



# Avista Energy Research (AER) Initiative

Updated: January 29, 2019

## OBJECTIVE

In response to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission Order No. 32918, Avista Corporation will fund up to \$300,000 per year of applied research that will further promote broad conservation goals of energy efficiency and curtailment. Specifically, Avista is seeking a qualified four year institution in the state of Idaho to provide such applied research (the "Services"). In light of the rapidly changing utility landscape, Avista would be interested in funding research projects which are forward thinking and would assist the utility in the development of product and services which provide an energy efficient commodity to its customers. The applied research and development projects can be one or multiple years and can be used to support university research programs, facility and studies.

## BACKGROUND

2019 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> round of Idaho research and development proposals that Avista will be requesting. Each round of funding is setup to coincide with the University academic year.

## PROPOSAL PROCESS

Each eligible institution will be limited to **TEN** specific proposal submittals. One representative of the eligible institutions will be responsible for submitting all of the proposals. Avista will select the best fitting proposal(s).

## INDUSTRY NEED

Avista has a long history of innovation and partnerships with local Universities. Direct funding of targeted research projects provides Avista access to research that specifically fits our service territory and Northwest conditions. Research Universities foster environments where non-traditional utility ideas can be generated and explored using modern research facilities and techniques. To continuing serving our customer safely, reliably, and affordably the exploration of ideas is needed.

## RFP PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

<u>Mar 18, 2019</u>	Avista issues RFP
<u>Apr 9, 2019</u>	Bidder's Questions/Requests for Clarification Due
<u>Apr 15, 2019</u>	Avista's Responses to Clarifications Due Date
<u>Apr 22, 2019</u>	Proposals Due
<u>May 10, 2019</u>	Successful Bidder selection and announcement
<u>Jun 28, 2019</u>	Contract and Statement of Work Executed

## APPROX. PROJECT SCHEDULE

<u>Sep 2019</u>	In person kickoff with the research team.
<u>Bi-weekly</u>	Web call, short < 15 min update
<u>Feb 2020</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Stage Gate
<u>Mar 2020</u>	Two-pager is due
<u>Jun 2020</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Gate
<u>Aug 2020</u>	In person final presentation to Avista
<u>Sep 2020</u>	Final report is due to Avista

## DELIVERABLES

The main deliverable of this project:

1. Two-pager bi-weekly reports and conference calls.
2. Final in person presentation delivered at Avista in Spokane.
3. All the needed information regarding data, any computer simulations, research findings, and future recommendations found.

## PAST FUNDED PROJECTS<sup>1</sup>

- Residential Static VAR Compensator
- Superhydrophobicity
- Smart Wires Grid Application
- Energy Management Control System
- Process Energy Efficiency Techniques
- Building Efficiency Based Upon Operating Temperature
- Robust MicroGrid
- Aerogel Insulation
- Energy Trading Platform

<sup>1</sup> - This is not a complete list of projects, limited due to format space. Some project may have received multiple rounds of funding.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How many years of funding can we apply for?

- Each RFP round is for only one year of funding. A project must reapply for each subsequent year, but there is no limit to how many years you can be funded. Multiple projects have received two separate years of funding.

What is applied research?

- Avista is looking to fund research to solve practical problems. The research must also have a viable path to commercialization in the 3-5 year horizon.

How do I know if my research idea is even appropriate for this RFP?

- You can write a short paragraph describing your research idea and email it to the Avista R&D administrator ([Randy.Gnaedinger@Avistacorp.com](mailto:Randy.Gnaedinger@Avistacorp.com)) before March 8th, 2019. The administrator will respond with an indication of whether your idea may fit this funding. A positive response in no way indicates RFP selection.

When would funding begin?

- Funding will begin with the start of the 2019-2020 academic year, and end in late August of 2020.

How much funding is available?

- There is up to \$300,000 available each round. \$30k is used for a 3rd party administrator to oversee and assist in the research facilitation, leaving \$270,000 for research project funding.

How many projects typically get selected?

- Typically, there are 3-4 projects selected each round. Historic funding amounts have been between \$30,000 - \$90,000 per project.

Can we see reports from previously selected projects?

- Yes, there is an annual report filed each March with the Idaho Public Utility Commission (IPUC) that is publically available through their website. This url will help you find them and is for the IPUC search <http://puc.idaho.gov/search/search.html?q=avista%20annual%20research>. Then sort by date to find the most recent annual report in the results.

Who at Avista selects the projects?

- Avista assembles a selection team from across the company, generally consisting of 5-6 individuals. The team scores the proposals independently from each other before convening to discuss the final selection. A Q&A conference call may be setup with a Principal Investigator prior to selection if it is felt that additional understanding is needed.