

2026-04-15 Voucher Opportunity 6 - Hydropower Testing Network (HyTN) Provider Round 2 Informational Webinar Transcript

Christi Pezzone 0:06

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome. We're going to give it a minute or two just to see if anybody else is joining a little bit late, and then we will go ahead and get started.

All right, let's go ahead and begin. Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to our Informational Webinar for the Hydropower Testing Network or HyTN opportunity. My name is Christi Pezzone. I am the Deputy Director here at EnergyWerx. So, I want to go over a couple of things before we get started. First of all, no AI bots are permitted, so they will not be allowed past the lobby. This will be recorded and the recording and the transcript will both be posted by tomorrow morning. So, if you miss anything, you can go ahead and refer to those. Next slide, please.

This is an information session. There will be time to address some questions after a briefing from the program office on HyTN. You can see the Slido information on the screen. You can also go to slido.com and enter the event code VO6IW2. Please use that for any and all questions that you have. There you can also see other questions that have been asked by other folks who are attending today. And you can also upvote questions to have them answered first. The Q&A will be posted as well once DOE has had time to review, and that will take about a week.

I wanted to go over a couple, well, just an upcoming key date. The applications closed on Thursday, April 23rd at 3 o'clock P.M. Eastern time. If you have any application issues, please reach out to info@energywerx.org. Moving on to the overview portion of the webinar, I'll be turning it over to Lauren from the Hydropower and Hydrokinetic Office.

Ruedy, Lauren 2:32

Great. Well, thanks, Christi, and thanks to everyone for joining today. Just want to give a thanks again to also Tessa and the amazing team over at EnergyWerx for

organizing the webinar, as well as acknowledge the DOE team, both in the Office of Technology Commercialization and Hydropower and Hydrokinetic Office for their roles in getting to this point. So it's been a big team effort. Just really appreciate everyone's help making that happen.

So again, I'm Lauren Ruedy. I'm the Chief Engineer in the H2O office. So, some of you may have joined our previous webinar back on March 26th. So, if not, you can go ahead and check out the [recording and Q&A](#) that Christi just mentioned, that'll be available from today's webinar. We have the same one from the previous webinar, which is posted on the [EnergyWerx Voucher Opportunity Page](#). And so, for that reason, I'm going to try to keep my remarks fairly brief and go through a couple of the slides just to emphasize a few points. But if you want the longer, more detailed version, I recommend also checking out that slide deck as well.

Next slide.

Okay, so again, what is HyTN? So HyTN is the Hydropower Testing Network with the purpose of connecting hydropower technology developers with testing facilities. So HyTN is modeled off of another program run out of H2O called TEAMER. So, TEAMER focuses on marine energy. HyTN is specifically focused on hydropower technology developers' key distinction there. Next slide.

So why did H2O set it up? So really, it was focusing on addressing testing needs to de-risk technologies. And so, this program builds off of prior outreach that's been documented in a report out of Oak Ridge in 2022. You see some of the themes and notes captured on the slide here. And this Round 2 of HyTN is building off of the first round that was run last year. Next slide.

So, HyTN is set up as a voucher program. So, what does that mean? So, you can see on the slide here, there's a few steps associated with running a voucher. And so those three main areas are first the Voucher Opportunity. So that's the stage we're in right now. So, while the Voucher Opportunity is open, facilities and then developers will be able to submit their applications for review.

We then move into the second stage, which is where the matchmaking happens. So that's where EnergyWerx and DOE will review those applications and match Voucher

Recipients with Voucher Providers or facilities. So that's potentially you. And then the last phase is when the project starts. And the project will start once the agreements are in place and test plans have been approved. And I'll cover that in a little bit more on a later slide. Next slide.

I'll also cover these details on another slide as well, so we can probably skip this one for now in the interest of time.

Okay, we'll pause here. So, this is a graphic sort of walking through the Voucher Opportunity process that I just described on slide 6. So, starting in the upper left is where we are now. So that's the Voucher Providers or test facilities. So again, potentially all of you, will be developing their application and submitting it to DOE for review. DOE will review the applications, make selections, and then those capabilities will be added onto the [Open EI page for HyTN](#). Once we reach the stage where Voucher Recipients are developing their applications. They can look at the [capability network](#) and decide which facilities align with their needs.

