

Email June 14, 2015

DOE FOA SB-DATA – REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

There is a national discussion about how data will be exchanged between stakeholders that will significantly impact how business is transacted all along the supply chain. The [White House Open Data Initiative](#), the [DATA Act](#) and other legislation have made great progress in creating the foundation for data interoperability, the [Executive order compelling compliance by 2017](#), and the upcoming Department of [Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement \(DOE FOA\) for Solar Bankability Data \(SB-data\)](#) pushes implementation to the next twenty four months.

The DOE FOA SB-Data concept paper will be submitted on June 22nd and we would like to **invite your participation as an identified participant**, observer, or in any role you feel comfortable with.

The underlying premise of the response will be to provide a strategy to promote engagement, collaboration and consensus. It is a starting point for engagement, not a conclusion.

To discuss the FOA, structure and role of various participants, and who should lead the submission there will be a series of conference calls this week, along with draft concept papers circulated as we finalize the strategy. Please let me know if you would like to participate in the calls and email string.

While this may seem to be a very tight timeline to commit to, or to convey something so complex and convoluted, the fact is we are not introducing anything, and the current collaboration of interested and engaged participants is in perfect alignment with the objectives, and will get the job done. The topic has been extensively vetted by the DOE through their outreach programs and Solar Big Data and Informatics RFP.

The XBRL-CET responses to the DOE for the [University Research FOA](#) and [Solar Big Data and Informatics RFP](#) have already “presented the case” to those administering the SB-Data FOA for a collaboration to develop data interoperability, already introduced the concept of a synergized approach with XBRL and already advocated that the DATA Act should be leveraged to make the case for adopting open standards significantly more compelling.

The SB-Data FOA reflects the DOE’s intention to have “Substantial Involvement” (page 59) to select from applicants that will then “work together under the umbrella of an SB-DATA strategy working group” (page 12), again with Substantial Involvement from DOE.

In other words, we don’t declare on June 22nd who makes up the SB-Data strategy working group. The DOE will select from all applicants who makes up the “strategy working group” over a period of time, and at their discretion, including the go forward strategy, systems and structure. Participation by any individual, entity, national lab, or agency, in our response is simply the opportunity to be considered, independently or as part of the group, by the DOE for being part of their effort to promote interoperability, and to contribute towards finding national solutions.

The process for selecting the SB-DATA strategy working group goes through November 2nd, and then for another eight weeks to structure the resources and implement a strategy.

FOA Issue Date	05/22/15
Informational Webinar	06/04/15 2:00pm ET
Submission Deadline for Concept Papers	06/22/15 5:00pm ET
Submission Deadline for Full Applications	07/31/15 5:00pm ET
Expected Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments	08/31/15 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications	11/02/15
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations	8 weeks

The FOA requires that respondents must be able to define exactly how 60% of all solar energy users will be exchanging data, provide certainty with respect to what systems they will employ, and define in advance the outcome of the “SB-Data strategy working group” before the group has even formed. While I appreciate their intentions and how FOA’s are traditionally structured, the reality is we cannot approach those answers until the SB-DATA strategy working group meets and a strategy is formulated.

We will do our best to address the criteria and stated requirements, but the concept paper will also be about the qualifications of our participants to identify and address the issues and to provide real use cases to demonstrate implementation as a catalyst for national universal adoption of open standards.

Alfred R. Berkeley

Former Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman of the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council.
Former Chairman of XBRL US
Former Director of XBRL International

John Teeter

Former Presidential Innovation Fellow
National Institute of Standards and Technology – Green Button initiative

Jonathan Previtali

Vice President Environmental Finance
Wells Fargo Bank N A

Duane Gabor

Alliances and Business Development
Intuit

XBRL US

Already has a public taxonomy accepted by the federal government for financial reporting. There are significant numbers of publicly traded energy and utility related companies, along with construction companies that build energy related facilities that are currently reporting to the SEC utilizing XBRL. There is already a high level of relevant implementation.

XBRL US is working with the surety industry in collaboration with Acord.

https://www.acord.org/media/news/Pages/2015_05_06_Seamless_Integration_Writing_Surety.aspx

2005 - ACORD & XBRL US: White Paper XML Standards and the Insurance Value Chain

https://www.acord.org/library/documents/acord_xbri_whitepaper.pdf

XBRL and OMG

<http://www.omg.org/news/releases/pr2012/02-22-12.htm>

SGIP and SGIP PAP25 (Green button)

Platform and PAP with significant DOE, NIST, FERC engagement for the express purpose of enabling interoperability. Track record with the Green Button initiative, which was cited as one of the two “most relevant of DOE’s data initiatives to SB-DATA”

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and BEDES

The second of the two “most relevant of DOE’s data initiatives to SB-DATA” was BEDES.

Solar Nexus (also working with other respondents)

Developer of state and federally funded IEP XML.

XBRL-CET Working Group

Already submitted energy related data sets, including interconnection, and proposed additions to the XBRL taxonomy

The SB-Data FOA defines (Page 8) the “expected outcomes of this program are as follows:

To create a single broadly adoptable data taxonomy, extensible industry-function-specific standard data schemes (e.g. for financing, grid operation, insurance), and interoperable APIs for solar bankability data (e.g. production data).

That is in perfect alignment with the activity already undertaken by XBRL-CET and in place.

The SB-Data FOA (Page 7) is designed to:

“support new and existing businesses entering the solar marketplace (e.g. new financial, underwriting products, operations and maintenance services)”

XBRL-CET has already proposed specific new solar energy financial surety products and submitted new underwriting products for performance measurement, “Surety Based Risk Management”, to the DOE Data by Design contest.

Other invited and potential participants and/or observers to be finalized this week.

- Acord (SFAA/NASBP)
- Associated General Contractors of America / COSA
- California State University Chico
- CleanPower Research
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Financial Accounting Standards Board
- FS Energy
- Gallina LLP
- National Association of Surety Bond Producers
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Object Management Group
- PwC
- Solar Energy Industries Association
- Surety Fidelity Association of America

Please consider participating as a named participant so that the DOE has broad and diverse industry experts, multiple business interests and the various governmental agencies and regulatory bodies to select from as they form the SB-Data strategy working group and associated support structure.

Herding Cats.