

2026-07-15 Hydropower Testing Network (HyTN) Recipient Informational Webinar Transcript

Christi Pezzone 0:09

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to our Informational Webinar for the HyTN Recipient Opportunity. My name is Christi Pezzone. I am the Deputy Director here at EnergyWerx. Just a quick note, no AI bots are permitted, so we will not be allowing them in the recording and the transcript and the slides will be posted on our [website](#) once we wrap up. Next slide, please.

This is an information session. There will be some time to address some questions after a short briefing from the program office on HyTN. You can see the Slido information up on the screen. You can either scan the QR code or you can enter V06IW2. Slido is the tool that we use for asking any questions in our webinars. You can go ahead and type your questions directly in and also review questions that others have asked and go ahead and upvote those if you have the same questions and then those will be answered first. The Q&A will also be posted once DOE has had time to review and that should take a couple of days and then we'll have that on our [website](#) as well. Next slide, please.

A couple of upcoming key dates that I wanted to go over really quick. Well, actually, just one key date. [Applications](#) close on **Thursday, July 23rd at 3:00 PM EST**. 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 Ruedy from the Hydropower and Hydrokinetic Office (H2O). Lauren.

Ruedy, Lauren 2:43

Awesome. Thanks so much, Christi. Happy Wednesday, everyone, and thanks for joining. If you joined us for our previous webinar, welcome back for the second webinar. We'll be going through a lot of the same information as last time, but hopefully you came with questions. And if you didn't make our previous webinar, glad you could join today.

Thanks again to the EnergyWerx, OTC and H2O teams for all their hard work to launch the second phase of the HyTN round 2 Voucher Opportunity. So again, I'm Lauren Ruedy and I'll be walking you through just a couple of slides. Again, these slides will be available on the [HyTN Voucher Opportunity Webpage](#). Read the cruise at your leisure.

But since this is the second webinar, I'm going to try to go through the material a little bit quickly, just to make sure we have ample time for questions. So, with that, let's go to the next slide.

Okay, so since you're here, you probably already know, but what is HyTN? It is the Hydropower Testing Network Program. And so, it aims to raise the technology readiness of hydropower innovations by connecting technology developers who are referred to as voucher, excuse me, Voucher Recipients in the program to testing facilities, who are the Voucher Providers, and implementing targeted testing activities that lead to the deployment of reliable hydropower projects. Next slide.

So, this one I think I actually might skip to go to the more detailed next slide. Perfect, thank you. So, this is a flow chart of how a Voucher Opportunity works and how HyTN works in particular. So, you'll see in the upper left, that is the Voucher Provider selection that occurred earlier this year. Those are those test facilities and capabilities that I referenced. You will know this, if you were familiar with HyTN round 1, we did add another capability category for HyTN round 2. So, we expanded to allow the techno-economic analysis category, but also more broadly, numerical computer modeling and analysis as additional support through HyTN for round 2.

So, with those different capabilities, potential Voucher Recipients, which is hopefully all of you, have the option to look through that [category or the capability list](#) and identify which of those capabilities would meet your needs for a specific tested project. And then as part of your application, identify and if a match is made, then moving into the right hand portion of the screen, which is where that support and project would commence.

Next slide.

Okay, so who is HyTN for? As I mentioned, the Voucher Providers were selected earlier this year. You can see in the lower left there, just some examples of the different types of facilities that are now in the network. But over on the right, the specific categories or types of entities that a Voucher Recipient might fall into would be US-based for-profit companies, non-profit research organizations, or academic institutions developing a hydropower technology. So, you see a number of different technology types, examples on the bottom of the screen there on the right, but we can cover that in a little bit more detail in a future slide. So next slide.

Okay, so on this slide, you'll see the more detailed breakout of all of the different types of subcategories that projects may fall into. So, I want to emphasize that a project does not have to be directly related to electricity generation in order to be eligible as a HyTN project. However, it does need to be hydropower related. It can be equipment, materials, or structures used to support the construction and or operation of hydropower projects, which capture the potential energy of flowing water over an elevation or pressure drop, which is typically referred to as head. So again, we expanded the number of categories and facility offerings as Voucher Providers for HyTN round 2, but the project does still need to be relevant to hydropower. Next slide.