I will note that for Round 2, we are encouraging potential Voucher Recipients to reach out to preferred Voucher Providers before submitting their application. So just be aware that you may be getting contacted notionally this summer by potential Voucher Recipients if you are admitted into the network. So, after the Voucher Recipient applications are submitted, again, DOE will review and then make final decisions and matches based off of what was submitted.

We will reach out, either DOE or EnergyWerx will reach out to ensure it's a good match, and then we move into that project phase where work can begin. The one other item I'll point out on this slide is on the lower left, where it's describing the main categories for HyTN capabilities. Nothing changes from Round 1. So, for Round 2, which is the round we're currently in, we have added techno-economic analysis as a primary capability category. And I'll talk a little bit more about that later as well. Next slide.

Okay, so again, looking at some changes for Round 2 of HyTN compared to Round 1, there are a number of additional subcategories that you'll see listed. I'm not going to go through all of them, but the primary driver for that is an additional expansion to

include computer modeling and simulation for Round 2.

Whereas previously in Round 1, projects were limited to just physical testing. So, because of that extension, we've added additional subcategories here as well. Next slide.

Again, this is just restating what I just mentioned. For Round 2 of HyTN, in addition to physical testing, we're also allowing computer modeling analysis and simulation activities. Next slide.

Main point I just wanted to emphasize on this slide, so similar to Round 1, field testing is still not permitted in Round 2. That may be subject to change should HyTN continue going forward, but for Round 2, field testing is still not permitted. Next slide.

Another change to highlight for Round 2. So, whereas Round 1 last year, technology readiness levels were limited to TRL 4 through 7. Again, keeping in mind that extension for computer modeling, we wanted to expand it just a bit. So, TRL 3 through 7 is now sort of the targeted range for TRL development and project scope. Next slide.

Okay, I will spend a little bit more time on this slide. So just some other things to keep in mind as you're working on your applications. Just note that activity should be scoped for less than one year of work from the start of the contract. So, a project could last, you know, as little as a week if that's impactful but it must be scoped to less than one year duration.

Activities should also be scoped to \$250K or less. So, as you're developing your application, you'll be asked to provide a cost for that capability. So also keep that in mind as you're thinking through potential projects that may be looking to use the capability and how that all factors into your final cost since it will be essentially a fixed price cost.

The voucher cost and duration should also include time needed to complete the five Milestones. So that's another change for this year. During Round 1, there were four Milestones. We've added a final Milestone, which I'll cover on a later slide as well. But

make sure you're also accounting for time to accomplish those.

And then final notes that the funds can't be used to establish new testing capabilities or significantly modify existing capabilities and also can't be used for manufacturing for commercial production. Next slide.

Oh, I guess one other point on the previous slide, just to make clear, when you're developing your application, make sure you're scoping your application to focus on one capability per application. So, if you're in an organization that has multiple labs and equipment and facilities, right, there could be a lot that you might be able to offer through HyTN. But again, keep in mind these project limitations and make sure you're scoping your application such that it's one capability per application that can be evaluated. Sorry, now next slide.

Thanks, Eli. Okay, so we are at the yellow box. Today is April 15th. This is the Informational Webinar with question and answer. So, as Christi said, a reminder that applications are due next week, next Thursday, April 23rd, I believe at 3 PM Eastern. So just make sure that you have your application submitted by that deadline.

I guess just going back to my previous comment about potential Voucher Recipients possibly reaching out to providers as they are working on their applications. So, you'll see the rest of the timeline for Round 2 shown on the slide. So, we anticipate making Voucher Provider selection sometime next month.

And then that Recipient application period would be this summer. So sometime this summer, you may get contacted by potential Voucher Recipients. Again, it's optional, not required for them at this point. And then that matchmaking would happen potentially this fall. So again, you see the caveat at the bottom, this time frame is subject to change, but right now this is the plan we're working towards.

Next slide.

