

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HYDROGEN CONSULTANT

The Connecticut Green Bank (“Green Bank”) received questions from several interested parties. For ease of answering, similar questions have been condensed.

Questions Regarding RFP Submission:

Question 1:

Can you confirm that a cover, cover letter, and table of contents will not be counted in the 10-page limit?

Response 1:

Yes, this is acceptable. We simply prefer that the body of your proposals be limited to 10 pages.

Question 2:

Can we provide exceptions to the contract in an appendix that exceeds the 10-page limit?

Response 2:

Yes, however we ask that you limit such information to a few short paragraphs, keeping the body of the proposal at a ten (10) page minimum.

Question 3:

Can we provide additional qualifications and resumes for our team for reference in an appendix that exceeds the 10-page limit?

Response 3:

Yes.

Question 4:

What time is the proposal due on June 20th?

Response 4:

Responses are due by 5pm EST on June 20th, 2022.

Question 5:

The updated RFP has two Exhibit B Sample Standard Professional Services Agreements (first one with four forms and the second with one form). Please confirm which Exhibit B we should follow.

Response 5:

Our apology, as this was a discrepancy within the RFP. You should refer *only* to the second Exhibit B (the exhibit following Exhibit A-the Act) which contains *one* (1) state contracting form/affidavit. Please see the corrected RFP linked hereto which contains just this one Exhibit B referred to above. [Updated RFP](#)

Question 6:

The updated RFP has two versions of the State of Connecticut Campaign Contribution Certification Form. One says we must submit with our proposal, while the other version says it is required upon contract signing. Please confirm we are to submit at both stages.

Response 6:

Our Apology, as this was a discrepancy within the RFP. The *current* State of Connecticut Campaign Contribution Certification form is located on the last two (2) pages of the RFP. Please refer *only* to the Exhibit B which follows Exhibit A-The Act. Please see the corrected RFP linked hereto which contains just this one Exhibit B referred to above. [Updated RFP](#)

Further, please note that execution/affirmation of the required state contracting forms/provisions is required *only* upon signing a Professional Services Agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank, if awarded. This is not required in connection with the submission of your RFP proposal.

Question 7:

The updated RFP has several forms for signature at contract negotiation. Please confirm the forms we need to provide with the proposal. Do we submit both the Campaign Contribution Certification (from the second Exhibit B) and the Consulting Agreement Affidavit (from the first Exhibit B)?

Response 7:

Our apology, as this was a discrepancy within the RFP. Please disregard the first Exhibit B, and refer *only* to the second Exhibit B (the exhibit following Exhibit A-the Act) which contains the current state contracting obligations and includes one (1) attached state contracting form (the current State of Connecticut Campaign Contribution Certification form). Please note the additional current state contracting obligations are embedded as provisions within the PSA (the correct Exhibit B-provisions 14-19). See the corrected RFP linked hereto which contains just this one Exhibit B referred to above. [Updated RFP](#)

Further, please be advised that execution/affirmation of the required state contracting forms/provisions is required *only* upon signing a Professional Services Agreement with Connecticut Green Bank, if awarded. This is not required in connection with the submission of your RFP proposal.

Question 8:

How many Task Force & Working Group meetings should the Consultant budget for in our submission?

Response 8:

Between July 12th, 2022, and January 15, 2023, the Task Force will meet ~7 times (2-hr monthly meetings between July and January) and each Working Group (4 total) will meet ~8 times (1-hr biweekly between August and November). Additional meetings may be held as needed.

Question 9:

Does Green Bank desire or require any particular task-level granularity to the proposed not-to-exceed quotation?

Response 9:

No.

Question 10:

In budgeting travel, may proposed level of in-person participation be framed as an optional additional budget item?

Response 10:

Yes.

Questions Regarding Research Tasks:

Question 11:

Is there any guidance on what constitutes “clean hydrogen”? Does CT Greenbank for example considers Blue/Pink Hydrogen as clean?

Response 11:

Within Special Act 22-8, clean hydrogen includes, but is not limited to wind, solar, biogas and nuclear. There may be instances, such as this, where the Task Force will need to be coordinated and facilitated to provide further clarification.

Question 12:

Regarding RFP Program Background Task 1, are there specific states, regions, or countries that the Task Force is interested in targeting for a legislative and regulatory review?

Response 12:

There is no specific reference case we are interested in – we will rely on recommendations from the selected Consultant to identify useful case studies.

Question 13:

Regarding RFP Program Background Task 1, can you define what is meant by ‘economies of scale’?

Response 13:

The Green Bank interprets this legislative directive to mean that the state is less interested in pilot applications of hydrogen than in solutions that are ready to be deployed at scale. However, there may be instances, such as this, where the Task Force will need to be coordinated and facilitated to provide further clarification.

Question 14:

Regarding RFP Program Background Task 1, what is meant by 'ecosystem'? Does this refer to hydrogen production, storage, transportation and/or distribution?

Response 14:

The Green Bank interprets this legislative directive to mean that the Task Force should consider the broad diversity of stakeholders involved in the deployment of hydrogen, including all the sectors identified in this question. There may be instances, such as this, where the Task Force will need to be coordinated and facilitated to provide further clarification.

Question 15:

What are the main foreseeable roles and services performed by the Consultant in helping to lead research functions?

Response 15:

This research could also be defined as a literature review, identifying and examining pertinent use cases, including presenting findings to the Task Force. The Consultant should identify relevant subject matter experts and facilitating bringing them before the Task Force to present and draw conclusions. As part of this outreach, the Consultant will also interview CT hydrogen thought leaders, including Task Force members, to capture their expertise.

