

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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## Request for Comments on the DRAFT Second Solicitation for the California Solar Initiative Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program

### Background and Purpose

The California Solar Initiative (CSI) is a statewide incentive program that aims to build a self-sustaining solar electricity market. The CSI has a goal of creating 1940 MW of new, solar-produced electricity in California by 2017 (and 3,000 MW on a statewide-basis). The CSI was authorized in 2006 by Senate Bill (SB) 1 (Murray) and subsequently enacted through California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Rulemaking (R.) 06-03-004. Pursuant to SB 1, the CPUC allocated \$50 million for a CSI Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment (RD&D) Program. Within the CSI RD&D Program, grant funding is further allocated into three target areas:

- Production technologies
- Grid integration
- Business development and deployment

The CPUC Energy Division, through its Program Manager, Itron, Inc., is making available a draft version of the second Grant Solicitation for the CSI RD&D Program. The purpose of this notice is to seek comments and feedback from interested stakeholders on the draft solicitation document. This second solicitation will focus on **improved PV production technologies** and **innovative business models**. Some areas of particular interest include:

Production technologies that focus on improved system performance, increased system efficiency, or lower system costs, such as (but not limited to):

- Economic viability of distributed concentrating PV systems
- Building-integral PV (BIPV) products that can compete with rooftop PV
- Inverter technologies with improve reliability and performance
- Integration of inverters with "smart meters"
- Energy storage for smaller PV systems
- Innovative hybrid solar thermal/electric systems

Innovative business models that support the market and end user, such as (but not limited to):

- Potential roles for utilities in solar PV
- Development of lower cost, utility-grade PV system control, metering, and monitoring capacity
- Demonstrations of improved PV economics using advanced metering, price-responsive tariffs (e.g., Time of Use—TOU, Feed-in Tariff), and storage.
- Demonstrations of innovative ways to lower installation or operations and maintenance costs
- Testing and demonstrations of virtual net metering approaches
- Testing and an assessment of the economic aspects of energy storage
- Assessing the actual risks and benefits of solar systems to the utilities

### Solicitation Summary

Up to \$15 million in funding is available through this solicitation. Any individual, business, public entity, non-profit institution, university, or national laboratory is eligible to apply for funding. Award amounts will range from \$200,000 to \$3 million, with a minimum of 25% match-funding required for each project.

The draft solicitation contains the following sections:

- Introduction
- Priority Areas and Targets for this Solicitation
- Proposal and Submittal Requirements
- Proposal Screening, Review, and Selection

## Submitting Comments

The draft of the second CSI RD&D Grant Solicitation is posted on the CalSolarResearch.ca.gov website and is now available for review and comment. To view the draft solicitation, please click here: [Draft Second Grant Solicitation](#)

All comments should be submitted through the website using the online comments form. To submit comments, please go to: <http://www.calsolarresearch.ca.gov/submit-your-comments.html>

Comments will be accepted from now through October 12, 2009.

## Finalizing and Releasing the Solicitation

The CPUC staff will review all comments posted and provide direction to the Program Manager on changes and modifications. The solicitation will be finalized and released for possible applications in early November 2009.

## Key Principles of the CSI RD&D Program

SB 1, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in August 2006<sup>1</sup>, authorizes the CPUC to allocate \$50 million of the CSI funds for research, demonstration, and deployment of solar technologies. The CPUC adopted the CSI Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Plan<sup>2</sup> which lays out the seven key principles that the CSI RD&D Program must adhere to:

1. Improve the economics of solar technologies by reducing technology costs and increasing system performance;
2. Focus on issues that directly benefit California, and that may not be funded by others;
3. Fill knowledge gaps to enable successful, wide-scale deployment of solar distributed generation technologies;
4. Overcome significant barriers to technology adoption;
5. Take advantage of California's wealth of data from past, current, and future installations to fulfill the above;
6. Provide bridge funding to help promising solar technologies transition from a pre-commercial state to full commercial viability; and
7. Support efforts to address the integration of distributed solar power into the grid in order to maximize its value to California ratepayers.

For more information on the CSI RD&D Program, please visit the CPUC's website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Solar/rdd.htm>

For more information on California's solar programs administered by the CPUC and the California Energy Commission, please visit the Go Solar website at: <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.com>

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 132, Statutes of 2006

<sup>2</sup> CPUC Decision 07-09-042