Okay. You'll see some screenshots here on the slide. So, this is the submission form, the application for providers. A few notes to make you aware of. There is a sample application as well being added to the [EnergyWerx Voucher Opportunity Page](#) under the [download section](#). So, if you want to, if you have not already started an application and you want to go in, take a look, get familiar with some of the

questions before you actually start your application, that resource is available. But please make sure to submit your actual application through [Submittable](#). That is where we will be accepting and reviewing applications. So, feel free to look at the sample application, but make sure that you submit your actual application through [Submittable](#). And that is also linked off of the [EnergyWerx HyTN Voucher Opportunity Page](#).

And then the last thing, just want to emphasize and remind people of. So even if you were a Provider in Round 1 of HyTN, you must still submit an application to make sure that we have the latest contact information, that you still have availability, nothing has changed. So if you don't submit an application, then we will assume you are not interested in participating in Round 2. ([Previously Selected Capabilities Application link](#))

So please, please, please, if you were participating in Round 1 and would like to continue being considered for Round 2, you must submit an application. EnergyWerx should have also reached out to you already with a link to make it easy for you to put in your application. If you didn't get that, again, please feel free to reach out to them directly. (info@energywerx.org)

Next slide.

Okay, so these are just some guidance, best practice recommendations. Again, probably nothing too surprising on here, but just make sure you read all the instructions. Be as specific as possible. We'll cover the evaluation criteria in a minute. But, you know, make sure that you're keeping that in mind as you're describing your capability.

Make sure you save. If you start the application and need to come back to it, make sure you save so you don't lose your progress. And the last thing there at the bottom is just please don't include confidential, proprietary, or privileged information in your submission. We don't need it. So, keep that to yourself. But, you know, keep all these other recommended best practices in mind. Next slide.

Okay, so this slide is just giving you an overview of what's also on the [Voucher Opportunity webpage](#). This is how applications will be evaluated. So really, we're

looking to understand an application's relevance to hydropower, how it helps advance technology readiness, project scope would be achievable within the constraints of HyTN projects and that the facility satisfies all eligibility criteria. So again, just keep the [evaluation criteria and eligibility criteria](#) in mind and make sure that you can address all of those in your application. Next slide.

Okay, this slide gives essentially a preview of how the agreement process will work if you are admitted into the Hydropower Testing Network for Round 2, depending on your organization type. So, if you are a National Lab, then H2O, our office will establish an annual operating plan or AOP with your National Lab to get that agreement in place. From there, for any projects you are matched with for HyTN Round 2, it'll be up to the lab to determine what the appropriate agreement will be with the Voucher Recipient. So, whether that's a CRADA, whether that's an NDA, You'll work through that with the Voucher Recipient.

If you are a private lab or university, then you will be entering into an agreement with EnergyWerx. And so, they will be sending you that agreement to establish terms and conditions. EnergyWerx will also be establishing an MOU with the Voucher Recipient. That'll document, you know, the scope of the project and requirements.

So again, National Lab will have an AOP with H2O. Private labs and universities will have an agreement with EnergyWerx. We are still working through the IAA process within H2O. So at this time, Federal Labs are not being considered for Round 2. So apologies to the Federal Labs. Hopefully, if HyTN continues, we'll be able to get that resolved for a future round. But unfortunately, we won't be able to accept your application at this time if you are a Federal Lab. So just hold off and hopefully at some point in the future, we can get that resolved.
Next slide.

I mentioned earlier that there are five Milestones for HyTN Round 2. You'll see them laid out here on the bottom of the screen. So Round 1 had the first four Milestones. So the first one being that Memorandum of Agreement verification. That's a Milestone that documents that all required access information agreements required between the Voucher Provider and Voucher Recipient have been established or

signed and in place to let DOE and EnergyWerx know that's been addressed between the Voucher Provider and Voucher Recipient.

The second Milestone is a test plan. And I think I mentioned this already, but I'll just emphasize again. So for Milestone 2, there's a requirement to develop a test plan. That test plan needs to be approved by DOE before work can begin. So just make sure you keep that in mind if you are approved and matched with a Voucher Recipient. We'll cover that again once we enter the project phase, but I just wanted to emphasize that here as well.

Milestone 3 is essentially just a project update to let us know how things are going. And then similar to Milestone 2, Milestone 4 is that final project summary report, which also needs to be reviewed and approved by DOE. For Round 2 of HyTN, we're requesting, we're also including a questionnaire and the purpose of that is to both provide feedback from the Voucher Provider of how HyTN worked. And then also just kind of help inform H2O's understanding of current testing needs and gaps in the sector. So that'll be your fifth Milestone for Round 2.

