

HyTN Voucher Opportunity Program Rules

The HyTN Voucher Opportunity, developed in partnership between the Department of Energy (DOE) Hydropower & Hydrokinetic Office (H2O) and ENERGYWERX, facilitates matchmaking between U.S.-based hydropower Test Facilities (Voucher Providers) and Technology Developers (Voucher Recipients) with relevant physical testing capabilities.

This document provides rules supplementary to the Hydropower Testing Network Voucher Opportunity available on the ENERGYWERX Website¹. This document is subject to change, and the latest version will be made available on both the ENERGYWERX Website, while solicitations are open, and the HyTN Website².

Eligibility

- Eligible performers (Voucher Provider and Voucher Recipients) must meet the following criteria:
 - Applicant qualifies as a domestic entity
 - Applicant must certify it is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of government of Country of Risk
- To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States (U.S.); have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States. DOE defines Country of Risk to include China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Belarus. This list is subject to change. DOE retains the prerogative to require additional information from the applicants to verify that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements.
- All Facilities and their proposed capabilities must be reviewed by DOE prior to admission into the HyTN Network.
- Facilities must be part of the HyTN Network to be eligible to provide technical support to Voucher Recipients. Facilities are not admitted into the HyTN Network solely on the basis that other facilities within their organization are part of the network.
- Employees of the Department of Energy are NOT eligible to apply for HyTN Vouchers.
- If an applicant for Voucher services is also an approved Voucher Provider with testing capabilities, the applicant may not request services from their own capabilities.
- National Laboratory (FFRDC) employees are eligible to apply as Voucher Recipients, but may not apply for Voucher services from their own laboratory.

¹ <https://www.energywerx.org/opportunities>

² <https://openei.org/wiki/HyTN>

National Lab applicants cannot use H2O funds to contribute to Voucher Recipient activities, such as application drafting, test plan development, or testing activities.

Project Activity Rules

- All work performed under the approved award must be performed in the United States. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that the HyTN Facility (in which they will be testing) has the appropriate access permissions and capabilities (e.g., ensuring there are no non-U.S. citizen access restrictions if needed).
- HyTN will not provide assistance for activities that are already approved and planned using other Federal funding. This includes Federal financial assistance awards resulting from a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR), prize, or challenge. However, applicants may request assistance through HyTN for activities which may relate to, or whose results and/or outputs may be used to inform, activities that are already approved and planned using other Federal funding. The activities, scope, and reporting for each must be formally disclosed and will remain separate (i.e. HyTN activities versus other Federally funded activities).
- Voucher supported activities must focus on research and development type activities in a laboratory environment, including computer modeling, and should not include commercial manufacturing of hydropower components or facilities, field testing or demonstrations, or commercial deployments. Research and development on manufacturing processes may be within scope if not used for commercial production.
- Capabilities proposed by Voucher Providers must be scoped to include services costing between \$50,000-\$250,000 for one project (i.e., one Provider-Recipient match).
- Capabilities may include physical testing which means hands-on experiments in a laboratory environment that involves hardware, such as a prototype, system, component, or coupon and/or numerical modeling, simulation, and analytical activities.
- Potential Voucher Recipients are encouraged to discuss their potential Voucher project with desired Voucher Providers prior to submitting their HyTN application.
- Project activities must focus on hydropower technologies as defined by H2O's hydropower program([see glossary](#)). Technologies do not have to be directly related to power generation, but must be an integrated part of hydropower operations, such as fish and water passage devices.
- Voucher supported activities should not include establishing new capabilities or significantly modify existing capabilities.
- Voucher Recipients must enter into an agreement with the selected HyTN Facility and comply with the terms and conditions of use (including provisions related to intellectual property) as required by the HyTN Program and that Facility, prior to accessing that Facility.

Cost Share

- DOE and ENERGYWERX do not require direct cost share from Voucher Providers or Recipients. However, selected Recipients are expected to fund their own travel, arrangements, materials, shipping, personnel, and any other miscellaneous costs to ensure successful completion of the proposed project activities. No funding is distributed to Voucher Recipients through the VO. Voucher Providers, like National Labs, may have cost share requirements as a part of project agreements, which can include tracking of in-kind contributions. Voucher Recipients are expected to satisfy any requirements set within project agreements.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- All federal agencies are required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Being that HyTN is funded by DOE, the agency is required to review proposed activities that would occur as part of the HyTN Program to evaluate potential impacts to the human environment. DOE has issued a categorical exclusion which applies to HyTN activities, but this determination is conditional. All entities that participate in HyTN must comply with all NEPA conditions which apply to the HyTN Program. These conditions will be communicated to Voucher Recipients and Providers via the HyTN Website. Considering the nature of HyTN, some proposed projects may be subject to additional NEPA review.

Intellectual Property (IP) and Communications

- All intellectual property rights related to the HyTN Program will be governed by the HyTN Intellectual Property Management Plan.
- H2O reserves the right to leverage external merit reviewers to provide comments and feedback on applications. Any external reviewers must indicate there is no conflict of interest and must complete a non-disclosure agreement prior to reviewing applicant materials.
- By completing the Voucher Provider application, the Facilities consent to publication of the following information on the HyTN Website, for distribution to potential Voucher Recipients, and for DOE articles and related media:
 - Main Point of Contact Name, Main Point of Contact Email, Testing Facility Name, Facility Main Address, City, State, Zip, Facility Website, Test Facility Owner/Organization Name, Facility Category, Capability Title, Capability Testing Objective, Capability Core Competencies, Capability Equipment/Software Description, Test & Evaluation Method, Primary Test & Evaluation Category, Test & Evaluation Subcategory, Capability Qualifications and Credentials, Capability Background, Capability Duration, and Recipient Information Needs.

- By completing the Voucher Recipients application, the Facilities consent to publication of the following information on the HyTN Website, for distribution to potential Voucher Recipients, and for DOE articles and related media:
 - Project Title, Company Overview, Testing Subcategory, and Public Project Summary
- The HyTN Website will be maintained while the HyTN Program is ongoing. If a HyTN participant wishes to modify or remove their listing on the HyTN website, please contact HyTN@nlr.gov.
- Any publication or scientific paper resulting from assistance received through HyTN must acknowledge H2O as a funding source.
- All deliverables submitted to HyTN Program staff with business sensitive information (e.g., intellectual property) must clearly be marked as sensitive on each page. Project Summary Reports may be published on the HyTN Website. If the Voucher participants choose to include sensitive information in the project summary report, they must submit both a complete version (with sensitivity markings) and a redacted version for publication on the HyTN Website. Private versions will be reviewed by H2O and stored securely. Any images or language not marked sensitive from any of the submitted milestone documents may be used by HyTN Program staff for public communications with prior notice to project participants.
- Voucher participants are required to provide HyTN Program staff with reasonable access to the recipient's work site while testing at a HyTN Facility, as well as allowing the HyTN staff to take photographs of the assistance activity for marketing purposes; provided that, prior to such publication, the recipient will be provided with the opportunity to redact, or restrict the publication of, photos that would otherwise disclose confidential intellectual property owned by the Recipient.

Additional requirements and restrictions may be contained in project agreements between the HyTN Program and the Voucher participants.