

BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BPA seeks proposals for its 2017 research portfolio

Portland, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration is looking for research partners to explore, advance and demonstrate technologies that could increase efficiencies, avoid costs and improve the operation of the Northwest’s electric power system. BPA’s office of Technology Innovation is accepting proposals for its 2017 research and development portfolio until March 31. BPA could fund up to \$3.5 million of new research next fiscal year.

“We want to partner in research that can deliver the most potential benefits to BPA, and through a better BPA to our utility customers and Northwest ratepayers,” said Terry Oliver, BPA’s chief technology officer.

BPA collaborates with electric utilities, nonprofits, corporations, national labs, technology developers and universities across North America and even internationally on research that addresses capability gaps identified in its technology roadmaps. BPA develops its roadmaps with industry partners, researchers and others as a framework to help plan, coordinate and forecast technology developments.

“Developing technology roadmaps with subject-matter experts helps us identify and link business challenges to potential solutions,” Oliver said.

For fiscal year 2017, BPA is seeking proposals that advance transmission, demand response, power generation asset management and energy efficiency technologies. The roadmaps are available on BPA’s Technology Innovation Web page: www.bpa.gov/ti.

BPA updates its research portfolio annually and it currently includes 60 research projects in six main topic areas: transmission, hydropower, smart grid, energy efficiency, demand response and energy storage. Partners include the ABB, Alstom Grid, Alstom Renewable Power Canada Inc., Avista Corp., Battelle, Ecotope Inc., Electric Power Research Institute, Energy Trust of Oregon, Grid Protection Alliance, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Jabil, Johns Hopkins University, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory,



Lighting Research Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oregon State University, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland General Electric, Portland State University, Puget Sound Energy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Sandia National Laboratories, Snohomish County Public Utility District, University at Buffalo, University of Denver, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Washington, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Energy, V&R Energy Systems Research Inc., Washington State University, Western Electricity Coordinating Council Load Modeling Task Force, and WECC Modeling and Validation Working Group.

BPA uses a two-phase process to select potential research and development opportunities. For consideration, applicants and their partners must be able to provide 50 percent cost share. Concept papers are due by March 31. Applications will only be accepted through the [BPA Exchange website](#). Those who qualify will be invited to develop their proposals for phase two and submit them by May 2. Awardees will be notified in July.

If you have questions about the submission process, see the Q&A section on the website or contact Karen Wolfe at ktwolfe@bpa.gov or 503-230-3448. To learn more about the research topic areas, contact Judith Estep at jaestep@bpa.gov or 503-230-5997.

Since 2005, BPA's office of Technology Innovation has implemented a disciplined research management approach that has delivered millions of dollars of savings through avoided costs, operational improvements and increased efficiencies. Successes include the build-out of the largest synchrophasor network in North America and support for BPA's continued leadership in synchrophasor data processing and visualization. Another innovation, the BPA-designed helical connector shunt that allows electric utilities to more easily upgrade existing transmission lines, has realized nearly \$30 million in cost savings. BPA recently partnered in the five-year Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project that evaluated 55 smart grid technologies and performed the world's largest and broadest field test of transactive energy. BPA's office of Technology Innovation also supports an industry-leading seismic mitigation program.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 142 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA delivers power via more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and 259 substations to 490 transmission customers. In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region's high-voltage transmission grid. BPA also funds one of the largest fish and wildlife programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain affordable, reliable and carbon-free electric power for the Northwest. www.bpa.gov

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