Question 16:

What does CGB envision from Consultants for analysis and modeling (if at all) and, if so, what kinds of analysis and tools? Do you envision a need for the Consultant to perform primary analysis such as economic or resource potential modeling, scenario analysis, macroeconomic modeling of jobs impacts, etc.? If so, is this required or optional?

Response 16:

Applicants can indicate that additional analyses for the Task Force, if the Applicants is able to provide, shall be compensated on a case-by-case basis for the work performed. Applicants may want to include within their proposals additional optional tasks the Applicant can undertake to support the Task Force.

Question 17:

How far forward-looking should the study's recommendations aim to be? (i.e. by 2030? 2035? 2050?)

Response 17:

Given the passage of Public Act 22-5, the Green Bank would recommend 2040.

Question 18:

Analyzing the distribution of produced hydrogen is not currently part of the proposed scope – only hydrogen sources and hydrogen end-uses. Is this something the taskforce would be interested in exploring further as well?

Response 18:

Yes, we are open to receiving proposals that would examine hydrogen end-uses as well as hydrogen production. Applicants may submit this as additional optional support for consideration within the RFP.

Question 19:

The purpose of the study is to understand “the potential of hydrogen-fueled energy.” Does that mean the study should not consider end-uses of hydrogen outside of energy generation (e.g., ammonia production).

Response 19:

The Green Bank is open to responses that consider alternative end-uses of hydrogen beyond energy generation.

Question 20:

Should only end-uses within the state of Connecticut be considered?

Response 20:

No, we are open to responses that contemplate Connecticut as part of a larger, regional (e.g., Northeast and New England) and national hydrogen market.

Question 21:

Are Working Group members/co-chairs active participants in performing analysis, or intended to serve in mostly advisory capacity?

Response 21:

Members of the Task Force, and its Working Groups, are intended to serve in an advisory capacity and supported by the Applicants (e.g., performing analysis).

Question 22:

Will the Consultant contribute to the final report to the legislature? Is there a particular format the recommendations are expected to be delivered in? Will there be an opportunity to present the recommendations verbally, or only in writing?

Response 22:

It should be expected that the Consultant will assemble and present the final report through the direction and guidance of the Task Force.

Questions Regarding Additional Tasks:

Question 23:

Please elaborate on the administrative functions and support role referred to in the proposal: Is the Consultant being asked to help organize and facilitate the Task Force and Working Groups? Or is the Consultant's role limited to presenting results to the Task Force?

Response 23:

The Consultant will be expected to prepare agendas for Task Force meetings, present results when appropriate, and prepare meeting summaries. For Task Force and Working Group meetings, the Consultant will be expected to facilitate along with the Chair of the Task Force. Additionally, the Consultant should anticipate leading the development of an engagement workplan.

Question 24:

What estimated percentage of the total work-load would be dedicated to providing support for administrating the Task Force?

Response 24:

The Green Bank has no preconceptions about percent of Consultant time devoted to administering the Task Force. We look forward to reviewing your proposals.

Question 25:

Would the Consultant be expected to attend all meetings of the Task Force and Working Groups? Or a subset of meetings to present results?

Response 25:

The Consultant will be expected to attend all meetings.

Question 26:

As detailed in the webinar, Task Force meetings will be hybrid in-person/virtual events. Will Working Group meetings also be hybrid? Should the Consultant be available in person for any meeting?

Response 26:

Working Group meetings will default to virtual meetings, though there is the possibility some may happen in person. The Consultant will not be required to attend any events in person, but the Green Bank is open to the Consultant attending any meeting.

Questions Regarding Timeline:

Question 27:

The RFP states, that first Task Force meeting with contractor will be on July 12, 2022, and the final deliverables are due on January 15, 2022. Is the project expected to run continuously for the 6 months (with the exception of Holiday breaks – Thanksgiving, winter)?

Response 27:

Yes.

Question 28:

Are legislative stakeholders expecting midterm deliverables at some point before January 15, 2023? If yes, at which points – and with regards to which items requested in the scope?

Response 28:

No – interim deliverables may be made available to Task Force members, but legislative stakeholders will receive the full findings of the Task Force on January 15th, 2023.

Question 29:

The committee proposed organization into four Working Groups – “policy and workforce development,” “funding,” “hydrogen sources,” and “hydrogen end-uses.” Is the expectation that all four Working Groups will be operational concurrently during the full duration of the project?

Response 29:

No. The Working Groups will be launched later this summer and conclude their respective activities prior to the final report consolidation. The Green Bank estimates that the Working Groups will operate between August-October 2022.

Additional Questions:

Question 30:

Beyond the Task Force meetings, what are the Green Bank’s estimates on hourly or monthly Consultant commitment?

Response 30:

The Green Bank has no preconceptions about the hourly commitment of the Consultant. We look forward to reviewing your proposals.

Question 31:

What is the expectation of the Task Force members in terms of hours committed to the project?

Response 31:

The Task Force members will be expected to attend Task Force meetings and review materials (e.g., meeting minutes), discuss findings, and issue recommendations within the final deliverable.

Question 32:

Are there any specific Consultant specializations that are sought after, such as a background in hydrogen technology and implementation, or business administration?

Response 32:

Text

Question 33:

Outside of monthly taskforce meetings and biweekly Working Group meetings, will there be additional checkpoints with taskforce members? Should most checkpoints be planned to occur in person, in CT, or only on occasion?

Response 33:

Additional check-ins will happen as needed. These additional meetings will likely be virtual.

Question 34:

On the webinar slide deck, slide 8 references Defense Protection Act. Did you mean Defense Production Act?

Response 34:

Yes.