



Manufacturing Demonstration Facility Low-Cost Carbon Fiber Available to US Manufacturers for Market Development and Demonstration

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is making available market development quantities of low-cost carbon fiber for use in developing new products and markets for polymer matrix composites. Companies interested in using such materials are invited to submit proposals as described in this announcement.

Description

UT-Battelle, LLC, acting under its Prime Contract No. DE-AC05-00OR22725 with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the management and operation of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, conducts research and development in support of the DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO). AMO's mission is to develop and demonstrate new energy efficient manufacturing and materials technologies at a scale adequate to prove their value to manufacturers. The mission includes technology deployment that promotes use of advanced technologies and better energy management to capture U.S. competitive advantage.

ORNL is requesting proposals from industry to develop new products and markets for low-cost carbon fiber composites for transportation, energy production, infrastructure and other industrial uses. Proposals for projects with near-term commercial applications will have the highest likelihood of acceptance. Funds will not be provided to the industrial participant by ORNL. **Note: THIS IS NOT A PROCUREMENT REQUEST.**

Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to industries that currently manufacture or process materials in the U.S. for commercial applications or to industries that will be able to do so as a direct result of these collaborative efforts.

Background

Carbon fiber is a strong, stiff, lightweight enabling material for improved performance in many applications. However, its use in cost-sensitive, high-volume industrial applications is limited because of today's relatively high price. Current methods for manufacturing carbon fiber and carbon-fiber-reinforced composite structures tend to be slow and energy intensive. New, innovative manufacturing processes for low-cost precursor development and conversion technologies hold the key to reducing carbon fiber cost for energy applications.

DOE's Manufacturing Demonstration Facility at ORNL offers distinctive world-leading capabilities in manufacturing and materials research technologies and characterization facilities. ORNL, an internationally recognized leader in this research and development area, operates DOE's unique Carbon Fiber Technology Facility—a 42,000 ft² innovative technology facility and works with leading companies to overcome commercialization and manufacturing barriers and realize the strength and energy saving benefits of these new materials. A key role of this facility is to produce development quantities of low-

cost carbon fiber needed for large-scale material and process evaluations and prototyping.

Proprietary Data

A Non-Disclosure agreement (NDA), if required, can be put into place to facilitate discussions while protecting the partner's proprietary information. To the extent possible, it is preferred that proprietary information NOT be included in the proposal. If company proprietary information is included in the proposal, the specific information should be marked as such, and UT-Battelle/ORNL will treat that information as business confidential.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should be no more than 5 single spaced pages using 12 point font (Times New Roman preferred), should be in PDF file format, and must **include** the following components under headings corresponding to the bullets below:

- **Title Page:** (not included in page limit) Proposal title, principal investigator(s), contact information (name, company, title, nationality, address, phone number, fax number, and email address of the primary contact for contract issues and for scientific issues), as well as a brief company description.
- **Abstract:** Brief non-proprietary summary of technical objectives and potential impacts of proposed demonstration.
- **Market Opportunity:** Describe market opportunity and how low-cost carbon fiber can facilitate successful entry.
- **Project Plan and Objectives:** Provide a brief plan of action for completion of the demonstration project including quantity of carbon fiber required and timeline to complete.
- **Impact:** Describe product impact and benefit to the US economy including associated energy savings, if applicable.
- **Project Budget:** (not included in page limit) Estimate of private investment required to accomplish project demonstration.
- **Qualifications and Experience:** Provide a statement of qualification and experience including brief biographical information for key staff engaged in demonstration.

Proposal Deadline and Submission

This solicitation will remain open for twelve months from the initial date of release and contingent on FY14 funding.

Completed proposals must be submitted in **PDF** file format by email to manufacturing@ornl.gov. The subject line should include: ORNL MDF CF Technology Demonstrations. Receipt of proposals will be confirmed within one week of submission.

Proposal Evaluation and Timeline

This is an open announcement. Evaluation of proposals will begin within 30 days from initial date of release. Selection of winning proposals will be at the discretion of the DOE AMO. The program office reserves the right to select all, a portion, or none of the submissions.

Proposals will be evaluated on two equally weighted criteria:

- Potential to create new products and US jobs (50%)
- Company experience and qualifications (50%)

Point of Contact

All questions relating to this announcement should be directed to Jennifer Palmer by email, palmerja@ornl.gov, or by phone, (865) 241-4218.

Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) Information

Awardees are expected to enter into a MTA with UT-Battelle. Because of the need for accelerated placement and execution of the projects, the agreement will not be subject to negotiation. Failure to enter into the agreement in a timely manner will result in termination of further project consideration.

For more specific terms and conditions, please review the MTA attached to this announcement.