



PNWH2 Call for Concept Papers

[The Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association \(PNWH2\)](#), as part of the United States Department of Energy (DOE) [Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub](#) program, intends to release a request for proposals (RFP) in the coming months. We are seeking projects to add to our current portfolio that demonstrate excellence in hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and/or end-use. To begin this process, PNWH2 is seeking Concept Papers for potential regional clean hydrogen projects. This is a great opportunity for new and existing partners to showcase transformative projects aligned with the Department of Energy's goals for a clean hydrogen economy.

A request for proposals (RFP) will follow the call for concept papers for interested applicants that have been positively reviewed and encouraged to continue in our process.

Key Highlights:

Funding Availability: Up to \$150 million in potential Federal funding for one or more projects.

Cost Share Obligation: Minimum 50% funding from non-Federal sources is required by DOE; however, the overall cost share for projects across our hub is between 80% and 85%.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Full RFP expected: Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

Timeline Boundary: Project scope completed, including initiating operations, before the end of 2032.

Focus Areas:

- Full or partial hydrogen value chain solutions within the DOE's framework of Make, Move, Use and Store. Examples of desirable projects may include:
 - Electrolytic hydrogen production with secure access to power at a price and availability that supports a clear business case



- Capital investment in heavy duty hydrogen offtake equipment aligned with regional H2 production and distribution networks deployed by local transportation operators
- Non-electrolytic clean hydrogen production at a competitive price point with minimal demand from the regional power grid and robust offtake agreements.
- Tribal energy projects that produce or use hydrogen and offer substantial economic development to local communities
- Based on required content described below, areas of significant importance include:
 - Commercial viability of project and project capitalization.
 - Demonstrated access to power or potential to access power.
 - Expressions of offtake interest.
 - Non-federal cost share match levels not detrimentally affecting the existing PNWH2 hub average.
 - Approach to Community Benefits Plans. Consideration will be given to projects located in impacted communities as per Justice40.

Who Should Apply? PNWH2 is interested in projects in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. We will consider projects in the greater region that have a direct connection to these four states (WA, OR, ID, MT), such as a maritime or aviation corridor relying on hydrogen feedstock for fuels that would connect Washington or Oregon to Hawaii or Alaska, expansion of hydrogen transport to and from the PNW production facilities to storage facilities in Nevada or Utah, or other similar hub and spoke models that emanate from WA, OR, ID, MT.

We encourage submissions from both new entities and existing PNWH2 partners. Any funding will require the proposing entity to agree to the terms of the existing PNWH2 Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Energy.

How to Apply:

- Please submit your Concept Paper by email to proposals@pnwh2.com.
- Ensure your submission follows the guidelines outlined in this call and includes all necessary documentation.



Contact us directly at proposals@pnwh2.com with any questions. We look forward to your participation and collaboration in advancing clean energy solutions for our region.

More information about the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub and its history can be found at <https://PNWH2.com>.

Additional information on PNWH2's federal funding can be found in DOE's [Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA](#) (*DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255*).



Request for Information

RFP No. 24-CR-NPS	Revision No. 0	Quality Level N/A	Issued Date: November 4, 2024
Issued by: Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association (PNWH2) PMO 2801 George Washington Way Richland, WA 99354		Procurement Specialist: Name: Cody Reynolds Email: Proposals@PNWH2.com	
Ship to Address: N/A		Anticipated Freight Terms: N/A	
Payment Terms: N/A		Estimate Agreement Start Date: 2025	
Due Date: December 4, 2024		Anticipated Contract Type: Subrecipient Agreement	

1. Procurement Plan Overview

PNWH2 is soliciting concept papers for new projects by initially requesting concept papers followed by full proposals and oral interviews.

1.1. Schedule

Expected Dates for the procurement steps are shown below.

Procurement Step	Date
Call for Concept Papers Released	Nov 4, 2024
Final Concept Paper Questions Due	Nov 15, 2024
Concept Papers Due	Dec 4, 2024
Review of Concept Papers Complete	Mid December
Request for Proposals Released	Mid December
Proposals Due	Mid February
Orals with PNWH2	March
Final Project Selection Complete	April

2. Procurement Limitations/Requirements

2.1. Acknowledgement of Receipt

Interested potential applicants should submit *Attachment 1 - Acknowledgement of Receipt of PNWH2 Call for Concept Papers 24-CR-NPS* to proposals@PNWH2.com as early as possible. PNWH2 will use this information to communicate with all interested potential applicants in addition to public postings.

2.2. Questions

Interested potential applicants should submit questions to proposals@PNWH2.com before November 15, 2024.