I'll also say that if you're not familiar with vouchers, facility payments are Milestone based. So, upon successful completion of each Milestone, you'll get a portion of that total project cost that was in your application. So just if you weren't familiar already, that's how the payment process will work for HyTN. And I think that's my last slide, if we can maybe go one more. Yep, perfect. So, like I said, I tried to keep it short. There's a lot more detail in the [previous webinar recording](#), but happy to take any questions.

Christi Pezzone 20:50

Perfect. Thank you, Lauren. We'll give Tessa a quick second to pull up the Slido. Again, please enter your questions on slido.com using the code VO6IW2, or you can use the link in the chat. And now I will turn it over to Tessa.

Tessa Bryan 21:09

Perfect. Thank you. All right, our first question:

Should one person per facility apply (representing facility's multiple capabilities) or multiple people per facility apply (representing one capability each)?

Ruedy, Lauren 21:27

I would say that's up to the facility to decide. So, if you want to have one central person kind of managing the inflow and outflow of information, you know, taking requests from potential Voucher Recipients and delegating that, as well as, you know, making sure you're QCing, you know, whatever Milestones are being submitted. I know some facilities prefer that model, but for other facilities, you know, having one dedicated person per capability is preferred. So I would say it's really up to the facility.

Tessa Bryan 22:07

Can you provide clarity regarding testing providers allowance to purchase specific flow valves, some monitoring or metering equipment for a hydropower unit?

Ruedy, Lauren 22:21

Sure, so I'm assuming this is talking about for testing a hydropower unit versus, you know, any kind of commercial operation, right? But yeah, so I would say knowing that you may not have all equipment necessary to conduct a test on hand, right? So, on the earlier slide, I say that we HyTN funding can't be used to allow for significant facility upgrades. Though we also acknowledge there may be some bespoke supplies that may be required in order to address specific needs for a specific test. So, I would say just make sure you are including those considerations in your cost. are submitting on your application.

Tessa Bryan 23:10

Thank you.

Do providers have the opportunity to be paired with multiple Voucher Recipients?

Ruedy, Lauren 23:19

Yes, so I would say make sure on your application you indicate any availability

restrictions, but provided you have, you know, the bandwidth and availability to support multiple Voucher Recipients, that would be permissible.

Tessa Bryan 23:38

Thank you.

If our single facility has multiple capabilities, are we still able to provide multiple applications, or should we pick a single capability to apply for?

Ruedy, Lauren 23:51

Great question. So, you are able to submit multiple applications. So yeah, great question. Keep it to 1 capability per application, but a facility or organization is able to submit multiple applications to offer multiple capabilities.

Tessa Bryan 24:13

When recipients apply will they be able to designate a preferred testing provider?

Ruedy, Lauren 24:21

Yep, great question. So, to be in total transparency, we are still finalizing the Voucher Recipient portion, but we are envisioning that Voucher Recipients will be able to indicate preferred testing providers on their application.

Christi Pezzone 24:43

Perfect. It looks like that was our last question. I'll give it a couple of minutes just to see if any questions come in. Just so everyone knows, all questions will be provided to DOE so they have the opportunity to provide additional helpful information before we post them on the [Opportunity Page](#) next week.

Please remember that submissions are due no later than Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 at 3 o'clock P.M. Eastern Time. In the chat, you will find some helpful links. So, you'll want to check those out. And after today, we will place the recording of today's Informational Webinar on the [Opportunity Page](#) as well as the PowerPoint slides that were briefed and the transcript.

If you have any questions before you submit your application that you didn't ask here today or that you've come up with later, please reach out to info@energywerx.org. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

It looks like we don't have any other questions that have come up. So, Lauren, is there anything else that you wanted to say before we let everybody go a little early?

Ruedy, Lauren 25:54

Yeah, just thanks again, everyone, for your time today. Thanks again, EnergyWerx team and the teams over at DOE for all your support to make this happen. Yeah, and just make sure people get their applications in before 3 o'clock ET next Thursday. So, looking forward to seeing them.