

## Department of Energy

## § 600.8

equipment, proprietary data, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications.

(5) The award implements an agreement between the United States Government and a foreign government to fund a foreign applicant.

(6) Time constraints associated with a public health, safety, welfare or national security requirement preclude competition.

(7) The proposed project was submitted as an unsolicited proposal and represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which would not be eligible for financial assistance under a recent, current, or planned solicitation, and if, as determined by DOE, a competitive solicitation would not be appropriate.

(8) The responsible program Assistant Secretary, Deputy Administrator, or other official of equivalent authority determines that a noncompetitive award is in the public interest. This authority may not be delegated.

(d) *Approval requirements.* Determinations of noncompetitive awards shall be approved, prior to award, by the initiating program official, by the responsible program Assistant Secretary (or official of equivalent authority) or designee, who shall be not less than two organizational levels above that of the project officer, by the Contracting Officer and shall be concurred in by local legal counsel. Where the amount of DOE funds is less than \$1,000,000 for a noncompetitive financial assistance award, the determination shall be approved by the cognizant HCA and the Contracting Officer. Concurrence for a particular award or class of awards of \$1,000,000 or less may be waived by local legal counsel.

(e) *Documentation requirements.* A determination of noncompetitive financial assistance (normally prepared by the responsible program official) explaining the basis for the proposed noncompetitive award shall be placed in the award file.

[61 FR 7166, Feb. 26, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 56420, Oct. 20, 1999; 66 FR 34784, July 2, 2001]

### **§ 600.7 Small and disadvantaged and women-owned business participation.**

(a) DOE encourages the participation in financial assistance awards of small businesses, including those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and women, of historically black colleges, and of colleges and universities with substantial minority enrollments.

(b) For definitions of the terms in paragraph (a) of this section, see the Higher Education Act of 1965, and 15 U.S.C. 644, as amended by the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA), and implementing regulations under FASA issued by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

(c) When entering into contracts under financial assistance awards, recipients and subrecipients shall comply with the requirements of Section 600.144 or Section 600.236, as applicable.

### **§ 600.8 Solicitation.**

(a) *General.* A solicitation for financial assistance applications shall be in the form of a program rule or other publicly available document which invites the submission of applications by a common due date or within a prescribed period of time.

(1) A Program Assistant Secretary (or official of equivalent authority) may annually issue a program notice describing research areas in which financial assistance is being made available. Such notice shall also state whether the research areas covered by the notice are to be added to those listed in a previously issued program rule. If they are to be included, then applications received as a result of the notice may be treated as having been in response to that previously published program rule. If they are not to be included, then applications received in response to the notice are to be treated as unsolicited applications. Solicitations may be issued by a DOE Contracting Officer or program office with prior concurrence of the contracting office.

(2) DOE shall publish either a copy or a notice of the availability of a financial assistance solicitation in the FEDERAL REGISTER. DOE shall publish solicitations or notices in the Commerce