PNWH2 will provide responses to all questions received to all interested parties that have submitted an acknowledgement of receipt and indicated that they are interested in receiving communications related to this solicitation. Answers to questions will be provided no more than weekly and PNWH2 will attempt to answer all questions in a timely manner.

Questions received after the question due date may not be answered.

Interested parties should **NOT** submit confidential information in questions.

2.3. Submittal Instructions

Interested applicants must submit concept papers in PDF format via email to proposals@PNWH2.com. Proposals received through any other means will not be considered. No printed copies are required.

To be eligible to submit a response to the future RFP, applicants must submit a Concept Paper by 11:59 PM PST Dec 4, 2024. Interested applicants are not required to submit an acknowledgement of receipt to submit a concept paper; however, this is strongly encouraged.

2.4. Number of submissions and scope of proposed projects

An entity or team may submit more than one Concept Paper, provided that each application describes a unique, distinct project.

Concept papers should be limited to projects in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. PNWH2 will consider projects in the greater region that have a direct connection to these four states [WA, OR, ID, MT], such as a maritime or aviation corridor relying on hydrogen feedstock for fuels that would connect Washington or Oregon to Hawaii or Alaska, expansion of hydrogen transport to and from the PNW production facilities to storage facilities in Nevada or Utah, or other similar hub and spoke models that emanate from WA, OR, ID, MT.

Project scope must be completed, including initiating operations, before the end of 2032.

Concept Papers may be submitted by new interested applicants and existing hub members. Existing hub members may submit concept papers for expansion of scope to existing projects.

2.5. Formatting requirements

Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept. Do not consolidate unrelated concepts into a single Concept Paper. The Concept Paper must conform to the following content and form requirements and must not exceed 5 pages. If applicants exceed the maximum page length, PNWH2 will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages. Format requirements:

- Five (5) 8.5 x 11 inch page limit. Title/cover page, table of contents, and table of figures are not counted in the page limit.
- Cover Pages may only include:
 - ❖ Company or Organization name, etc.
 - ❖ Will you be creating or are you currently an entity or affiliate to another organization? If so, please provide the name of the other organization

- ❖ Points of Contact (name, title, address, phone, email)
- Concept papers shall be readable and searchable in either PDF or Word format.
 - ❖ Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial are acceptable in 12 pt font with line spacing no less than 1.0.
 - ❖ Headers, footers, tables and graphics are acceptable in no less than 10pt font.
 - ❖ Margins shall be no less than 1 inch in any direction.

2.6. Confidential Marking Instructions

Confidential information should be prominently marked as “Confidential” on each submission and brackets ([and]) should be inserted at the beginning and end of any information interested applicants believe to be confidential or business sensitive. Applicants should not include business sensitive information (e.g., commercial or financial information that is privilege or confidential), trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the FOA. Applicants are advised to not include any critically sensitive proprietary detail.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither PNWH2 nor any other recipient of any information submitted in connection herewith assumes any obligation to protect the confidentiality of such information (including, without limitation, any information marked as “Confidential”), unless a separate, written confidentiality agreement has been executed between the parties. PNWH2 reserves the right to use, disclose, or distribute any information received in any manner it deems appropriate, subject to any applicable legal or contractual restrictions.

This disclaimer does not create, and shall not be interpreted as creating, any new confidentiality obligations on the part of PNWH2, any of its employees, agents or representatives or any other person or entity

2.7. PNWH2 Response to Concept Papers

PNWH2 will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Proposals. Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Proposal. An applicant who receives a “discouraged” notification may still submit a Proposal. PNWH2 will review all eligible Proposals. However, by discouraging the submission of a Proposal, PNWH2 intends to convey its lack of interest in the proposed project in an effort to save the applicant the time and expense of preparing an application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.



PNWH2 may include general comments provided from reviewers on an applicant's Concept Paper in the encourage/discourage notification process.

PNWH2 will not provide any additional debrief options.

3. Limitations & Requirements

PNWH2 is required to meet the terms and conditions of its cooperative agreement and the intent of the original FOA.

3.1. Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions

Detailed information on the PNWH2 cooperative agreement will not be provided at this time; however, interested applicants should be aware of the following highlights of the flow down terms and conditions.

- Projects must be able to comply with the applicable requirements of 2 CFR 200 *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and 2 CFR 910 *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*
- Projects must comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local laws and regulations for all activities performed under an award including
 - ❖ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§ 4321 et seq., and implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500 et seq. and 10 CFR Part 1021
 - ❖ Build America, Buy America Act under Division G, Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Public Law 117–58
- Projects must commit to pursuing a Project Labor Agreement (“PLA”) in good faith to be executed in Phase 3.
- Applicants proposing projects that are foreign entities, anticipate work performed outside of the United States, or that intend to use foreign nationals to execute some or all of the scope will require specific authorization from OCED.

