

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMICS (NICE³)

U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have combined to sponsor an innovative, cost-sharing program to promote energy efficiency, clean production, and economic competitiveness in industry. The grant program, known as NICE³, provides funding to state/industry partnerships for projects that develop and demonstrate advances in energy efficiency and clean production technologies. Since 1991, NICE³ has sponsored 43 projects, totaling \$12.4 million of DOE funding.

The overall goal of NICE³ is to improve industrial energy efficiency, reduce industry's costs, and promote clean production. DOE and EPA can achieve this goal by sponsoring projects that

- Demonstrate successful industrial applications of energy-efficient technologies that reduce costs to industry and prevent pollution.
- Identify and implement efficiency improvements in material inputs, processes, and waste streams.
- Develop strategies to overcome barriers that inhibit energy efficiency and waste minimization.
- Enhance U.S. industrial competitiveness by encouraging the use of cost-effective waste minimization and energy-efficient processes, equipment, and practices.

Industry applicants must submit project proposals through a state energy, pollution prevention, or business development office. Funds are awarded to state/industry partnerships that can match the DOE/EPA federal funds at least dollar for dollar. Awardees receive a one-time grant of up to \$400,000 for the proposed projects. After the initial funding, the awardee is expected to commercialize the process or technology.

Applicants are encouraged to submit an optional 2-page project summary. The project summary provides an excellent opportunity to receive feedback on a proposed project prior to the preparation of an official response to the solicitation. (see page entitled Optional Project Summary for guidelines)

Additional information can be obtained by contacting your state or DOE Regional contact (information available at the NICE³ display booth)

Timeline for 1996 Projects

- Optional 2-page Project Summary: Accepted through October 2, 1995 to allow for 2-week turn around
- Solicitation opens: November 1, 1995
- Solicitation ends: January 16, 1996 (states may have earlier deadline)
- Evaluations by NREL and Regional DOE Support Offices complete: March 15, 1996
- Awards announcement: Earth Day-April 1996

NICE³-1996
OPTIONAL PROJECT SUMMARY (2 PAGE MAXIMUM)

PROJECT TITLE/COMPANY(name, address, phone)

One paragraph statement of what industry/waste problem is being addressed:

- What are you trying to improve?
- What industries are affected?
- Why is the problem of national interest?

One paragraph statement of the proposed project/solution:

- How will the proposed solution address the problem?
- Describe how the solution is innovative or demonstrates a new approach compared with the existing technology.

One paragraph statement of the funding sources/supporters and kinds of support for the project/approach:

- Who is committed to the project and in what way?
- Is there at least a dollar-for-dollar match for federal funds?
- What state offices support the project?
- What is the total project cost? What funding is being requested of DOE?
- Has this request been submitted to other programs/agencies? Which agencies?
- Is this project/process cost effective compared with existing technology?

One paragraph of energy, environmental, jobs, and dollar savings at the plant.

- What are the potential energy savings (provide unit or plant size; i.e., 1×10^{12} Btu/40 x 10^6 lb/yr plant)?
- Project how many units will be in operation by 2010; then calculate national energy benefits if this technology/approach is successful and widely applied (target 1 trillion Btu/yr by 2010).
- Under the same assumptions, what are the national environmental (waste reduction) savings, job savings, and dollar savings by 2010?

One paragraph on how this project would have any national/international impacts on energy, environment, jobs, and/or markets:

- What mechanisms do you propose for commercializing the technology approach at the national level?
- How will other companies, including competitors, be informed of and decide to use the approach?
- Are there special factors involved that will keep U.S. jobs from being lost?
- If this approach is successful, will additional U.S. jobs be created?

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The summary must be submitted by the participating state agency to the U.S. DOE Golden Field Office. A response will be faxed back to the state agency within 2 weeks.