

NextGen Buildings Innovation Challenge (PON 3519 Round 7) Informational  
Webinar

August 15, 2023

Q & A Document

#	Question	Assigned To	Notes/Flags
1	How to pick a challenge area if proposal touches multiple categories?	Joseph Borowiec Robert Carver	Focus on main objective of project / primary effort should dominate the application category. Welcome to submit separate proposals to different challenge areas if distinctly different. Do not submit the same proposal to multiple categories just because you aren't sure which to apply to. Designated contacts cannot tell you which category to apply to. Designated contacts are identified on the website.
2	Will slides be made available to participants?	Joseph Borowiec	Webinar recording and slides and Q&A doc will be available by COB Monday.
3	Is teaming encouraged? If so, what does teaming enable/address?	Joseph Borowiec	Teaming is encouraged, depending on the activity. It is advised to team to capture all the resources required to bring their project to commercialization.
4	Are there specific budget allocations/number of projects per challenge area?	Joseph Borowiec Robert Carver	\$12 million – intelligent building, remaining \$6 million across the three other categories. No specific allocation for the remaining 3 categories.
5	Before we submit a proposal, can we have information relating to what 'current solutions' there are for Building Envelope Upgrades?	Robert Carver	Please look through NYSEDA published studies. Additionally, PNNL public reports are a good resource.
6	Does the emphasis on bringing technology	Joseph Borowiec	The demonstration is intended to validate the project's viability.

	through the demonstration stage to commercialization, mean that proposals must result in market insights, data on uptake, and or partnering with manufacturers?		Need to have a good understanding of the market.
7	Can you send a link to next week's workshop?		Link posted on the PON website. <a href="https://portal.nyscrda.ny.gov/COR E Solicitation Detail Page?SolicitationId=a0rt0000006nDncAAE&amp; gl=1*imsfv* ga*MTc0MzlwMzc0LjE2ODk2MDcxNzc.* ga DRYJB34TXH*MTY5Mjl5ODQzMC42LjEuMTY5Mjl5ODQ0My4wLjAuMA..">https://portal.nyscrda.ny.gov/COR E Solicitation Detail Page?SolicitationId=a0rt0000006nDncAAE&amp; gl=1*imsfv* ga*MTc0MzlwMzc0LjE2ODk2MDcxNzc.* ga DRYJB34TXH*MTY5Mjl5ODQzMC42LjEuMTY5Mjl5ODQ0My4wLjAuMA..</a>
8	Should the project team be located in NY?	Robert Carver	Project team does not need to be located in NY state, but the <i>demonstration project must be in NYS</i> . Economic development benefits for NY are an evaluation criteria and could be affected by team members' located in oNY.
9	Where can we find the contact information of the presenters?		The designated contact for each of the four Challenge Areas can be found in the Attachments E1, E2, E3, E4 of the PON page
10	Will NYSERDA assist with finding pilot projects? Or is it expected that the proposer will include it as part of the proposal?		. It depends on the stage. If possible, sites should be identified.
11	Do you need to pay into the NYSERDA electric benefits charge? We are not allowed to pay into electric. However we pay into the gas system benefits charge.		The demonstration must take place at a NY site that pays into the system benefit charge.
12	Is TES category focused mainly on materials development or system-level development?		Both eligible. Not intended to be a research activity with respect to materials.

13	Can we see the results of the poll?		<p>“Which challenge area are you most interested in applying to?”</p> <p>A. Building Envelope = 48/155 (31%)</p> <p>B. GSHP Cost Comp. = 30/155 (19%)</p> <p>C. Intelligent Buildings = 38/155 (25%)</p> <p>D. Thermal Storage = 19/155 (13%)</p> <p>E. No Answer = 19/155 (12%)</p>
14	Can you comment on whether smart controls for ventilation (optimizing energy use and IAQ, as well as resilience) would be within scope for the Intelligent Buildings Topic area?		<p>There are three sub-challenge areas under the Intelligent Buildings category. You should read the requirements and challenge targets for each to determine how your solution fits. You are also encouraged to reach out to the designated contact to determine if your proposal will be responsive or not.</p>
15	For the Building Envelope and Systems Components Area, does the proposal need to only be for deep retrofit solutions or is there interest in technologies/innovations for new construction?	Robert Carver	<p>The interest is in existing buildings. We are looking for retrofit solutions, however, if your project can also be applied in new construction settings that’s fine.</p>
16	Can this be combined with HCR's Clean Energy Initiative?		Yes.
17	Does the thermal storage area include domestic hot water applications?		Yes.
18	If projects are already receiving rebates from ConEdison for custom energy efficiency projects (like a smart thermostat upgrade connected to a PTAC) are they also able to		<p>Yes, if concurrent and builds on the capability of the custom project. For example, adds additional functionalities and capabilities.</p>

