



## **Funding Opportunity: DOE Releases Solicitation for Solar Desalination Projects**

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – September 28, 2017*

On September 27, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) released a Solar Desalination Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) soliciting proposals for low-cost, high-efficiency desalination technologies. These are new awards funded through the Solar Energy Technology Office's SunShot Initiative, a program focused on making the production of solar energy more efficient and cost-effective. These awards will target early-stage, solar-powered desalination technologies that could be utilized across areas of varying salinity.

This FOA is intended to support the research, development & demonstration (RD&D) of "technologies that have the potential to integrate solar thermal technologies into desalination processes, develop novel low temperature solar concentrators and storage, consider novel and innovative thermal desalination technologies, or show how solar thermal energy can be implemented into current or upcoming desalination methods." The solicitation looks to develop a more efficient alternative to the standard reverse osmosis (RO) desalination process that could turn the saline runoff from agriculture, municipal water production, certain industrial processes, and oil and gas exploration into usable, purified water.

Solar desalination is an off-grid solution that would significantly reduce the electricity required for RO desalination, ultimately driving down costs. Awardees are expected to demonstrate the reliability and scalability of the proposed technology as well as a clearly defined path toward commercialization through partnerships and market-driven objectives.

This is the most recent in a series of funding initiatives from DOE, since the establishment of the SunShot Initiative in 2011, to advance solar energy technologies while driving down costs and maximizing output and efficiency. The Administration has been very supportive of energy development in the context of global economic competitiveness and energy independence.

The Agency will host an informational webinar on October 12, 2017. Submissions should address one of the following four research areas:

- Innovations in thermal desalination technologies;
- low-cost solar thermal heat;
- integrated solar desalination systems; and
- analysis for solar thermal desalination.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** DOE anticipates making approximately \$15 million available for 7 to 10 awards. Individual award amounts may range from \$500 thousand to \$5 million for a maximum of 36 months.

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**Cost Sharing:** All competitive awards distributed under the SunShot Initiative have a 20 percent cost sharing requirement for research and development (R&D) awards and a 50 percent cost sharing requirement for those pursuing commercial applications.

**Deadline:** The submission deadline for concept papers is **December 4, 2017** with full proposals due by **March 16, 2018**.

*Sources and Additional Information:*

- The full FOA is available at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx?Search=DE-FOA-0001778&SearchType>.
- More information about the SunShot Initiative is available at <https://energy.gov/eere/sunshot/sunshot-initiative>.