3.2. Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Funding Opportunity Announcement

Interested applicants and projects must propose projects that are consistent with the original FOA (Number: DE-FOA-0002779) including but not limited to:

- I.B Topic Area Description, Page 12
- III.A Eligible Applicants, Page 58

- III.B Cost Sharing, Page 60

4. Concept Papers

Concept papers shall include a detailed project description to provide PNWH2 with the necessary information to determine if the projects are of interest to PNWH2 to add to the hub.

- Cover Page (not page counted)
 - ❖ Company or Organization name, etc.
 - ❖ Will you be creating or are you currently an entity or affiliate to another organization? If so, please provide the name of the other organization
 - ❖ Primary points of Contact (name, title, address, phone, email)
- Table of Contents and Figures (not page counted)
- Project Description (4 pages)

The Concept Paper should address the points below to the extent practicable based on the scope of the proposed project and available page count. Additional information may be included as appropriate.

- ❖ Detailed Project Description
- ❖ Maturity of project
- ❖ Describe your current feed stock and offtake position (including but not limited to power availability)
- ❖ Describe your planned feed stock and offtake position
- ❖ Provide the projected cost of your project
- ❖ Indicate how much DOE funding you would like to request
- ❖ Indicate your ability to provide cost share
- ❖ Provide key metrics of your project such as:
 - Cost per Kg
 - Production
 - Storage
 - Transport
 - End use
 - Carbon emissions reductions
- Community Benefits Program (1 page)

- Community and labor engagement. Describe the actions you have undertaken to date to engage with impacted communities and labor organizations to identify and address impacts your project may have on these entities, both positive and negative. If no actions have been undertaken, what is your plan for this engagement?
- Investing in American workforce. Describe the anticipated impact that your project will have on the local workforce. Address your approach to hiring practices, including direct hire versus subcontracted staff; pay and compensation; organized labor; and workplace safety.
- Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and access. Discuss the actions you have undertaken to date to create a diverse workforce, with a focus on activities to improve job access to traditionally underrepresented socioeconomic groups. Describe activities to ensure equitable accessibility to economic opportunities created from the project for local, small and underrepresented businesses.
- Implementing Justice 40. Describe the monetary and non-monetary benefits you anticipate your project will create within the local community, and how those benefits will impact disadvantaged populations within that community. Discuss any activities you have taken to validate these benefits with the local community.

5. Evaluation Basis

Submissions will be evaluated against the Concept Papers requirements in Section V.A.i (page 91) of DOE's [Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA](#) (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255) as it is applicable to a subrecipient project.

5.1. FOA Section V.A.i Concept Papers

Concept Papers are evaluated based on the following criterion. All sub-criteria are of equal weight and will be considered in evaluating the criterion but will not be individually scored.

Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- ❖ The applicant clearly describes the proposed scope of the project including the key clean hydrogen production through end-use technologies and systems, total cost of the project, and how the proposed project would ultimately facilitate a national clean hydrogen network in the U.S.

- ❖ The applicant has identified a preliminary project development plan and timeline, including a finance plan, any key risks, challenges, and possible mitigation strategies, and has shown the impact that DOE funding and the proposed project would have on developing a national clean hydrogen network and supporting decarbonization goals.
- ❖ The applicant and proposed team have the qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to design, develop, build, and operate the proposed H2Hub.
- ❖ A description of strategies to ensure meaningful community and labor engagement; quality jobs and workforce development; EEJ and the Justice40 Initiative; and diversity, inclusion, accessibility—including methods to ensure accountability.
- ❖ The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would meet the objectives as stated in the FOA, including achieving market liftoff and attracting follow-on investments from the private sector to build out a national clean hydrogen network.

5.2. Evaluation Feedback

PNWH2 will provide each submitted concept paper with either “encouraged” or “discouraged” as described in Section 2.6.



Attachment 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF PNWH2 Call for Concept Papers 24-CR-NPS

Please complete and return this Acknowledgement Form via email to the following person(s):

Cody Reynold, Proposals@PNWH2.com

We **intend** to submit a proposal in response to 24-CR-NPS and wish to receive notifications as part of this process.

We **do not** intend to submit a Proposal in response to 24-CR-NPS

The name, e-mail address, and telephone number of the individual who will serve as our point of contact for this RFI is provided below.

Name of Applicant:		
Point of Contact:		
Phone:	Email:	
Signature:		
Name:	Title	Date