





This RFP Amendment 001 is raised to:

- Respond to questions.

Question #1:

The M3 criteria states that the "The Bidder's proposed Project Team Leader MUST have at least five years of experience in leading and delivering mixed-method research projects and in the energy sector". Can you please confirm:

- 1) What criteria must be met to count as a mixed methods project? For example, our proposed Project Team lead has extensive experience conducting research projects in the energy sector which include desktop research and client meetings but not necessarily extensive interview/survey programs.
- 2) Does the Project Team Leader need to fulfill M3 independently or could the full team be used to meet this requirement if some team members strong mixed method experience and others with energy research experience?

**Answer #1:**

- 1) Mixed methods is a research approach whereby researchers collect and analyse both quantitative and qualitative data within the same study; therefore, the team lead's research experience must include research incorporating both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. If the client meetings involved interviews and/or surveys that were integrated into the study methodology, that would suffice as a mixed methods study.
- 2) M3 is used to evaluate against the Bidder's proposed Project Team Leader independently.

Question #2:

Section 7.5.1 references the contract period with an end date of February 28, 2023. Can you confirm that's correct, and that the intention is that the project will be fully completed by that date?

**Answer #2:**

The Contract period end date has been modified to reflect "March 31, 2023". This has been adjusted and is based off the Milestone schedule in the Statement of Work (SOW) under Annex "A" which has since been shifted to March 31, 2023 (see RFP amendment 001). The dates in the Milestone schedule have been modified. Please continue to consider these dates in the Milestone schedule as tentative and it could be modified at Contract award. This would mean that the Contract period end date should be considered tentative as well.

**Question #3:**

Criterion R5 rates the Team Leader's experience in coordinating activities of project personnel in mixed-methods research in the context of energy and policy. For the purposes of evaluating the length of experience, if a given project involves mixed methods research but was not in the energy sector, can it count towards the Team Leader's experience? Similarly, if a given project was in the energy sector but did not involve mixed methods research, can it count towards the Team Leader's experience? We note that a potential Team Leader may have extensive experience in both mixed-methods research and in the energy sector, but both of these attributes might not be present in each potential project that could be used in



evaluating the length of experience. Additional clarity as to how this criterion will be scored would be appreciated.

**Answer #3:** The Team Leader must have experience in projects that involves mixed methods research, and in the energy sector.

Question #4: Could you please confirm the anticipated budget in mind/allocated for this work?

**Answer #4:** This information is determined by Bidders that have responded or will respond to the solicitation.

Question #5: In the Appendix “2” – Financial Proposal Form under the Firm Price – Milestone Payments price form it is indicated that Milestone #5 should be completed by February 28, 2023, in addition to this in Section 7.5.1 Period of the contract it is mentioned that the period of the Contract is from date of Contract to February 28, 2023 inclusive.

We also notice in section SW5.2.3 Project Schedule that the total duration of the project for milestone 1 to 5 is approximately 4 months, could you please confirm what is your expected duration of this project?

**Answer #5:** Please refer to Answer #2.

Question #6: 1. Can you provide a definition of ‘grid modernization’ and the types of technologies or developments that are of interest? For example, does “grid modernization” encompass all of the segments in the electricity sector’s value chain: generation, transmission and distribution? To the extent that the move to a net-zero grid is facilitated by technologies that are already mature, or relatively mature, such as hydro and wind, do these still fit under the rubric ‘grid modernization’ or should the focus be on new innovations? Are there specific new developments that are of interest, such as smart grids, storage, or distributed energy?

**Answer #6:**

Grid modernization encompasses innovation of new technology, and deployment of mature technology, across the topology of the entire electricity system, including generation, transmission and distribution, and even customer demand, as well as innovation in electricity markets and regulations. Grid modernization can encompass the operation and integration of existing mature technologies such as hydro and wind, as well as the development of new and emerging technologies for smart grids which can use storage, distributed energy resources and behind the meter technology. Finally, grid modernization can also encompass control room and utility infrastructure such as communications and controls, AMI, etc. This being said, there is some nuance to the term “grid modernization” which can differentiate it between other more focused innovation on generation technologies such as nuclear fission, new battery chemistries or light-weighting of wind turbine blades. Grid modernization focuses on the integration of generation and other grid devices technologies more than the generation or storage technologies themselves such that the entire electricity system can become more optimized.



**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RFP REMAIN THE SAME**