

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## OVERVIEW SECTION

**AGENCY:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

**TITLE:** Study and Analysis of Strategies for the Technology Innovation in the Transportation Sector

**ACTION:** Request for Application (RFA) or Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP)

**RFA NO:** EPA-OAR-DOD-05-19

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO:** 66.034

**DATES:** The closing date and time for receipt of Applications is December 14, 2005, 5:00 p.m. EDT. All applications, however transmitted, must be received in the Program Office by the closing date and time to receive consideration.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible institutions for study and analysis of innovative strategies for encouraging the development and adoption of new vehicle and fuel technologies for control of emissions including consideration of impact on criteria pollutants, toxic emissions and greenhouse gas emissions. Studies and analyses should consider barriers for technological innovation and opportunities for overcoming these barriers.

**FUNDING/AWARDS:** The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is not expected to exceed \$1 million. First year funding is estimated not to exceed \$500,000.

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## **Section I - Funding Opportunity Description.**

### **A. Background**

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality has been examining innovative technologies as emerging means of controlling emissions from the transportation sector. In evaluating such technologies for their potential impact on emissions, the required investment by industry, anticipated cost impact to consumers, impact on other vehicle attributes such as a vehicle performance and other factors typically receive widespread interest. While vehicle technology has been a cornerstone of past emission control achievements, fuels are increasingly recognized as part of the vehicle operating system. Alternative fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel are projected by many to represent a growing portion of the fuel pool and their use may have direct impacts on the lifecycle emission performance of the transportation system.

In anticipating future trends in emission control and their likely impacts, the reliability of the predictions would be improved through identifying the avenues for adoption of needs to innovative technology including the barriers to successful development and implementation of new vehicle technologies and alternative fuels and opportunities for overcoming these barriers.

### **B. Scope of Work**

EPA is seeking to fund a cooperative agreement with an eligible institution to develop innovative strategies which would result in the development and adoption of improved vehicle technologies and fuels within the United States. Such innovative strategies will consider the technical options currently available or anticipated to be available in the next 10 to 15 years, the industry and consumer cost impacts of these technologies compared to current vehicles and fuels, economic impacts, both micro and macro, to industry, consumers and society and potential policy implications. As such, EPA anticipates a multi-disciplinary approach would provide a most complete evaluation, drawing on the varied analytical disciplines including (but not limited to) economics, engineering, public policy, natural resources and modeling as well as legal considerations.

This cooperative agreement also seeks separate and parallel identification and evaluation of avenues for accelerating the transfer of low emission vehicle and fuel technology to developing nations. The recently announced agreement between the United States and several Asian nations highlighted the benefits of technology transfer to help address the growing emissions concerns in developing nations including China and India. With such technology transfer as a goal, identification of barriers to such technology transfer and means for overcoming those barriers.

A successful proposal will identify unique constituencies and approaches/channels for working with stakeholders, in particular demonstrating an understanding of the industries involved. The proposal will demonstrate an understanding of current regulatory and incentive programs currently or potentially applicable to the adoption of new vehicle technologies or alternative fuels. The proposal will identify barriers to the widespread adoption of reduction measures for emissions from transportation sources and their energy use including energy efficient and

renewable energy technologies/best practices, an approach for further understanding these barriers and means for overcoming them and a proposed methodology for developing and delineating strategies for overcoming the barriers identified.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant may wish to convene meetings with outside experts from academia, industry, government and public interest groups for the purpose of soliciting information and recommendations.

Finally, it is anticipated that this cooperative agreement will stimulate interest and span further investigation into the science and policy of environmental protection. By providing investigation, analysis and development opportunities for talented staff and, and in the case of academic institutions, faculty and students, this cooperative agreement should not only advance the knowledge of the impact of transportation on environment, identify new opportunities for lessening this impact and, in general, enhance the opportunities for reducing air pollution from the transportation sector, but also identify important areas for further investigation not pursued within this cooperative agreement.