Okay, so another aspect of your HyTN project needs to be related to testing and evaluation. So, what does that include? It can be physical testing, involving hardware such as prototype system component or coupon testing. Voucher Recipients are expected to provide a test article to support the project. And that is a key piece for the physical testing for round 2, whereas capabilities including modeling, simulation, analysis, or other software services for round 2 are now included, and Voucher Recipients are expected to provide at least a proof-of-concept design. So, as we'll cover on a future slide, we're really looking between TRL 3 through 7, so less on concept development and more on the verification and validation of a concept. Next slide.

For a Voucher Recipient to put in an eligible and successful application, you do have to work with a HyTN approved facility that is in the facility catalog, or excuse me, [capability catalog](#). So that is a facility that has been permitted and operated to support research and development activities.

Again, HyTN specifically focusing on hydropower applications for round 2 field testing still is not within scope. So, you won't see those types of facilities in the catalog at this point. But again, we did expand the number of Voucher Providers being offered for round 2.

All projects must be compliant with NEPA, the NEPA determination for the program. And lastly, facilities testing living organisms, there may be some additional requirements. So, depending on the specifics of your project, there may be some additional paperwork that you'll need to work with the Voucher Provider on. But again, that's something that can be addressed if a project, if a match is made, then a project is approved. Next slide.

Okay, as I mentioned earlier, we're really looking at projects that align with the TRL 3 through 7. If you're not familiar with technology readiness levels, you see them here on the screen, but anywhere between an analytical and experimental proof of concept all the way up to a full-scale prototype system demonstrated in a relevant environment. So, it should cover a pretty broad range of testing and evaluation. So hopefully, you can think about your testing needs and find something that fits within that range. Next slide.

Okay, and this is just a few last other considerations when thinking about the scope of a project. So, activities should be scoped to less than one year from the start of the contract to the completion of all the milestones. Generally, activities are scoped between \$50K and \$250K. This is probably a good place to remind potential Voucher Recipients that all of the funding does go to the Voucher Provider for the project to cover their time and access to the facility. The funding goes directly to the Voucher Provider. However, this is to give you a sense of the value of the project and assistance that you can expect to receive through HyTN.

The voucher cost and duration should include time needed to complete the five milestones, which we have a slide on that later. We can walk through what are those five milestones that are expected to be completed. And then last note, just that activity should not include manufacturing for commercial production. So if that was what you were hoping to use HyTN for, the mechanism is probably not quite right for your needs, but there are other evaluation of manufacturing types of capabilities

that could work with what you're looking for, provided it's, again, not for commercial production. Next slide.

Okay, so this is just a quick snapshot on timeline. So we are in the yellow box on July 15th. Another reminder that the [Voucher Recipient applications](#) close next **Thursday, July 23rd**. After that point, we will do a review process and hoping to make Voucher Recipient selection announcements in September. As always, this time frame is subject to change based on external factors, but that is when we're currently targeting to have matches made. So, after those matches and selections are made in the fall, the Voucher Providers and Voucher Recipients will work through finalizing their agreements before the project work could commence. Next slide.

Okay, so this is just a real high-level overview of the different types of categories of questions that are being asked on the Voucher Recipient application. Hopefully, you're already working on your application, but if not, you are able to find a sample PDF of the application questions on the [EnergyWerx Voucher Opportunity page](#), if you go to that link. I do want to remind people that you need to submit your application through [Submittable](#). There's also a link for that on the [EnergyWerx HyTN Voucher Opportunity page](#). But if you wanted to look at the questions that are in the application before going into Submittable to submit your application, that has been made available for reference.

But you'll see the questions sort of fall into these three categories shown on the left. There's general information and entity classification type questions. There's a section on technology and project overview. And then the last section is on your capability selection and justification of need. Next slide.

We have two places where you can go to find all of the different facilities that are now available as Voucher Providers in HyTN for round 2. We have 21 facilities providing over 65 unique capabilities. The map on the right there just gives you a snapshot of kind of geographically where those facilities are distributed, but you can either go to [the HyTN website](#), which you'll see listed, the link listed there on the screen, or you can also go to [the EnergyWerx HyTN Voucher Opportunity page](#) that also lists all of the different Voucher Providers that are currently available in the network. Next slide.

