United States Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585
EE-222

NICE^3

National
Industrial
Competitiveness
through
Energy
Environment
Economics

Federal Grants Fund Industry Projects

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsors an innovative, cost-sharing program to promote energy efficiency, clean production, and economic competitiveness in industry. The grant program, known as NICE^3, provides funding to state and industry partnerships for projects that develop and demonstrate advances in energy efficiency and clean production technologies. Since 1991, NICE^3 has sponsored 41 projects, totaling $12.3 million of DOE funding.

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 federal funds at least dollar for dollar. Awardees receive a one-time grant of up to $400,000 for the proposed project. After the initial funding, the awardee is expected to commercialize the process or technology.

Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria

Industrial firms in conjunction with state agencies throughout the U.S. are eligible to apply for the NICE^3 grant program. Proposals are accepted for a variety of industrial applications that promote pollution prevention and energy efficiency.

The following categories are **ineligible** for funding:

- Nuclear radiation/waste
- Electromagnetic radiation (EMF)
- Waste treatment/disposal
- Hazardous waste site remediation
- Cross-media contamination shifts
- Municipal solid waste collection or separation.

NICE^3 project proposals are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Concept description
- Innovation
- Cost efficiency
- Applicant capabilities
- Energy savings
- Waste reduction
- Competitiveness
- Commercialization/marketing plan
- Impact on jobs.

NICE^3 Grant Program Features

The overall goal of NICE^3 is to improve industry energy efficiency, reduce industry's costs, and promote clean production.

Grants support technology development that can significantly conserve energy and energy-intensive feedstocks, reduce industrial wastes, prevent pollution, and improve industrial cost competitiveness. Industry/state partnerships demonstrate innovative technologies. Grants fund up to 40% of total project cost for up to 3 years.

DOE achieves this goal by sponsoring projects that:

- Demonstrate successful industrial applications of energy-efficient technologies that reduce costs to industry and prevent pollution in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 20–39 with emphasis on aluminum, chemicals, forest products, glass, metal casting, petroleum refining, and steel industry sectors.
- Identify and implement efficiency improvements in material inputs, processes, and waste streams to enhance U.S. industrial competitiveness.

Timeline for 1997 Projects

- Optional two-page abstracts accepted through August 2, 1996. (*Industries will receive a prompt response to their abstract.*)
- Solicitation opens: September 3, 1996
- Solicitation closes: January 15, 1997 (*States may have their own deadline to meet timetable.*)
- Evaluations by DOE, national laboratories, support offices, and a national selection panel completed by March 14, 1997.
- Awards announcement: Earth Day, on or about April 21, 1997.
- For 1998, optional two-page abstracts will be accepted through August 3, 1997.

For More Information

Please contact your state energy office, DOE's Golden Field Office (GO), or DOE headquarters. Access via Internet is also available.

GO: (303) 275-4728; (303) 275-4723

DOE: 1 (800) DOE-EREC; (202) 586-1641

1 (800) 273-2957 (for hearing impaired)

Internet: http://www.nrel.gov/documents/nice3

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Office of Industrial Technologies

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NICE3

FY 1997 Solicitation Request Form

Please send a copy of the NICE^3—FY 1997 solicitation/grant application form to:

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone/FAX _____

Internet Address _____ SIC Code/Industry _____

How did you learn about the NICE3 program? _____

Tear and mail
to be included in the FY 1997 solicitation/grant application mailing. Mailings will occur beginning September 3, 1996.

Place Stamp Here

Doug Hooker
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401

Successful NICE^3 Projects Reduce Pollution and Improve Energy Efficiency and Economics

- PPG Industries in Ohio has developed and implemented a system to recover and reuse paint wastewater.
- FMC in Texas has commercialized a system to recover spent methanol in the production of hydrogen peroxide.
- DuPont-Merck in New Jersey has successfully demonstrated ultrasonic technology to clean storage tanks for the pharmaceutical industry, replacing solvent cleaning.
- Damage Protection Products in California has produced a recyclable freight pallet from postconsumer wastepaper.
- AAP St. Marys in Ohio is more efficiently remelting machined chips from cast aluminum automobile wheels, and making new wheels.
- AMPCO Metal Manufacturing in Ohio introduced induction heating to replace continuously heated, fossil fired, holding furnaces (tundish).
- Beta Control Systems in Oregon has developed a closed loop hydrochloric (HCl) acid recovery system for small to mid-size steel companies by integrating innovative materials with automatic controls.
- Pegasus Technologies Inc. has developed a closed-loop on-line neural network for utility boilers to optimize combustion and minimize NO_x emissions.