### **C. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage and Anticipated Outcomes/Outputs**

- 1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan.** This project supports progress towards EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Clean Air and Global Climate Change), Objective 1.1 (Healthier Outdoor Air), Sub-Objective 1.1.1 (More People Breathing Cleaner Air). This project supports EPA efforts to promote clean air through improvements in vehicles and fuels used in mobile sources.
- 2. Outcomes.** The outcome of this project will be that advanced vehicle technologies and low polluting fuels will come into widespread use more quickly than under a business as usual case, thereby enhancing emission performance.
- 3. Outputs.** The output of this project will be a detailed plan for assuring early and aggressive deployment of low emission vehicle technology and low emission fuels. The plan will have two separate parts, one focusing on deployment in the United States and another for the transfer of US vehicle and fuel technology to other nations which will particularly benefit from that technology transfer.

### **D. Supplementary Information.**

The statutory authority for this action is Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3) which authorizes the award of grants for research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effect, extent, prevention and control of air pollution. In this case, the results of these studies will enhance the understanding of barriers to the development and implementation of improved vehicle and fuel technologies and provide solutions for overcoming these barriers. Such actions will serve to reduce the impact of transportation on air pollution.

## **Section II - Award Information.**

### **A. What is the amount of funding available?**

The total estimated funding under this announcement is approximately \$1 million. Project will be funded in one year increments of approximately \$350,000 over a three year period. Maximum annual funding is \$500,000.

### **B. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition?**

EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement from this announcement.

Cooperative agreements permit substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicants in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial Federal involvement for this project will be:

1. close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
2. collaboration during the performance of the scope of work;
3. in accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g), review of proposed procurements;
4. approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient);
5. review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement;

### **C. What is the project period for awards resulting from this solicitation?**

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation is February 2006 through January 2009. All projects must be completed within the negotiated project performance period of 36 months.

### **D. Can funding be used to acquire services or fund partnerships?**

Funding may be used to acquire services or fund partnerships, provided the recipient follows procurement and subaward or subgrant procedures contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as applicable. Successful applicants must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by these regulations. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contracts or consultants in their proposal. Moreover, the fact that a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the proposal EPA approves does not relieve it of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements.

Subgrants or subawards may be used to fund partnerships with non-profit organizations and governmental entities. Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments

to acquire commercial services or products to carry out its cooperative agreement. For profit organizations are not eligible subgrant recipients under this announcement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of “subaward” at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or “subgrant” at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions.

#### **E. Can projects be partially funded?**

EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals/applications by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If EPA decides to partially fund the proposal/application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal/application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the evaluation/selection process.

### **Section III - Eligibility Information.**

#### **A. Eligible Entities.**

Proposals will be accepted from States, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia; international organizations; public and private universities and colleges; hospitals; laboratories; and other public or private nonprofit institutions.

Non-profit organization, as defined by OMB Circular A-122, means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization which: (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. For this purpose, the term “non-profit organization” excludes (i) colleges and universities; (ii) hospitals; (iii) state, local and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; and (iv) those non-profit organizations which are excluded from coverage of this Circular in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Circular.

Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

Applications that do not substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement will be rejected. In addition, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to parts of the application, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Applications and initial proposals must be received by the EPA on or before the solicitation closing date published in Section IV of this announcement. Applications received after the published closing date will be returned to the sender without further consideration. Also, applications exceeding the funding limits described herein will be returned without review.

**B. Are matching funds required?**

No, cost-sharing or matching is not required as a condition of eligibility.

**Section IV - Application and Submission Information.****A. How to Obtain Application Package**

Applicants may apply by sending a hardcopy submission to EPA or by applying electronically thru grants.gov as explained below in section D. Applicants must submit the information required below with their application package. Applicants may download individual grant application forms, or electronically request a paper application package and an accompanying computer CD of information related to applicants/grant recipients roles and responsibilities from EPA's Grants and Debarment Web site at: ([http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how\\_to\\_apply.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm)). Note that only the applicant selected for award will be asked to submit a full application package.

