



**Control Number: 55421**



**Item Number: 47**



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**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
Office of Procurement and HUB Program

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**RFI Number: RFI-01-VCE-24-211**  
**RELLIS Nuclear Reactor Project**

**Submittal shall be received by:**  
**12:00 PM Central Time, June 21, 2024**

**Email RFI Responses To:**

[soprocurement@tamus.edu](mailto:soprocurement@tamus.edu)

Subject Line: VCE-24-211 – RELIS Nuclear Reactor Project

**Refer Inquiries To:**

Jeff Zimmermann, Executive Director  
Procurement and Business Services | HUB Program  
The Texas A&M University System  
[soprocurement@tamus.edu](mailto:soprocurement@tamus.edu)

All submissions shall become the property of the State of Texas upon receipt. Submittal documents may be subject to public review. Refer to Section 1.8 for more information regarding public information.

## SECTION 1 INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### 1.1 Purpose

The Texas A&M University System (“A&M System”) is requesting responses to this Request for Information (“RFI”) from qualified entities (“Respondent”) regarding interest to meet future electrical energy needs on the RELLIS campus. In particular, the interest should address nuclear reactor options for electricity generations starting at around 10 megawatts (“MW”) and scalable to 1 gigawatt (“GW”). Research test bed options of 1MW to 10MW are also of interest.

Through the information and interest obtained with this RFI, the A&M System plans to develop a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) with the intent to solicit proposals from entities that are capable of performing all aspects such as feasibility of the sites, connection to ERCOT grid, and construction of new nuclear reactor(s) as dispatchable electric generating facilities (“Facilities”) on System owned property. These Facilities, located within the ERCOT power region, will result in a net increase of up to 1 GW of capacity (excluding energy storage resources). Refer to Attachment 1 for a map of RELLIS campus, the potential site of activities.

By submitting a response to this RFI, each Respondent certifies that to the best of its knowledge it has provided information that is true and accurate. No direct award will be made as a result of this RFI. This RFI also does not bind the A&M System to issue any such future RFP.

### 1.2 About the A&M System and the RELLIS Campus

The A&M System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a budget of \$7.3 billion. Through a statewide network of eleven universities, a comprehensive health science center, eight state agencies plus the A&M System Offices, and the RELLIS Campus, the A&M System educates more than 157,000 students and makes more than 21 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. System-wide, research and development expenditures exceed \$1 billion and help drive the state’s economy.

More information about the Texas A&M University System and all of its Members can be found at the A&M System About page (<https://www.tamus.edu/system/about/>).

Our RELLIS Campus is an established academic and research hub, home to 11 universities and 8 state agencies within the Texas A&M System and Blinn College, all part of the RELLIS Academic Alliance and RELLIS Research Alliance. These multiple institutions offer workforce upskilling courses, certificate programs, associates degrees, multiple university four year degrees, and graduate degrees. Furthermore, RELLIS is less than 10 miles from the flagship campus Texas A&M University, with a top 10 engineering school, the nation’s largest university, the nation’s largest engineering school, and offers unparalleled access to research expertise and a rich talent pool. More information about the RELLIS campus can be found at the RELLIS page (<http://www.rellis.tamus.edu/>).

### 1.3 Goals of the RFI

The goal of this RFI is to identify companies and other parties interested in collaborating with the A&M System in developing a proving ground for the next generation of nuclear power plants. The A&M System aims to establish an NRC-permitted site with a connection to the electrical power grid of up to 1 GW. Depending on the feedback received, the site could host multiple NRC-

regulated electrical power generating facilities and related activities. The site could host first of a kind reactors.

Texas A&M views the establishment of such a nuclear power proving ground as essential to meeting the long-term electrical power needs of both the A&M System and the State of Texas sustainably. Multiple companies and systems in various stages of development could demonstrate early instances of their commercial power generation capabilities at scale.

In collaboration with universities and workforce development agencies on the RELLIS campus, this site could also serve as a nuclear energy training ground. This potential project aims to support on-demand electrical power generation at the RELLIS campus, enhancing the resilience and reliability of the state's electrical grid. The A&M System is committed to developing power generation capabilities to ensure reliable electrical power provision to the RELLIS campus. Additionally, from the A&M System's perspective, this initiative aims to prevent power loss to critical research infrastructure and promote the well-being of staff and student populations.

