



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Stanford University - Open and Scalable Distributed Energy Resource Networks

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Stanford, CA; Gainesville, FL; Menlo Park, CA; Mountain View, CA

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale, research and development activities to develop Powernet, an open-source and open architecture platform for coordination of consumer load with supply from distributed energy resources (DERs). Specifically, the project team will: (1) develop and validate a set of use cases and build software architecture; (2) design a smart switch (Smart Dim) for each subcircuit in the home's breaker panel; (3) design an interface of home hub with existing inverters; (4) develop and implement the core optimizers for the cloud system for PowerNet; (5) build fundamental algorithms for real-time power sharing and control of devices inside a home; (6) conduct Powernet market design and analysis; (7) conduct software simulation, Hardware-in-the-Loop, and field validation testing. Field validation testing of Home Hub prototypes will be conducted at existing homes at San Diego Naval Base. If successful, Powernet will enable real-time coordination of centralized resources with millions of DERs by integrating embedded sensing and computing, power electronics, and networking with cloud computing. No modifications will be made to existing facilities to accommodate the proposed work.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities that are designed for the applicable activities at Stanford University (Stanford, CA); Stanford Linear Accelerator Lab National Accelerator Laboratory (Menlo Park, CA); University of Florida (Gainesville, FL); and Google (Mountain View, CA). Project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: 05/20/2016

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)