**B. Content and Form of Application Submission.**

All submissions must contain a completed SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance, and a narrative proposal. The narrative proposal should conform to the outline specified below and include the following information:

1. The narrative proposal should conform to the following outline:
  - a. Cover Letter: Describe your organization's qualifications for the project; must be signed by an official with the authority to commit your organization to the project; and written on your organization's official letterhead.
  - b. Summary Information Page:
    1. Project Title.
    2. Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address.
    3. Funding Requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA.
  - c. Project Description: The project description must provide a concise overview of how the applicant will implement and conduct its operation and include a Project Work Plan (including a description of all tasks, dates of completion, products and deliverables, and proposed budget).

The narrative proposal must discuss how the proposal addresses each of the selection criteria in Section V and include:

1. A detailed project summary, describing specific actions and methods to be undertaken and the responsible institutions, including estimated time line for each task;
  2. The associated work products to be developed (e.g. partnership agreements, if any);
  3. An explanation of project benefits to the public;
  4. An explanation of how project outcomes (e.g., fuel economy and emissions benefits) will be designed for reinvestment;
  5. A detailed explanation of how project success will be evaluated; (*Refer to Section V(A), Evaluation Criteria, "Performance Measurement."*)
  6. A description of the roles of the applicant and partners, if any; and
  7. Biographical information on key personnel identified.
- d. Detailed Itemized Budget: The proposal must include a detailed budget which clearly explains how funds will be used for the following categories:
1. Personnel
  2. Fringe Benefits
  3. Contractual Costs
  4. Travel
  5. Equipment
  6. Supplies
  7. Other (including intern stipends)
  8. Total Indirect Costs (must include documentation of accepted indirect rate)
  9. Total Cost

If not self-evident, entries under each category must be explained in the budget itself or in the project description. Costs proposed in the budget should be linked directly to the proposal.

- e. Key Personnel: The applicant should submit an appendix with the resumes of up to three (3) key personnel who will be significantly involved in the project.

Applicants are strongly advised to avoid submission of non-essential materials unrelated to the proposal's requirements. All application materials must be completed in English.

In evaluating applicants under the programmatic capability criteria in V, EPA will consider information provided by the applicant and may consider information from others sources including Agency files.

### **C. Submission Dates and Times/Other Information**

1. The deadline for submission of all completed application packages is December 14, 2005, 5:00 p.m. EDT. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.



2. **Confidential Business Information.** In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.
3. Because of the unique situation involving U.S. mail screening, EPA highly recommends that applicants use an express mail option to submit their applications. Please provide original proposal and four (4) copies – no binders or spiral binding – plus one signed and completed application should be addressed to:

Express Delivery Address (FedEx, UPS, DHL, etc.) or U.S. Postal Service  
USEPA  
National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory  
Attention: Robert Larson  
Transportation and Climate Division  
2000 Traverwood Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

4. All applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for a Federal grant or cooperative agreement. Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or by visiting the D&B Web site at: (<http://www.dnb.com>).

#### **D. Instructions for Electronic Filing Using grants.gov**

1. The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Started,” and then “Authorized Organization Representative (AOR).” *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process for this grant program, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Apply for Grants” tab at the top of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package ([https://apply.grants.gov/forms\\_apps\\_idx.html](https://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html)). To download the PureEdge viewer click on the “PureEdge Viewer” link. Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OAR-DOD-05-19, in the field next to “Funding Opportunity Number,” or the CFDA number for the opportunity. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the

button at the bottom right side of the Find synopsis located on Fedgrants.gov that says **Apply for Grant Electronically**.

**2. Application Submission Deadline:** Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than **5:00 P.M. EST on December 14, 2005**. Applicants can locate this announcement through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>)

If applying thru grants.gov, please submit *all* of the application materials described below.

### 3. Application Materials

**The following forms and documents are required under this announcement**

- I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- II. Narrative Proposal (as described in Section IV.B. above)

This application package must include all of the following materials:

#### **I. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance**

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

#### **II. Narrative Proposal. The narrative proposal must conform to the following outline as described in Section IV.B above.**

a. **Cover Letter.** Describe your organization's qualifications for the project; must be signed by an official with the authority to commit your organization to the project; and written on your organization's official letterhead.

