

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### **“Grant to Support the Development of National and International Standards and Technology Information Exchange for Fire Extinguishing Agents to Replace Ozone-Depleting Halons”**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Solicitation# OAR-GPD-03-03.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals from eligible entities to support development of national and international standards for fire extinguishing agents to replace ozone-depleting halons. EPA anticipates award of one grant whose total value shall not exceed \$225,000.

**DATES/DEADLINES:** The deadline for submission of proposals is May 5, 2003. Applications submitted via U.S. Mail must be received by the deadline date.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via regular U.S. mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to the person indicated in the section titled “For Further Information Contact” below. All questions and comments must be received by EPA no later than April 15, 2003. Responses will be posted on EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation Grants/Funding home page ([http://www.epa.gov/air/grants\\_funding.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html)) on April 22, 2003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The statutory authority for this action is Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 66.034. Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs is applicable to this proposed grant (see section VIII below).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bella Maranion (Mail Code 6205J), U.S. EPA, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Global Programs Division, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460. Phone: (202)564-9749; Fax: (202)565-2093; or e-mail: [maranion.bella@epa.gov](mailto:maranion.bella@epa.gov).

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## **I. Overview and Deadlines**

### A. Overview

EPA is announcing the availability of funding to support development of national and international standards on fire extinguishing agents as replacements for ozone-depleting halons. The objective of this grant is to assist standards development organizations to:

- (1) assure that domestic standards related to alternatives to halon fire extinguishing agents, developed through special technical committees, are based on proven technology and up to date science; and, that the requirements of the standards are in the best interests of the U.S. public, the environment, and U.S. industry;
- (2) assure that the international standards dealing with alternatives to halon extinguishing agents are based on proven technology and up to date science; and, that the requirements of those standards are in the best interests of the U.S. public, and do not put U.S. manufacturers of products covered by those standards at an unfair disadvantage when compared with foreign counterparts.

### B. Deadlines

The deadline for submitting proposals (original and one copy, plus one fully-completed and signed Application for Federal Assistance) is May 5, 2003. Refer to *Section VII, Proposals* for detailed instructions on preparing and submitting proposals.

## **II. Eligible Entities**

Proposals for this assistance agreement will only be accepted from non-profit organizations, as defined by OMB Circular A-122. Targeted organizations include, but are not limited to, fire protection industry associations and non-governmental organizations focused on fire protection standards development and global environmental activities.

## **III. Background and Scope of Work**

### A. Background

In the 1980s, the discovery of the ozone hole and growing scientific consensus that certain man-made chemicals were destroying the stratospheric ozone layer mobilized many countries to address a global environmental crisis. The 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was a landmark agreement by nations from developed and developing countries to commit to actions that addressed a global environmental problem. In 1990, the Clean Air Act Amendments were signed into law giving EPA the mandate to protect the ozone layer.

Halons are potent ozone-depletors once widely used as fire extinguishing agents. Two halons have been widely used in the United States: Halon 1301 in total flooding applications, and Halon 1211 in streaming or portable hand-held extinguisher applications. Halon was developed in the

1960s based on military fire protection needs, but because of its characteristics as a clean, safe, and effective fire extinguishing agent, evolved as the solution for both military and industrial fire protection applications.

Under the authority of the Clean Air Act, EPA developed rules and regulations on ozone-depleting substances (ODS) which included: a phase-out schedule for production and import of ODS, an excise tax on ODS, requirements for reducing emissions, technician training, and disposal. Halon was the first ODS banned from production and import beginning January 1, 1994. EPA also began a program called the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program to evaluate alternatives for ODS and provide information and outreach to support U.S. industry in the transition away from the use of ODS.

EPA, in conjunction with the U.S. fire protection industry, research institutes, military and other users, has made significant progress since then to reduce emissions of halons in existing equipment and during training and maintenance activities. The progress made was documented in the national halon management strategy submitted by the United States to the Ozone Secretariat in November 1998. The U.S. halon management strategy covered several elements including regulatory actions, public and industry outreach, industry standards and codes of practice, halon recovery and banking, and research and development.

In fire protection, standards-making activities in recent years have been focused on alternatives to halon extinguishing agents and systems to prevent damage to the ozone layer while meeting U.S. commitments under the Montreal Protocol and the Clean Air Act. As new agents have become available to replace halons, the work to support incorporation of these new alternatives into existing industry standards has become very important to ensure the safe transition away from ozone-depleting halons.