Okay, so these are just some, you know, hopefully helpful tips, tricks. So just a reminder, as always, just make sure you carefully read all the instructions and help texts. We try to make things as clear as possible. So just please make sure you read the instructions so that you are answering the correct question.

Be as specific as possible in your application. The more detail and the clearer you can communicate things through your application, the easier it will be to facilitate matchmaking with a Voucher Provider. Make sure that you review the facility descriptions and you are highly encouraged to contact a Voucher Provider before submitting your application. It is not a requirement, but you will see on the application a question of whether or not the applicant and the potential Voucher Provider have had contact before submitting the application.

And really the intent there is just to make sure that the Voucher Provider that you're interested in working with, the information is pretty comprehensive and hopefully useful on [the web page](#), but getting into the specifics of a project, there may be nuances that the Voucher Provider may realize, hey, your project doesn't quite work with, our capabilities or, you know, bandwidth or what have you. So we do find that that is helpful and increase the likelihood of making a match. But again, that is not required for round 2. But please make sure you do look at least the descriptions available in [the catalog](#).

Once you start your application in [Submittable](#), if you need to come back to it at a later date, just make sure you save your draft, so you don't lose your progress. Nothing worse than spending time working on an application and having it get lost. So, make sure you hit the save draft button.

Note that any items marked with that double asterisk (**) is information that is indicated to be shareable and may be used for public communications.

And then lastly, I know I said be as specific and provide as much information as possible, but please don't include any confidential, proprietary or privileged information in your submission. We don't want it. That's not going to be helpful or give you competitive advantage. So just please, please don't include that. Next slide.

Okay, quick note around recipient eligibility. So as a reminder, this was applicable for both Voucher Recipients and Voucher Providers that the applicant must qualify as a domestic entity. And the applicant also must certify they are not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a country of risk. More information on that is described on the [EnergyWerx Voucher Opportunity page for HyTN](#). So, if you want to learn more about that, it's all spelled out there, as well as any other eligibility information available on the website.

Organizations are eligible to apply as both a Voucher Provider and a Voucher Recipient. However, you cannot apply for services from your own capability. So you can be both a Voucher Provider, have your organization as a Voucher Provider in the network, and still submit a Voucher Recipient application, but you can't get assistance from yourself.

The last thing I will note to try to clarify is there was some confusion during our previous webinar around National Lab and FFRDC eligibility. So, both DOE and non-DOE FFRDCs are not eligible in round 2 to be Voucher Recipients. So again, we have a number of FFRDCs in the network as Voucher Providers. However, they are not eligible to be Voucher Recipients. We did want to clarify that. Next slide.

Okay. I'm not going to read this slide to you, but again, just in thinking about filling out your application, these are the areas that we will be looking at in terms of evaluating applications. So specifically emphasizing relevance to hydropower, how the application advances technology readiness, ensuring eligibility, making sure that the project is both capable and available and the facility aligns with that, and that the project is achievable. So probably nothing shocking here, but really emphasizing these five areas in your [application](#). Next slide.

Okay, so this is just a quick table of how agreements are expected to work if you are matched with a Voucher Provider and move forward into the project stage for round 2. See all the way on the right there, that column with federal labs is grayed out. We are not able to, as I mentioned, accommodate federal labs at this time in the process.

However, if a Voucher Recipient is matched with an FFRDC, H2O will establish an annual operating plan, so the program office will have an agreement with the

National lab directly to send funds, the expectation is that there will then be an agreement between the National Lab and the Voucher Recipient with whatever agreements may be necessary, either coming from the National Lab or on behalf of the Voucher Recipient. So that could be a non-disclosure agreement or NDA, it could be a cooperative research and development agreement or CRADA, or there may be other flavors of agreements that may be needed. So that would be a discussion that would be had between the Voucher Recipient and Voucher Provider.

If a Voucher Recipient is matched with a private lab or university, those Voucher Providers work directly with EnergyWerx to get their agreements in place. And then there will also be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between EnergyWerx and the Voucher Recipient to make sure that things are fully documented.

Again, I want to emphasize the funding does go to the Voucher Provider or the test facility, not the Voucher Recipient. However, the good news is that no cost share is required either. I think that covers everything on this slide then. I think I got one more. Next slide.