#### **b. Summary Information Page. Must include the following:**

1. Project Title.
2. Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address.
3. Funding Requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA.

c. **Project Description.** The project description must provide a concise overview of how the applicant will implement and conduct its operation and include a Project Work Plan (including a description of all tasks, dates of completion, products and deliverables, and proposed budget).

d. **Selection Criteria.** The narrative proposal must also discuss how the proposal addresses each of the selection criteria specified in Section V. In addition, the following elements must also be addressed:

1. A detailed project summary, describing specific actions and methods to be undertaken and the responsible institutions, including estimated time line for each task;
2. The associated work products to be developed (e.g. partnership agreements, if any);
3. An explanation of project benefits to the public.
4. An explanation of how project outcomes (e.g., fuel economy and emissions benefits) will be designed for reinvestment;
5. A detailed explanation of how project success will be evaluated; (Refer to Section V(A), Evaluation Criteria, 'Performance Measurement.')
6. A description of the roles of the applicant and partners, if any; and
7. Biographical information on key personnel identified.

e. **Detailed Itemized Budget.** The proposal must include a detailed budget which clearly explains how funds will be used for the following categories:

1. Personnel
2. Fringe Benefits
3. Contractual Costs
4. Travel
5. Equipment
6. Supplies
7. Other (including intern stipends)
8. Total Indirect Costs (must include documentation of accepted indirect rates)
9. Total Cost

If not self-evident, entries under each category must be explained in the budget itself or in the project description. Costs proposed in the budget should be linked directly to the proposal.

f. **Key Personnel.** The applicant should submit an appendix with the resumes of up to three (3) key personnel who will be significantly involved in the project.

Applicants are strongly advised to avoid submission of non-essential materials unrelated to the proposal requirements. All application materials must be completed in English.

In evaluating applicants under the programmatic capability criteria in V, EPA will consider information provided by the applicant and may consider information from other sources including Agency files.

#### 4. Application Preparation and Submission Instructions

**Document I** listed under Application Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page. Click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For II, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your narrative proposal using the format outlined above in section 2 and save the document to your computer as an MS Word, PDF or WordPerfect file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;” the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY06 – Assoc Prog Supp – 1<sup>st</sup> Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 06 Assoc Prog Supp – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2<sup>nd</sup> submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY06 Assoc Prog Supp – 2<sup>nd</sup> Submission.”

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY06), and the grant category (e.g., Assoc Prog Supp). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding

opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from [support@grant.gov](mailto:support@grant.gov)*) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Robert Larson, at [laron.robert@epa.gov](mailto:laron.robert@epa.gov) Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

## **Section V - Application Review Information.**

### **A. Evaluation Criteria.**

Each eligible application will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth below. Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of 100 points possible.

### **B. Evaluation Factors (Total - 100 points)**

**Project description.** Extent to which the proposal describes a logical investigative path toward identifying and evaluating innovative strategies for the adoption of cost effective vehicle and fuel technologies within the United States; proposal identifies the types of barriers that will be investigated, how these barriers will be ranked for critical impact, and the process for identifying and evaluating options to overcoming these barriers; proposal effectively describes how key stakeholder interests will be evaluated and reflected in any deliverables. (30 points)

Extent to which the proposal describes a logical investigative path toward identifying and evaluating innovative strategies for the transfer of cost effective vehicle and fuel technologies to developing countries; proposal identifies types of barriers that will be investigated, how these barriers will be ranked for critical impact, and the process for identifying and evaluating options to overcoming these barriers; proposal effectively describes how key stakeholders interests will be evaluated and reflected in any deliverables. (10 points)

**EPA Strategic Plan Linkage and Anticipated outcomes/Outputs:** Effectiveness of applicant's plan for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving expected outputs and outcomes identified in Section 1 of this announcement. (10 points)

**Programmatic Capability:** Under this factor, EPA will evaluate applicants based on the applicants: (i) past performance in successfully completing federally and/or non-federally funded projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project, (ii) history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current assistance agreements with federal and/or non-federal organizations and submitting acceptable final technical reports, (iii) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project, (iv) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to

successfully achieve the goals of the project and (v) established record of involving staff and, in the case of academic institutions, faculty and students in a collaborative study project. (25 points). Note: Applicants who have no past performance or reporting history (items i and ii above) will receive a neutral score for those elements of programmatic capability.