## B. Scope of Work

The objective of this grant is to support the development of standards for non-ozone depleting alternatives to halon fire extinguishing agents. In this effort, the specific goal of the grant is to provide expert participation in the technical committees of the following standards development organizations: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), International Standards Organization (ISO), and International Maritime Organization (IMO), as these organizations develop and/or update standards, and consider issues related to alternatives to halons in various fire protection applications.

The primary focuses of the grant and specific efforts the Agency intends to support are:

- (1) *Support for Domestic Standards Development on Halon Alternatives.* This task involves participation as a member of the relevant technical committees that work on issues related to halon alternatives and development of US industry standards for fire protection. This task supports new and ongoing work over the course of the standards development cycle for organizations and the relevant technical committees including the U.S.-based National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2001 Standard for Clean Agent Extinguishing Systems Technical Committee and the new NFPA Aerosol Extinguishing Systems Technical

Committee.

(2) *Support for International Standards Development on Halon Alternatives*. This task involves participation as a member of the relevant technical committees that work on issues related to halon alternatives and development of international industry standards for fire protection. This task supports new and ongoing work over the course of the standards development cycle for international standards development organizations and the relevant technical committees including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Subcommittee on Fire Protection and the International Standards Organization (ISO) Technical Committee on Fire Protection.

Generally, these tasks require significant interaction with affected fire protection industry sectors including agent and equipment manufacturers, distributors, research and testing organizations, industry associations, and affected users including government, military, companies, and non-governmental organizations.

Specific activities include: research and preparation of technical documents to support the work of the technical committees; research and preparation of background and technical documents that address issues of special importance and/or of a complex nature for further consideration by the technical committee; presenting, debating, and/or defending a position on issues within the forum of the technical committees or during other procedures authorized by the standards development organizations; submission of documents according to the procedures of the standards development organizations; participation as a member in the technical committees, providing information, identifying issues, supporting discussions, and making presentations as required. The recipient will prepare summary reports of meeting discussions and outcomes including recommendations for further action or investigation. Information on the activities of these technical committees will be shared with stakeholders through presentation of reports at relevant websites and/or conferences and meetings.

#### **IV. Funding Issues**

A. What is the project period for awards resulting from this solicitation?

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation is September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2005.

B. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition?

EPA anticipates award of one grant resulting from this competition.

C. What is the amount of funding available?

This project will be funded incrementally with an initial award of approximately \$25,000, in fiscal year 2003. Additional funding may be added in each subsequent year of the agreement, subject to availability of funds. The total funding for this project is estimated to be \$225,000.

D. Can funding be used to acquire services or fund partnerships?

Yes, provided the recipient follows applicable procurement and subgrant procedures. Please note that EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Approval of a funding proposal does not relieve recipients of their obligations to compete service contracts, conduct cost and price analyses, and use subgrants only for financial assistance purposes in accordance with Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133. Please indicate any intent to enter into such agreements in the proposal.

## V. Selection Criteria

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth below. Proposals which are best able to directly and explicitly address these criteria will have a greater likelihood of being selected as a recipient. Each proposal will be rated under a points system, with a total of 150 points possible.

The proposals will be ranked according to the following criteria and maximum point allocation:

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Maximum Points per Criterion</b>
Thorough knowledge of the fire protection standards-making process demonstrated by current membership and work experience on the relevant technical committees in the following standards development organizations: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2001 Technical Committee, NFPA Aerosol Extinguishing Systems Technical Committee, International Standards Organization (ISO) Technical Committee on Fire Protection, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Subcommittee on Fire Protection.	30
Current experience conducting research, technical and economic analyses, and preparation of technical papers and reports following the strict guidelines and time-lines for submission and review by the stated relevant standards development organizations and technical committees.	25
Understanding and experience working on issues related to the global transition to halon alternatives including both a national and international perspective of the regulations and policies on ozone-depleting substances and the technical, economic, environmental, and political factors affecting the transition away from halons; experience with providing outreach and communication of information on the transition to stakeholders in government, military, industry, and international organizations.	20
Thorough understanding of affected stakeholders and the various membership positions within the stated relevant standards development technical committees and demonstrated ability to effectively present, guide deliberations, and defend positions on relevant issues within these committees.	20