Perfect. So, I mentioned earlier that there is an expectation that within the one-year duration of the project that there are five milestones that must be completed. So that starts with milestone one, the Memorandum of Agreement verification. So, making sure any agreements between the Voucher Recipient and Voucher Provider are in place before work begins on the project.

Milestone 2 is a test plan that must be developed collaboratively between the Voucher Recipient and Voucher Provider. I will note that that test plan does need to be reviewed and approved by the Hydropower and Hydrokinetics Office, H2O. So just make sure that you anticipate a little bit of iteration review time. Our goal is to make sure that your project is successful. And so, we have reviewers that will provide feedback based on experience with testing and evaluation projects to ensure increase the likelihood of success.

Milestone 3 is a status update where you get the opportunity to let us know how everything's going, if you're into any issues. So that there's a presentation

PowerPoint presentation template that's available to provide a status update, you know, roughly around the halfway point through project execution.

Milestone 4 would then be the project summary report. So that's sort of the final report on how the project went. It leverages the test plan as the front matter for the report. So really what you're doing for that final, you know, milestone for final project summary is taking the test plan and adding in your conclusions, findings, lessons learned, just finishing that out.

And then milestone 5 is a new milestone we added for round 2, and that's really just to hear from you about how HyTN worked, areas that could be improved, if we get authorization to do a future round of HyTN round 3. So that's the opportunity to just let us know how it went.

The Voucher Providers are responsible for submitting these milestones. However, as I mentioned, the expectation is they'll work collaboratively with the Voucher Recipients. And then next slide.

Yep. So, that's everything I had. Again, these slides will be made available on the [EnergyWerx Voucher Opportunity Page](#), but happy to take any questions you have.

Christi Pezzone 24:09

All right, let's give Tessa a quick second to pull up the Slido. I know that we have one question there right now. Just wanted to remind everybody that if you have any questions, please go ahead and put them in Slido. The link will be in the chat and we'll go ahead and get started. Tessa.

Tessa Bryan 24:29

All righty, our first question is, **can a company submit more than one application if an innovative technology has more than one application for hydropower operation?**

Ruedy, Lauren 24:41

I would say if you submit more than one application, you would want to make sure it was clear how it was distinct, but you are not limited to one application.

Christi Pezzone 25:00

And that was our only question. So I'll give it a couple of seconds. I'll start my spiel that I do when I wrap things up and maybe some folks will come up with some more questions that they'd like answered. Or maybe, Lauren, you did such a fantastic job explaining everything. There are no questions this time around.

So, all questions will be provided to DOE so they have the opportunity to provide any additional helpful information before we post them on the [Opportunity Page](#). Oh, we have another question, so I will let Tessa go ahead.

Ruedy, Lauren 25:35

There we go.

Tessa Bryan 25:36

Does the application require a formal letter of support, confirmation email, or other documentation from the testing lab before July 23, sufficient?

Ruedy, Lauren 25:41

So we are not requiring any documentation from a test facility or Voucher Provider that you may contact to submit your application. But please include the information in the appropriate section in the application itself that you have, you know, who you've reached out to, there's a section in there for you to provide as the applicant that information.

Tessa Bryan 26:19

What maturity level TRL should be considered?

Ruedy, Lauren 26:23

Yep, so we are looking, so projects should be in the range of TRL 3 to 7. And I guess I'll emphasize that that's sort of the expected starting TRL. So, at the start of the project, that would be anywhere between TRL 3 and 7 is where the technology should be currently.

Tessa Bryan 26:50

How many providers can the recipients choose to work with?

Ruedy, Lauren 26:55

So you can list, I believe we have up to three options listed on the application. However, Voucher Recipients will be matched with one provider.

Tessa Bryan 27:11

Is that fact that Recipients do not need to cost share in the award to the Provider new for Voucher - 6 Round 2?

Ruedy, Lauren 27:22

That should have also been the case. So I will say different, and Christi please jump in if you want to add anything to this. But from my understanding, different Voucher Opportunities have different requirements. For height and there was a similar requirement in round 1 that there was no cost share. So that is consistent with round 1 of HyTN specifically.

