

The Joule Centre

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 will 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.

Subject

The Subject of this 3rd Call is “Energy Supply Technologies”. Applicants are requested to identify how their proposal fits into the framework proposed by the Energy Technology Institute:

Theme 1: Large Scale Energy Supply Technologies

Objective: To develop technologies to improve efficiency of power generation and to develop sustainable approaches to reducing emissions from existing fossil fuel technologies.

Theme 2: Energy Security of Supply

Objective: To develop a mix of energy technologies (excluding nuclear) to increase security and diversity of supply, consistent with helping to deliver the UK’s energy goals.

Theme 5: Small Scale Energy Supply Technologies

Objective: To develop new and emerging distributed energy supply options using smaller scale technologies that utilise locally available energy sources.

Budget

The budget of this 3rd Call is £700,000 and it is anticipated that more than two grants will be awarded. Projects may extend over periods of up to 3 years. 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.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria will include:

- 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

“Seed Corn” Grants

Applications are also 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 £50,000. However it is anticipated that most proposals will be in the range £10,000-£30,000. The total budget for “Seed Corn” Grants in this 3rd call will be approximately £200,000.

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.

The submission process and evaluation criteria for “Seed Corn” grants are identical to those of full research grants with the exception that a shorter Case for Support is entirely acceptable.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted via email to the Joule Centre Administrator by 17:00 on 2nd March 2007. Electronic copies of the Application Form and a Funding Guide are available from the Joule Centre Administrator.

Joule IRP No 3, 15 January 2006
Invitation for Research Proposals



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