

SMALL BUSINESS FIRST



October 2024

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

NETL lends its expertise toward achieving a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and a net-zero economy by 2050 while catalyzing economic revitalization, creating good-paying jobs and supporting workers in energy communities, especially hard-hit coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities, across the country. One of the most rewarding aspects of NETL's research is that our innovations and our technologies have the potential to improve people's lives in meaningful ways.

ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

NETL is committed to supporting DOE's [Small Business First Policy](#) by providing maximum practicable acquisition opportunities to small business socio-economic categories as follows: Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB); Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Businesses; 8(a) Small Disadvantaged Businesses; and Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB).

SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDES

NETL maintains automatic small business set-aside funds for acquisitions between \$10,000 and \$250,000 unless the contracting officer determines that there is no reasonable expectation of receiving offers from two or more small businesses. For acquisitions greater than \$250,000, purchases are set aside when there is an expectation that offers will be obtained from at least two small businesses and an award will be made at fair market prices.

SUBCONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Subcontracting opportunities are available with support contractors that work at NETL facilities. When the prime contractor is a large business, the contract exceeds \$750,000, and subcontracting opportunities exist, the contractor must have a subcontracting plan with established goals for subcontracting to small businesses. The plan is not required if the prime contractor is a small business. However, they are encouraged to provide opportunities to other small businesses. For more information on NETL's site support contracts visit our Site Support Electronic Reading Room at netl.doe.gov/business/site-support.

SMALL BUSINESS GOALS

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) works directly with the DOE to establish annual departmental small business procurement goals. The DOE prime small business goal is 17% in FY2024 based on the anticipated procurement spend. The chart below recognizes NETL's strong small business procurement achievement for the prior fiscal year.

NETL SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESULTS

	Small Business Goal	Small Business Actual
FY2023	17%	41%
FY2022	13.08%	38.26%
FY2021	14%	50.21%
FY2020	14%	51.44%

SOLICITATIONS

Award values exceeding \$10,000 require vendors to be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to issuance. NETL encourages vendors to monitor public Government portals, such as, www.SAM.gov, www.FedConnect.net, www.ebuy.gsa.gov, www.sewp.nasa.gov and www.netl.doe.gov/business/site-support for information on upcoming and potential NETL opportunities. NETL, as well as many other Government agencies, utilizes these websites/portals to post requests for information (RFIs) and solicitation notices.

FORECAST OF OPPORTUNITIES

NETL posts information about upcoming requirements and solicitations on NETL's Site Support Electronic Reading Room at netl.doe.gov/business/site-support. DOE's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization's (OSDBU) website provides easy access to the DOE laboratory system's forecasted requirements, which can be found at www.energy.gov/osdbu/acquisition-forecast.

DOE OSDBU's website, www.energy.gov/osdbu, is devoted to helping small businesses and provides information on activities such as training and conference opportunities. The OSDBU website is a valuable source of information for the small business community.