

The Joule Centre Invitation for Research Proposals May 2008

The Joule Centre for Energy Research is a partnership of Northwest Universities, commercial organisations and other stakeholders associated with the energy industry. It has emerged out of the complimentary strengths of the participating organisations across a range of disciplines and energy areas. The Vision of the Joule Centre is:

“To create a world-leading energy research centre in England’s Northwest which will significantly increase the region’s research capabilities in sustainable energy technologies and energy systems”

The Joule Centre aims to provide a focal point for the NW to make a growing contribution to national and international challenges in the field of sustainable energy R&D and to attract an increasing share of available funding. It will capitalise on the regional knowledge base in both academia and industry to develop an innovative R&D agenda that will support the work of the Northwest Energy Council and exploit opportunities in energy systems and technology development that are relevant to the NW.

Invitation for Research Proposals

The Joule Centre now wishes to invite proposals for research projects from eligible organisations within the area of the North West Development Agency.

“Seed Corn” Grants

In this call, applications are invited for “Seed Corn” Grants. These may be for research on any aspect of energy and may last for up to one year. The maximum budget per grant is £75,000 and the total budget for Grants in this 4th call will be approximately £800,000. All grants must be complete by 31st December 2009.

The objective of “Seed Corn” Grants is to stimulate new areas of research and it is expected that they will lead on to major projects funded by others.

Grant holders should be willing to participate in publicity relating to the Joule Centre and their grant and to participate in delivery of lectures and presentations relating to their areas of expertise within the Joule network.

Subject

Whilst applications for “Seed Corn” grants may relate to any aspect of sustainable energy, there are two preferred subject areas:

1. Demand Reduction/Demand Management/End User Efficiency
2. Sustainable Energy Infrastructure and Supply Technologies

Applicants are requested to identify how their proposal fits into the framework proposed by the Energy Technology Institute:

Selection Criteria

Co-funding or the demonstrated potential for future co-funding of the area of research is considered to be highly desirable and will be weighted heavily in the selection of projects to receive funding. Proposals should also give an indicative timescale to reach demonstration and commercial exploitation of the research results.

The selection criteria will include:

- Links with industry or businesses in the North West region particularly those involving project co-funding
- Scientific and technological excellence of the proposal
- Demonstrated value to the Northwest including exploitation and dissemination
- Track record of the Investigators and their collaborating organisations
- Value for money
- Co-funding or the demonstrated potential for future co-funding
- Clear milestones and deliverables
- A clear demonstration of how this Seed Corn grant will act as a catalyst in applying for major projects in the future

Submission of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted via email to the Joule Centre Administrator by 17:00 on 27th June 2008. Electronic copies of the Application Form and a Funding Guide are available from the Joule Centre Administrator.

Joule Centre Administrator:

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