

# Building Construction Technology Extension Program (BCTEP) Pilot Projects

2012-BCTEP-01

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. I have a client, which is a municipality and they have an older building that they would like to improve the energy efficiency of the roof. I don't have too many more details other than they are open to various solutions. Is this a type of project that may be considered for the Building Construction Technology Extension Program (BCTEP) Pilot Projects grant? If it is an acceptable type of project, what things should we consider to help to make the grant more competitive?
  - a. **Response - The FFO only addresses training of individuals to re-tune existing building energy systems. It does not address any replacement or retrofitting of equipment.**
  
2. Do we need to partner with MEP and submit the proposal through that MEP or can we submit through our own university?
  - a. **Response – Per the FFO, Eligible proposers are existing MEP Centers, which are expected to form an appropriate contractual relationship (subaward or procurement) with community/technical colleges or universities with existing commercial building automation/technology systems curricula and/or trade associations with existing commercial building automation/technology systems curricula.**
  
3. I am recipient of EERE Energy newsletter, and have read about the BCTEP pilot project and I presume, that proposal can be addressed by certain students of the engineering university of Karachi, the NEST institute and University of Engineering (GIK) Islamabad. In case of your acceptance of our proposal, I presume, that this pilot project details can be addressed by the students/teachers/project coordinators at the above institutions, and such detailed submissions can be submitted for your organization considerations, should such approval be accorded. It may be needless to state, that our students in this field are geniuses, in this part of the world, and lately the student of only 14 years (Irfa Kareem) was the youngest professional who had attained certification from Microsoft Corporation.
  - a. **Response - Per the FFO, Eligible proposers are existing MEP Centers, which are expected to form an appropriate contractual relationship (subaward or procurement) with community/technical colleges or**

**universities with existing commercial building automation/technology systems curricula and/or trade associations with existing commercial building automation/technology systems curricula.**

4. Most specifically, by “full sharing” of developed course content, does this mean it will be delivered via the NIST server? If not, will we be able charge students a nominal fee that would enable us to host and maintain the course and coordinate with the certification testing centers?

**a. Response - The intent of the awards is to make available a curriculum to be publicly available for use. There are no restrictions on how the awardees or others then use the resulting publicly available content.**

5. Can you clarify whether curriculum is degree based or short course offering based or both?

**a. Curriculum should be principally short-course based.**

6. Is there any flexibility to allow Universities to also be eligible proposers? We, at the NAME OF UNIVERSITY REMOVED, are already implementing a similar program, and would commit to partnering with our area MEP.

**a. There is no flexibility for anyone other than an existing MEP Center to be a proposer.**

7. Letters of commitment should include what? Intent to deliver or intent to attend?

**a. Letters of commitment should include whatever is brought to the proposal including but not limited to faculty, facilities, curriculum, training materials, outreach, classroom or on-site delivery, mentoring of trainees.**

8. Are other organizations such as trade associations with a training curriculum eligible?

**a. Other organizations are not eligible to propose. They can participate as a contractor or subrecipient to the Center(s).**

9. Do you anticipate any amendments to this FFO as a result of this information session?

**a. No**

10. For a given state that has a network of MEP Centers, can a single Center submit?
  - a. **Each Center that has a cooperative agreement with NIST MEP can submit. If the network of Centers are subrecipients, they are not eligible.**
  
11. Does NIST MEP own the end product and if so do they own it exclusively or are we free to market it elsewhere?
  - a. **NIST MEP does not own the end product, but under the General Terms and Conditions, we retain a royalty free license to use for government purposes. Beyond that, you are free to market it anywhere it makes sense.**
  
12. What's the definition of region?
  - a. **It is up to the proposer and team to define the region. It could be a city, county, state, multiples of those designations, or something else.**
  
13. How is the evaluation criteria weighted?
  - a. **Evaluation criteria are weighted equally.**
  
14. If you were to sum this up in one sentence, would you say your interest is an effort to both develop and deliver curricula OR that NIST is more interested in one or the other?
  - a. **The intent of the solicitation is to train people to re-tune smaller commercial and industrial buildings.**
  
15. What role does manufacturing play in the review?
  - a. **Manufacturers occupy a significant number of buildings which we believe would benefit from the energy savings associated with re-tuning the buildings. Manufacturing processes are not included nor considered as part of this solicitation.**
  
16. If the MEP in your area is not interested in submitting a proposal as the lead or has the capacity for the project, then you cannot participate in this FFO?
  - a. **You would have to demonstrate that your local MEP Center is not interested, that another MEP Center would be willing to work with you, and how that is beneficial to that region.**

17. Are the cooperative agreements for the term of the award (2-year)?

- a. **Cooperative agreements would be for one year with an option to fund for the second year based on performance.**

18. Can we keep asking questions up to the due date via email?

- a. **Yes**

19. Can the partnerships include both 2-year and 4-year universities?

- a. **Yes**

20. If an MEP Center partners with a group that has proprietary training programs, how would NIST plan to use those and would they have to be shared?

- a. **The expectation is that we will have a single nationally available training curriculum (subject to differences related to climate, age of systems, age of buildings, etc.)**

21. How much new development is expected?

- a. **Given that there are existing training programs which appear to be close to what's needed, new development is expected to be minimal. However, if the proposing team feels strongly that the existing programs are not adequate and can demonstrate why not, along with how a new curriculum/training program is significantly better, then that will be considered.**

22. Is it mostly re-use of existing from PNNL?

- a. **PNNL's materials are a starting point for development. They have been developed for larger buildings with more sophisticated automation systems in place, a situation that we expect will be encountered very often in the smaller commercial and industrial buildings we are looking at.**

23. Is there a desire to "try" a different approach?

- a. **As noted in the solicitation, if a curriculum and training materials are not based on PNNL's, the proposing team must demonstrate that their curriculum and materials are the equivalent or better.**

24. By “full sharing” of developed course content, does this mean it will be delivered via the NIST server? If not, will we be able charge students a nominal fee that would enable us to host and maintain the course and coordinate with the certification testing centers?

- a. **There is no intention that materials will be hosted on or delivered from a NIST server. Proposing teams are responsible for development and deployment in ways that make sense to them. Fees that are appropriate to the situation are fine.**

25. Is there a limit to the number of educational institutions partnering?

- a. **No**