	apply to the "Intelligent Buildings" program for additional funding?		
19	Is this grant opportunity geared toward building owners?		There are no limitations on who can apply.
20	If our building is next to a body of water in NYC, would the geothermal project utilizing this body of water be okay? To avoid digging into earth?		You would need to ensure you secure all necessary permits.
21	For multi-phase proposals, will all of the phases come out of the \$18M current budget, or will just the first phase come out of the \$18M current budget?		All funds come out of the current budget. Your contract gets modified to approve the funds for each of the phases after a successful stage-gate review.
22	What is the maximum award size anticipated?		Feasibility Stage: \$350k cost share cap No cap on the other stages
23	Would it be possible to stack the award with other incentive programs like NYSERDA LCP and NY Clean Heat?		As long as there is no double dipping where two different NYSERDA or utility programs are paying for the same activities or product.
24	Budget Limits for overall proposal and for specific Phases? If a geothermal loop is involved, could the host-site installation be considered cost-share?		Budget limits specified above. See question #4. Cost share must occur during the cost of the project. For example, a ground loop that is already installed at the host site does not count.
25	Indoor air quality was shown in one of the slide, but not in challenge areas. Would IAQ technologies be considered for example in the intelligent control challenge area?	Jerone Gagliano	Please read the Challenge Area requirements and targets to determine if your proposal idea aligns well. Please reach out to the Challenge Area contact to determine if your proposal idea is responsive or not.
26	Could you post the website for the program?		<a href="https://portal.nyserdera.ny.gov/CORRE Solicitation Detail Page?SolicitationId=a0rt0000006nDncAAE&amp;g">https://portal.nyserdera.ny.gov/CORRE Solicitation Detail Page?SolicitationId=a0rt0000006nDncAAE&amp;g</a>

			<a href="#">l=1*imsfv* ga*MTc0MzlwMzc0LjE2ODk2MDcxNzc.* ga DRYJB34TXH*MTY5Mjl5ODQzMC42LjEuMTY5Mjl5ODQ0My4wLjAuMA..</a>
27	Could studies/audits that pin-point envelope issues and measure actual U-values (thereby providing clear ROIs) qualify for the Digital and Robotic Envelope Retrofit Subchallenge if they are using utilizing robotics (drones) + AI?		This funding opportunity is not intended for solely studies or audits. We are looking for solutions that go through to demonstrations.
28	Is there a preference to fund later stage, later TRL proposals?		No. We evaluate the proposal against all of the published evaluation criteria.
29	Will the funding include any equity exchange?		No. If you are successful in commercializing the product, we recoup 1% of sales up to the full NYSERDA investment
30	Is there any preference given to size of building targeted? As an example, is there money available for programs focused on small to midsize commercial buildings that are <50,000 square feet?		No preference overall. Each challenge area is targeting certain building types.
31	Is there a requirement that materials and equipment used be sources from within the US or NYS?		No requirement.
32	If a public housing authority is the demo site, then would they be required to pay into the SBC?	Joseph Borowiec	The demonstration must take place at a site that pays into the Clean Energy Fund ( <a href="https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Funding">https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Funding</a> ) through the electric SBC unless significant statewide benefits are demonstrated.
33	Are there any recommended ways to find	Robert Carver Joseph Borowiec	We can not identify potential team partners. Teams may include commercial firms, manufacturers,

	teaming partners in NY state?		large original equipment manufacturers (OEM), industry associations, research organizations, universities, government agencies, corporate strategic partners, strategic investors, end-users, and other stakeholders.
34	Following up on questions regarding Con Ed, would any possible cash cost share from Con Ed be considered differently than any other cash cost share source?	Joseph Borowiec	No, we don't differentiate cost share.
35	Can we work with NYS based universities for development of technologies?	Joseph Borowiec	Yes.
36	For the Intelligent Buildings category, can we submit a proposal for data-driven platform for analyzing energy efficiency data, building condition assessment data, and asset inspection data, that offers building decarbonization and sustainability ratings?	Jerone Gagliano	Please read the Challenge Area requirements and targets to determine if your proposal idea aligns well. Please reach out to the Challenge Area contact to determine if your proposal idea is responsive or not.
37	For Intelligent buildings, are there residential Time of Use (TOU) rates in NY state that the proposal needs to show customer savings?	Jerone Gagliano	No.
38	What counts as cost share? Just Cash or "In-Kind"?		Both cash and in-kind qualify. Cost share needs to take place during the period of performance.
39	For Intelligent Buildings SubChallenge 3 (Communication and Control Across Distributed HVAC), which peak-causing events are NYSERDA most concerned about?	Jerone Gagliano	Minimizing the total coincident electric peak across all HVAC units

40	Is it correct that the award is like a no-interest loan that gets repaid from future project revenue if it is successfully commercialized?	Joseph Borowiec	If you are successful in commercializing the product, we recoup 1% of sales up to the full NYSERDA investment.
41	For Intelligent Buildings SubChallenge 3 (Communication and Control Across Distributed HVAC), are there any specific security-requirements?	Jerone Gagliano	For cybersecurity and resiliency concerns, the building should be able to continue self-managing even when the cloud connection or API service goes down. Must use an industry standard communication protocol to connect to and adjust the operation of the units.
42	Do you expect the most compelling proposals will identify a specific deployment site (eg. a building, campus, etc)? Or can you imagine a compelling proposal whereby the proposers will identify a deployment site if/when the proposal is selected by NYSERDA?	Joseph Borowiec Robert Carver	Absence of letters of commitment or interest may be interpreted as meaning that the proposer does not have support from the subject parties. However, in the instance that a proposal is beginning in the Feasibility Stage, a letter of commitment from a Host Site may be difficult to secure. In this instance, a proposer should indicate their intention to secure the commitment and that more time is necessary to do so.