

Request For Proposals For Consultant Services To Support the Clean Energy Supplier Alliance

The Clean Energy Supplier Alliance (CESA) is a nonprofit, industry-led association established to accelerate the deployment of next-generation nuclear and other advanced clean energy technologies to maintain energy security as carbon-emitting facilities are retired. CESA brings together business and labor members to address supply chain gaps, create competitive solutions and foster innovation that supports origination of a modern nuclear supply chain regionally and nationally. CESA works closely with Washington VERTical, the WA Commerce ICAP funded clean energy innovation cluster administered by the Port of Benton.

On April 3, 2023, the Port of Benton was awarded an Evergreen Manufacturing Growth Grant (EMGG) to assess the feasibility of commercializing Large-Scale Powder Metallurgy (PM) Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIP) in the Tri-Cities. Large-Scale PM-HIP is also referred to as ATLAS PM-HIP (Advanced Technology at Large Scale).

Feasibility assessment results were reported to Port of Benton on July 7, 2023 (enclosed). As reported, a primary work product of the EMGG funded assessment was the CESA ATLAS PM-HIP Project Expression of Interest submitted to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP). The EOI presented an industry leading consortium assembled and led by CESA, with the objective of building an ATLAS PM-HIP facility in the Tri-Cities.

The NNPP is continuing its market research to identify candidate suppliers who possess the expertise and experience, are capable of executing the scope and who are interested in participating in the ATLAS PM-HIP Project. After completing its market research and review of EOI submittals, NNPP intends to select an appropriate bidders list for a competitive solicitation in late 2023/early 2024 timeframe.

McCormack Consulting, LLC, Port of Benton's CESA operations Contractor, is soliciting proposals from contractors (hereafter referred to as "Consultant") interested in filling the role of Project Manager for continued development and pursuit of Large-Scale PM-HIP commercialization opportunities in the Tri-Cities, including the NNPP ATLAS PM-HIP project.

Total available funds available:

There is a total amount of \$8,000 available to fund the position of Project Manager over a four month period of performance (9/1/23 – 12/29/23).

Eligible Proposals.

To be considered, proposals must contain the following materials:

- A written project narrative that demonstrates the Consultant's relevant experience, understanding of the project, approach to the role of Project Manager, and budget information such as billing rate and expense information. (Limited to 2 pages)
- Qualified candidates for Project Manager will have successful experience leading technology-based companies and demonstrated expertise in analysis of business need and viability; business start-up and scale-up; finance and capital formation with a particular emphasis on the development, commercialization and accelerated growth of multi-discipline engineered products.

Proposals should provide a straightforward, concise delineation of the proposed project and experience of the Consultant. The selection will be based on the relevant experience of the project manager and the project narrative.

This RFP does not obligate McCormack Consulting to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals nor enter into a lease, sale or other arrangement with any Consultant. McCormack Consulting reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to accept any bid, or to waive minor informalities and accept the proposal that is in the best interest of CESA, Washington VERTical, or the Port of Benton. Any contract that may result from this RFP will be subject to approval from the Department of Commerce, and must abide by the same terms, conditions, laws, etc as contained in the "master Agreement held between the Department of Commerce and the Port of Benton.

Proposals furnished hereunder must be submitted electronically to collins@portofbenton.com no later than 11:00 a.m. local time, Friday, August 25, 2023. Questions shall be submitted to the Port of Benton by email at the above address no later than 11:00 a.m. local time Wednesday, August 23, 2023.