Small Business Vouchers Pilot

ENERGIZING THE CLEAN ECONOMY

Technical Power to Drive Clean Energy Forward

Each year, small businesses prove themselves the backbone of the US economy. They currently provide about two-thirds of all jobs, create almost 65% of new jobs, and account for nearly half of the non-farm GDP. Further, these small businesses are generating new products, technologies and ideas that are essential to future prosperity.

To overcome the technical challenges inherent in bringing innovations to market, a new initiative will help clean energy small businesses connect with national laboratories, America's science and technology powerhouses.

Launched by the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office (EERE), the Small Business Voucher (SBV) Pilot will match selected clean energy small businesses with experts from the national labs—and give the businesses vouchers valued at $50K to $300K that they can exchange for national lab technical assistance.

This assistance—normally available only to large industrial and academic partners—will focus on a specific technical challenge identified by the small business and deliver results intended to drive the business to greater success.

Below is a quick overview of the SBV Pilot, how to apply, the selection process, and what the national labs can offer small businesses.

SBV at a Glance

Available Funding	$20 million, provided as technical aid from the national labs
Voucher Amounts	• Ranges from $50K to $300K per business to fund either collaborative projects or technical assistance from the national lab • Small businesses must each provide 20% matching funds or in-kind services
Eligibility	• Must be a for-profit business with no more than 500 full-time-equivalent employees worldwide • Must be U.S.-based and U.S.-owned.
Technical Areas	Vouchers are limited to specific R&D areas: • Advanced Manufacturing • Bio-energy • Buildings • Fuel Cells • Geothermal • Solar • Water • Wind • Vehicles

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | National Laboratory Impact Initiative

How SBV Works

1. Confirm Your Small Business Meets Eligibility Requirements
2. Develop an Innovative Research Idea
3. Register Your Small Business by visiting the SBV website
4. Submit Your Request for Assistance Electronically
5. Labs Receive Requests
6. SBV Merit Review
7. DOE Evaluates Request and Approves/Rejects
8. Finalize Agreement
9. Begin Voucher Work

SBV Schedule/Award Cycles

Round 1: Sept 2015 – Jan 2016
Round 2: Feb 2016 – May 2016
Round 3: June 2016 – Sept 2016

What the National Labs Offer

A network of advanced science and technology centers, the national laboratories push the boundaries of research to help our country address current and anticipated challenges. In fulfilling their role, the labs have developed deep expertise, state-of-the-art facilities, and world-class, often unique, resources.

The SBV Pilot makes it possible to focus the power of the national labs directly on specific problems identified by small businesses. The solutions generated can help small businesses become even better equipped to do what they do best: advance innovation, create jobs, and build prosperity.

For More Information

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