**Resources.** Extent to which the applicant's proposed budget is clearly stated, detailed, and appropriate to achieve the project's objectives and demonstrates a cost effective utilization of resources. (10 points)

**Past experience.** Proposal demonstrates the applicant's organizational experience in assessing industry impacts on changes in technology and the ability to develop innovative solutions to complex issues involving multiple stakeholders and perspectives. (15 points)

**C. Other Factors.**

None.

**D. Review and Selection Process.**

Each application will be evaluated by an EPA staff team chosen for their experience with a full range of transportation air quality matters. The Evaluation Team will base its evaluations solely on the selection criteria disclosed in this notice (See Section V(A), Evaluation Criteria). Once the Evaluation Team has completed evaluations, the Team will forward its recommendations to the Agency Approving Official for final decision. Once final decisions have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA Award Official(s).

The Office of Transportation and Air Quality expects to complete the Evaluation/Selection process and make recommendations to EPA's grants office January, 2006. All applicants will be notified within 15 days of final selections, regarding their application's status.

**Section VI - Award Administration Information.**

**A. Award Notices.**

Following final selections, all applicants will be notified regarding their application's status.

1. EPA anticipates notification to successful applicant(s) will be made via telephone, electronic or postal mail by January, 2006. This notification, which advises that the applicant's proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice signed by the EPA grants officer is the authorizing document and will be provided through postal mail. At a minimum, this process can take up to 90 days from the date of selection.
2. EPA anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via electronic or postal mail within 15 days after final selection of successful applicants. In either event,

the notification will be sent to the signer of the application.

3. EPA will notify applicants who are not eligible within 15 days of EPA's decision on application eligibility.
4. EPA reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement

**B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.**

1. A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable\\_epa\\_regulations\\_and\\_description.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm)
2. Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs may be applicable to awards, resulting from this announcement. Applicants selected for funding may be required to provide a copy of their proposal to their State Point of Contact (SPOC) for review, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This review is not required with the Initial Proposal and not all states require such a review.
3. Grants and agreements with institutions of higher education are subject to 40 CFR Parts 30 and 40 and OMB Circular A-122 for non-profits and A-21 for institutions of higher learning.
4. Programmatic Terms and conditions will be negotiated with the selected recipient.

**C. Reporting Requirement.**

The recipient agrees to submit quarterly progress reports to the EPA Project Officer within thirty days after each reporting period. These reports shall cover work status, work progress, difficulties encountered, a statement of activity anticipated during the subsequent reporting period. A discussion of expenditures along with a comparison of the percentage of the project completed to the project schedule and an explanation of significant discrepancies shall be included in the report. The report shall also include any changes of key personnel concerned with the project. The recipient also agrees to submit a detailed final report. The final report should include: a summary of the project, specifications of technologies and fuel used, detailed description of the demonstration fleet, summary of emissions reductions achieved, cost analyses, problems, successes, and lessons learned.

**D. Disputes.**

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26,

2005) located on the Web at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>.

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Agency contact identified in Section VII of this solicitation.

Non-profit applicants recommended for funding under this solicitation will be subject to pre-award administration capability reviews consistent with sections 8.b, 8.c and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8.

### **Section VII - Agency Contact.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Larson, U.S. EPA, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, Transportation and Climate Division, 2000 Traverwood Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Phone (734)214-4277; Fax (734)214-4598; or email to: [larson.robert@epa.gov](mailto:larson.robert@epa.gov)

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to the contact person listed above. Answers will be posted, weekly, until the closing date of this announcement at the Office of Air and Radiation Grants/Funding Web page at: ([http://www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html)).

### **Section VIII - Other Information.**

The EPA Grant Award Officer is the only official that can bind the Agency to the expenditure of funds for selected projects resulting from this announcement.