

NOTICE OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Opportunity to Participate: Researchers within OTAQ may be willing and available to participate with an eligible institution to prepare a joint assistance application in response to a Request for Application (RFA) issued by another federal agency. Depending upon the circumstances, EPA may request some of the assistance funding or may be willing to participate as an unfunded collaborator. Under this opportunity, OTAQ will not approve any collaborative participation with for-profit institutions.

Eligibility Requirements:

Institutions eligible to participate are other federal agencies, U.S. non-profit public and private institutions of higher education, and their directly associated non-profit research entities, or other entities such as state and local governments, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and U.S. territories or possessions. Profit-making organizations are ineligible.

Criteria for Participation:

The participating institution must be able to demonstrate the availability of research staff with appropriate scientific credentials, a history of successfully conducting research in the subject area of the RFA, the availability of facilities and related resources necessary to complete the research. For federal employees to participate, they must be participating in their official capacity and be free of any actual or apparent conflict of interest, as well as any loss of impartiality, as defined by the Standards of Ethical Conduct.

Limitations:

- a. If the partner is a non-federal institution, and the EPA is seeking some of the assistance funding, the EPA prefers that the awarding agency make separate awards to the EPA and its partner.
- b. If the awarding agency does not agree to multiple awards, and the partner is another federal agency, then either the EPA or its federal partner may assume the role of the lead applicant. If the EPA is the lead applicant, the funding agency must be willing to transfer the awarded funding to the EPA by means of an IA (EPA would then distribute funds as appropriate to its federal partner). The EPA is unable to accept funding by means of a grant or cooperative agreement.
- c. The funding opportunity must relate to OTAQ's strategic goals and complement OTAQ's in-house research. More information on OTAQ's research focus can be found on this website; in particular in the Section "About OTAQ" More specific information about OTAQ's research can be obtained by clicking on the links at the end of this section.
- d. OTAQ employees may not participate in preparation of an application to be submitted in response to an RFA issued by the EPA.

Contact Us: If you are interested in participating with OTAQ Researchers in preparing a funding application in response to another federal agency's RFA, submit a written request to: Matt Brusstar, U. S. EPA National Vehicle & Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, brusstar.matt@epa.gov.

The request should identify the sponsoring federal agency, the RFA identifier, indicate in general terms the research project that is anticipated and how OTAQ Researchers would be expected to collaborate, and date by which the EPA should reply. Provide the scientific qualifications required of the OTAQ Researcher(s); specific individuals may be identified.

Decision to Participate: If the proposed project appears to be complementary of OTAQ's in-house research, you may be contacted for more information related to the planned project, the qualifications of your team, and the availability of facilities and other resources. All requests from eligible institutions will be given fair and equal consideration. The EPA's OTAQ reserves the right to choose to participate with more than one eligible partner in preparing an application in response to a particular RFA. The decision to allow an EPA researcher to participate with a particular eligible institution in the preparation of an application will be made by OTAQ management and is not subject to dispute.

Further Information: For further information about this policy, contact Matt Brusstar, U. S. EPA National Vehicle & Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, brusstar.matt@epa.gov.