Christi Pezzone 27:50

And also, I just want to add, recipients do not receive any funding for this opportunity. So, they receive in-kind support. The providers receive the funding for the capability that they are providing. So, the recipients are not receiving any funding.

Tessa Bryan 28:14

If an applicant selects multiple capability slots, must each lab be contacted and confirmed separately, or is a single application treated as one engagement?

Ruedy, Lauren 28:24

So if I understand the question correctly, for this round of HyTN, we are not requiring an applicant contact the Voucher Provider in advance. So that is one thing I will emphasize. It's just strongly encouraged and recommended. If you want to list more than one Voucher Provider in your application, you are welcome to contact whichever Voucher Provider you are listing in your application, but any Voucher

Provider you're interested in working with for a specific project scope should be listed in the same application.

Tessa Bryan 29:09

Should a budget justification or something of that nature be submitted?

Ruedy, Lauren 29:15

So again, like Christi said, funding isn't going to the Voucher Recipient. So, there's no specific need for you to put together a budget justification since funding isn't going to Voucher Recipients. But again, I just encourage you to look through the application. and address any of the questions that are included.

Tessa Bryan 29:44

Does pump storage hydro qualify? So, primary use of water is for storage, and secondary for power generation.

Ruedy, Lauren 29:51

Yeah, that's a great question. So yes, within our authorization in the hydropower and hydrokinetics office, the hydropower program does include pump storage hydropower. So that would be an eligible application for high end.

Tessa Bryan 30:09

All right, I think this is a two-parter here, so I'll start with the top.

Does the program give preference to technologies that align with specific DOE or ENERGYWERX priority areas — such as distributed generation, grid resilience, agricultural water or municipal water infrastructure — and if so, which areas are prioritized for this round?

Ruedy, Lauren 30:32

So I will say I encourage you to look at the evaluation criteria that is listed on the [HyTN webpage](#) for this Voucher Opportunity program. We aren't emphasizing anything in particular, so, but I would encourage you to look at the evaluation criteria that's provided.

Tessa Bryan 31:01

How many recipients will be awarded?

Ruedy, Lauren 31:05

So it'll be based on merit. I don't know if we have made a decision in advance on the number of recipients.

Tessa Bryan 31:20

Is there an opportunity for applicants to receive feedback on their applications if not selected?

Ruedy, Lauren 31:27

Um, that's a good question. Christi, do you remember how that was handled for round 1?

Christi Pezzone 31:33

I don't remember for this voucher specifically, but I do know for other vouchers, and I can't remember if we did it for this one or not, we generally provide a not an extensive list, but a list that has information in general why applications were not selected. So maybe four or five, you know, these are the top reasons why your application was not selected, but we do not give specific feedback on individual applications.

Tessa Bryan 32:10

Thank you.

Is there a possibility of getting UTC SimCenter as a Voucher Recipient?

Ruedy, Lauren 32:20

So I would say if UTC SimCenter is interested in being a Voucher Recipient, make sure to submit an application before next Thursday, July 23rd. If the question was asking about being a Voucher Provider, so that would be a test facility in the network that receives funding to offer services to others,

That phase of round 2 has already closed and those selections have already been made. So if we do get approval for round three, that could be a potential option in

the future. But if you are interested in being a Voucher Recipient, make sure you submit an application before next Thursday.

Tessa Bryan 33:03

Thank you. Here's another two-parter here.

If a company has a prior relationship with a national lab that is a participating HyTN institution — for instance, prior technical meetings or co-development discussions — is it appropriate to reference that relationship in the application, and does it carry any weight in evaluation?

Ruedy, Lauren 33:24

So I leave it up to the applicant to decide what they want to include in their application. But again, there is a section in the application asking about preferred Voucher Providers and rationale for that. So, you know, feel free to include whatever information you believe is relevant.

Christi Pezzone 33:50

All right, it looks like we have answered all of the questions. I will start for real going through my end spiel this time to see if any others come up. Please remember that all submissions are due no later than Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 at 3 P.m. Eastern Time. In the chat, you will find the following.

our e-mail address if you have any additional questions. Oh, there we have another question. Tessa, go ahead.