The A&M System will use the information gathered from this RFI to develop a strategy and an RFP. The A&M System intends to issue an RFP in early July 2024. The goal of this process is to evaluate companies capabilities and feasibility of implementation of nuclear reactor(s) on the RELLIS campus for electricity generation and test bed capabilities.

#### 1.4 Calendar of Events

Release of RFI .....	May 29, 2024
Deadline for RFI Submissions .....	June 21, 2024
Anticipated RFP Issuance .....	July 8, 2024

The A&M System will make every effort to adhere to the above schedule. The schedule, however, is subject to change.

#### 1.5 Submittal Instructions

**The deadline for submitting RFI responses is by 2:00 P.M. Central Time, June 21, 2024.** Any responses received after this date may not be reviewed by the A&M System.

Respondent's submission shall be received electronically via email to [soprocurement@tamus.edu](mailto:soprocurement@tamus.edu) on or before the time and date specified above. All responses shall be submitted using the subject line "VCE-24-211 RELLIS Nuclear Reactor Project". The response shall be submitted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

#### 1.6 Inquiries and Interpretations

All questions concerning this RFI are to be directed, in writing, to Jeff Zimmermann at [soprocurement@tamus.edu](mailto:soprocurement@tamus.edu). Respondent may not contact other individuals at the A&M System to discuss any aspect of this RFI, unless expressly authorized by the A&M System Procurement & HUB Program office to do so.

Responses to inquiries which directly affect an interpretation or change to this RFI will be issued in writing by addendum and posted to the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) at least two (2) days prior to the Deadline for Receiving Information as stated in the Calendar of Events in Section 1.4 above.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the posting to obtain all documents related to this RFI. You may also copy and paste the following link (<https://www.txsmartbuy.com/esbd>) into your browser and input Agency Number "710" and select "Posted" for the Status.

All such addenda/amendments issued by the A&M System prior to the time that RFI submissions are received shall be considered part of the RFI, and the Respondent shall consider and acknowledge receipt of such within Exhibit A. Any addendum issued and not acknowledged by the Respondent shall be considered accepted. Only formal written addenda issued by the A&M System in response to an inquiry shall be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarification will be without legal effect.

### **1.7 Obligations of Parties**

Respondent understands and acknowledges by submitting a response that any and all costs incurred by the Respondent as a result of the Respondent's efforts to participate in this RFI shall be at the sole risk and obligation of the Respondent.

The A&M System will not provide compensation to Respondents for any expenses incurred for response preparation.

### **1.8 Public Information Act**

Respondent acknowledges that A&M System is obligated to strictly comply with the Public Information Act, Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*, in responding to any request for public information pertaining to this RFI, as well as any other disclosure of information required by applicable Texas law.

In order to protect A&M System competitive interests, the A&M System intends to withhold RFI and RFP responses and related procurement documents until after any resultant agreement is executed, in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. After execution of an agreement, vendor information submitted in response to the RFI or RFP will not be released in response to an open records request until after the relevant vendors are provided the opportunity to provide objections to the disclosure of potentially proprietary information, as provided by the Texas Public Information Act.

## **SECTION 2 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS**

This RFI seeks information regarding interest in participation to any subsequent RFP as described in Section 1. Respondents interested in participating shall provide the following information.

- I. Provide an overview of the company responding to include:
  - a. The size, history of the Respondent (describe whether it is local, regional, national, international), expertise in deploying advanced nuclear technology and power generation.
  - b. Potential teaming agreements (and potential partners) needed for the design, licensing, construction, and operation of the requisite facilities.
  - c. Any other information the Respondent deems pertinent to the purpose and goal of this RFI.
- II. Provide information, including but not limited to the following:
  - A. A description of the available nuclear reactor technology that may be provided by Respondent. The description should include enough detail to assess the type of reactor technology and the Respondents ability to provide it (small modular and micro reactors are of interest).
  - B. A declaration of the technology readiness for deployment; include technical and regulatory status.
  - C. Anticipated timeline and cost expectations for the deployment of the first system and any follow-on systems.
  - D. A description of how the final facilities could be integrated with A&M system education, research, and workforce development opportunities.