Significant technical expertise and specific current knowledge and work experience on issues related to halon replacement agents and technologies; experience providing outreach and communication of information relevant to these alternatives to stakeholders in government, military, industry, and international organizations.	15
Availability of resources including sources for research and data, network of contacts, and working relationships in the fire protection field in the U.S. and internationally in order to incorporate a broad perspective to the work– including working relationships/cooperation with government organizations, military, non-governmental organizations, fire protection industry and associations, agent manufacturers, fire protection equipment suppliers and distributors, national and international fire protection and environmental technical committees and working groups.	15
Proposal, including workplan, timeframe and budget, that is detailed, clearly stated, addresses all stated goals and objectives and is reasonable.	15
Demonstrated relevant and current experience performing the same or similar work	10
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>150</b>

## **VI. Evaluation and Selection**

Each proposal will be evaluated by a team chosen to address a full range of fire suppression industry, global environmental regulations, national and international standards development, and ozone-depleting substances replacement technology concerns. The Evaluation Team will base its evaluation solely on the criteria referenced in this notice. Completed evaluations will be referred to a Selection Committee who are responsible for further consideration and final selection.

The Office of Atmospheric Programs expects to complete the Evaluation/Selection process and make recommendations to the grants office by May 30, 2003. All applicants will be notified promptly, after final selections, regarding their application's status.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no award. Formal disputes challenging the Agency award decision, will be resolved using the Dispute Procedures at 40 CFR Part 30.63 and Part 31.70, Subpart F.

## **VII. Proposals**

The proposal must be submitted with the completed federal grant application forms and be a maximum of fifteen (15) pages (no less than 1.5 line spacing, no less than 12 pt font, 1-inch margins), excluding federal forms. Please do not include binders or spiral binding. The complete grants application package can be downloaded from:

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/index.htm>. The proposal should conform to the following outline:

1. Title
2. Applicant (Organization) and contact name, phone number, fax and e-mail address

3. Summary of funds requested from EPA
4. Project period: beginning and ending dates (for planning purposes, applicants should assume funds will be available in August or September 2003). Project must be completed within three years of award date.
5. Project purpose: goals and objectives
6. Workplan: The narrative workplan should not exceed 10 pages and should include:
  - project objective and goals
  - detailed description of all tasks/activities
  - timeline of activities including dates of initiation and completion
  - products and deliverables
  - travel and meetings
  - outreach and communication plan
  - products and deliverables
  - proposed budget (see also 13 below)
7. Description of working relationship with supporting organizations, associations, and individuals to serve as resources for this work
8. Recent and/or current national and international standards development membership and activities
9. Recent and/or current experience performing same or similar work
10. Resume and/or synopsis of relevant work experience of expert(s) to perform this work
11. Description of experience on global halon transition issues, work on halon alternatives, relevant national and international environmental regulations and policies, collaboration and cooperation with fire protection industry in the U.S. and internationally.
12. Report schedule: Acknowledgment of quarterly reporting requirement (schedule established by EPA)
13. Budget: provide a budget for the following categories:
  - Personnel
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Contractual Costs
  - Travel
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
  - Other
  - Total Direct Costs
  - Total Indirect Costs: must include documentation of accepted indirect rate
  - Total Cost

Applicants should clearly mark information in their proposal which they consider confidential. EPA will make final confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

***Applications from eligible entities which were previously submitted, evaluated, but not selected for this funding in the past 2 years, may be resubmitted for consideration.***

### **VIII. Executive Order 12372 Compliance**

Applicants selected for funding will be required to provide a copy of their proposal to their State Point of Contact for review, pursuant with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This review is not required of initial applications and not all states require such a review.

## **IX. How to Apply**

COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGES must be received by regular or express mail on or before midnight May 5, 2003. Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered for funding. Please provide an original proposal and one copy, plus one fully-completed and signed Application for Federal Assistance. The application package should be addressed to:

1. Mailing Address (USPS mail only):

Bella Maranion (Mailcode 6205J)  
OAR/OAP/Alternatives and Emissions Reduction Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

2. Express Delivery (FedEx, UPS, etc.):

Bella Maranion (Mailcode 6205J)  
OAR/OAP/Alternatives and Emissions Reduction Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
501 Third St., NW, Room 4403A  
Washington, DC 20460

Proposals e-mailed or faxed will serve only as a placeholder and must be followed by an original signature document and 1 copy, received by the deadline date. If the original is not received by the deadline, the application will not be considered. However, email or fax copies will expedite the review process and may be sent to Bella Maranion at: (202) 565-2093 (fax) or [maranion.bella@epa.gov](mailto:maranion.bella@epa.gov) (email).

**DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED FINAL PROPOSALS**  
**Must be received no later than midnight on**  
**May 5, 2003**