Tessa Bryan 34:16

Our technology is a hydrokinetic system that shares design elements with both hydropower turbines and wind turbine drivetrains. Does the program evaluate

Christi Pezzone 34:31

So we, while we wait for the second-half of the question, we can't answer specific questions about whether...

an application or a specific technology would qualify for you to submit as a recipient. So I just want to make that note before I turn it back over to Lauren.

Ruedy, Lauren 34:56

And I guess the second part of the question, it looks like maybe came into.

Tessa Bryan 34:59

Does the program evaluate alignment between technology type and capability category, and is a technology that spans multiple categories at a disadvantage compared to one that fits cleanly into a single category

Ruedy, Lauren 35:21

I can start adding on to what Christi said, as maybe the rest of the question comes in if there is more, but yeah, I mean, so everything Christi said, you know, we can't encourage, you know, one type of, we are not encouraging one type of, you know, application over another. So provided it meets all of the [eligibility criteria](#), and is related to hydropower, then, you know, you're encouraged to [submit an application](#).

Tessa Bryan 35:57

All right, I will go ahead and answer these. Looks like we've got one more here.

My technology makes turbines obsolete. Where could I get that new tech appraised? It is Articulated and reciprocates

Ruedy, Lauren 36:19

Okay, so kind of similar to the last question, if you feel your application, your technology would be relevant to hydropower applications, you are encouraged to submit to the Hydropower Testing Network. If you don't believe your application is relevant to hydropower, then you are welcome to look at [other opportunities](#) coming out of, you know, DOE or other agencies that may be more relevant.

Tessa Bryan 36:54

Thank you.

Christi Pezzone 36:58

Perfect. Thank you very much, everyone. I will start out again and we'll have more questions as I thought we would.

Tessa Bryan 37:07

Is there a place for interested application recipients to post publicly, like a teaming list, for voucher providers to view and evaluate the fit?

Ruedy, Lauren 37:27

So that's not something, Christi, correct me, or please add on if there's any other places that that could be relevant. So that's not something that we have available for round 2 of HyTN. So, we have the [Voucher Provider list available](#), but we don't have, or we did not include a place for potential Voucher Recipients to post and have their information posted publicly for Voucher Providers to then review. So on the matchmaking side, we will look at both the applications from the potential Voucher Recipients evaluated with the list of the Voucher Providers. But at the moment, at least for HyTN, there's nothing available in terms of having Voucher Recipient projects or technologies be posted publicly.

Christi Pezzone 38:27

And I'll just add on to that. The Voucher Providers don't have any input really into who they're matched with. That is something that DOE does based on the recipient applications that are provided and the capabilities that have been selected. So, while Voucher Providers do have the opportunity to review their match, prior to accepting or declining it and prior to being introduced to the recipients, they don't provide input prior to the match being made. So, your best bet would be if there is a capability that you're interested in, [submit an application](#). If you can, get in touch with that organization beforehand to discuss more with them, to find out if it would be a good fit. That's great, but it is not required for you to submit an application.

I'll try this again, but we'll probably get another question because that's how it works. Again, please remember that submissions are due no later than **Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 at 3:00 PM EST**. In the chat, you'll find several links, including our e-mail address (info@energywerx.org) if you have any additional questions or if you have any issues with the application.

A link to the [Opportunity Page](#). You'll also find links to [join our ecosystem](#) and [follow us on social media](#). After today, we will place the recording of today's webinar on the [website](#) as well as the transcript and the PowerPoint slides briefed. And it looks like we don't have any more questions, so we can go ahead and wrap up. Lauren, did you have anything that you wanted to add?

Ruedy, Lauren 40:13

I just thank you again, everyone, for your time today, for your participation and all these questions. That was great. Really excited that everyone's so interested in the Hydropower Testing Network and just wish you luck on your applications and thanks again to the EnergyWerx, OTC and Hydropower and Hydrokinetic (H2O) teams. Just yeah, thanks everyone for your time today.

Christi Pezzone 40:37

And again, please reach out to info@energywerx.org if you have any questions before the upcoming deadline. I wanted to echo Lauren's thanks everyone for your time today. Thank you to Lauren and her team for being here. Thank you, OTC for being here. And as always, thank you to the EnergyWerx team for your support. I hope everyone has a great rest of their week.