARPA-E seek to promote research and development in three key areas:

- **Electrofuels**  
While significant research and development has been devoted to biofuels, this solicitation seeks to pursue new approaches to efficiently convert carbon dioxide and electrical energy to infrastructure-compatible liquid fuels. Specifically, research will focus on the use of organisms and biological systems or other innovative processes. The ARPA-E program is projecting 5-15 awards will be made under this solicitation.
- **Innovative Materials & Processes for Advanced Carbon Capture Technologies (IMPACCT)**  
ARPA-E seeks to complement existing research efforts related to carbon capture and sequestration ("CCS") and limit the atmospheric release of carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. Under this solicitation, ARPA-E will fund projects developing technology on enabling materials for carbon capture, including catalysts and robust materials, and advanced carbon capture processes. The ARPA-E program is projecting 3-10 awards will be made under this solicitation.
- **Batteries for Electrical Energy Storage in Transportation (BEEST)**  
ARPA-E aims to spur the development of battery technology for use in cost-effective, electrified, light-duty vehicles. Specifically, the agency seeks projects to develop a new generation of ultra high energy density, low-cost battery technologies for widespread deployment. The ARPA-E program is projecting 5-15 awards will be made under this solicitation.

Though the DOE has released a separate solicitation for each research area listed above, the ARPA-E application process is the same for each area of focus. The application is divided into two parts: (1) a Concept Paper addressing programmatic goals, objectives and the anticipated delivery of the project goals; and (2) a Full Application. Concept papers are due to the DOE by **January 15, 2010**. Applicants will then be notified whether they are encouraged or discouraged from submitting a Full Application, anticipated to be due in mid-March. As with other DOE programs, the full application process can be rigorous and time-consuming and applicants should carefully weigh the investment and extremely competitive nature of the program before applying.

Awards will be between \$500,000 and \$10 million, generally averaging between \$1 million and \$5 million. ARPA-E anticipates awarding multiple agreements totaling \$35 million each under the BEEST and IMPACCT solicitations and \$30 million under the Electrofuels solicitation.

*For additional information regarding ARPA-E funding, program requirements, or assistance with applications, please contact Elias Hinckley. He may be reached at [ehinckley@Venable.com](mailto:ehinckley@Venable.com) or 202.344.4639.*

Additional information regarding funding for renewable energy projects can also be found by [clicking here](#).

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