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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program Opens Second Round Funding Opportunity to Accelerate Deployment of Transformative Transmission and Distribution System Solutions

On October 18, 2023, DOE announced up to \$3.46 billion in the first round of GRIP funding, covering 58 projects across 44 states to strengthen electric grid resilience and reliability across America. See the full list of projects. Today's second round funding opportunity will provide an investment of an additional \$3.9 billion for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Successful projects will deploy Federal funding to maximize grid infrastructure deployment at-scale and leverage private sector and non-federal public capital to advance deployment goals.

Concept papers are a required first step in the application process and are due at 5:00 p.m. ET on January 12, 2024. A public webinar will be held at 3:00 p.m. ET on November 20, 2023, to provide additional information. Registration is required.

In addition, to facilitate the formation of project teams, DOE will provide a Teaming Partner List for this cycle to allow organizations that may wish to participate on a project express their interest to other applicants and explore potential partnerships. Instructions to join the Teaming Partner List will be provided in the funding announcement and will be regularly updated to reflect new teaming partners who provide their organization's information.

The DOE's National Transmission Needs Study shows the range of interregional transfer capacity needed for the contiguous U.S. for three different scenario groups in 2035. Like regional transmission deployment, interregional transfer capacity must grow as generation and load changes in the future, it concludes. Source: DOE

This chart from the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Electric Power Industry Outlook in February 2024 shows the total company functional spending of U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Courtesy: EEI

The DOE on April 25 released a final rule that will significantly streamline federal environmental reviews and permitting processes for qualifying onshore electric transmission facilities. Source: DOE

The Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda is driving the largest clean energy investment in history, unleashing a manufacturing and deployment boom that has attracted hundreds of billions of dollars in private sector investment, created more than 270,000 new good-paying jobs, and is lowering home energy costs and utility bills for families across the country. The digitally enabled capabilities that modern energy resources unlock also promise to drive a more ambitious future of abundant, affordable, clean, reliable and

resilient energy.

In support of these efforts and pursuant to the National Cybersecurity Strategy's (NCS) commitment to the cyber-enabled foundations of the energy transition, NCS Implementation Plan version 2.0's Initiative 4.4.4, and Executive Order 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, the White House Offices of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) and Domestic Climate Policy (CPO) are chairing a whole-of-government effort to ensure the digital ecosystem is prepared to deliver a secure energy future.

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring the digital ecosystem remains prepared for today's and tomorrow's challenges, and is placing additional focus on five cyber-enabled technologies key to the near-term energy transition:

In support of these priorities, the U.S. Government is seeking to cultivate a strategically aligned stakeholder community, develop nimble standards and regulations, produce cutting-edge research and development, support swift and resilient deployment, manage risk to relevant supply chains, build workforce capacity, and mitigate systemic risk. Through initiatives like those listed below, the U.S. Government seeks to seize this once in a generation opportunity to equip our critical infrastructure with modern and secure technology.

Given the diverse and distributed nature of the energy stakeholder community, the U.S. Government is empowering increased cohesion within the energy ecosystem, including by promoting a shared vision of purpose and understanding of risk. A robust community of practice across the public and private sectors is necessary to foster strategic alignment, shared goals, and coordinated information flows. Illustrative examples include:

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

