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University-Based ITAC Informational Webinar

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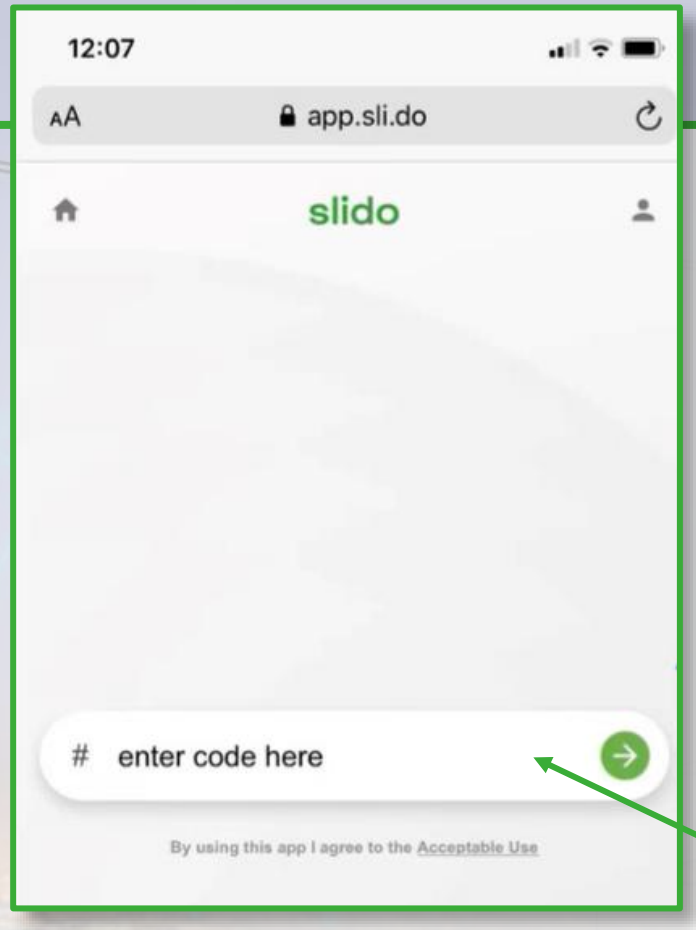


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U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation

University-Based Industrial Training and Assessment Centers (ITAC)

Analysis and Strategy Office (ASO)

Informational Webinar

October 13, 2026

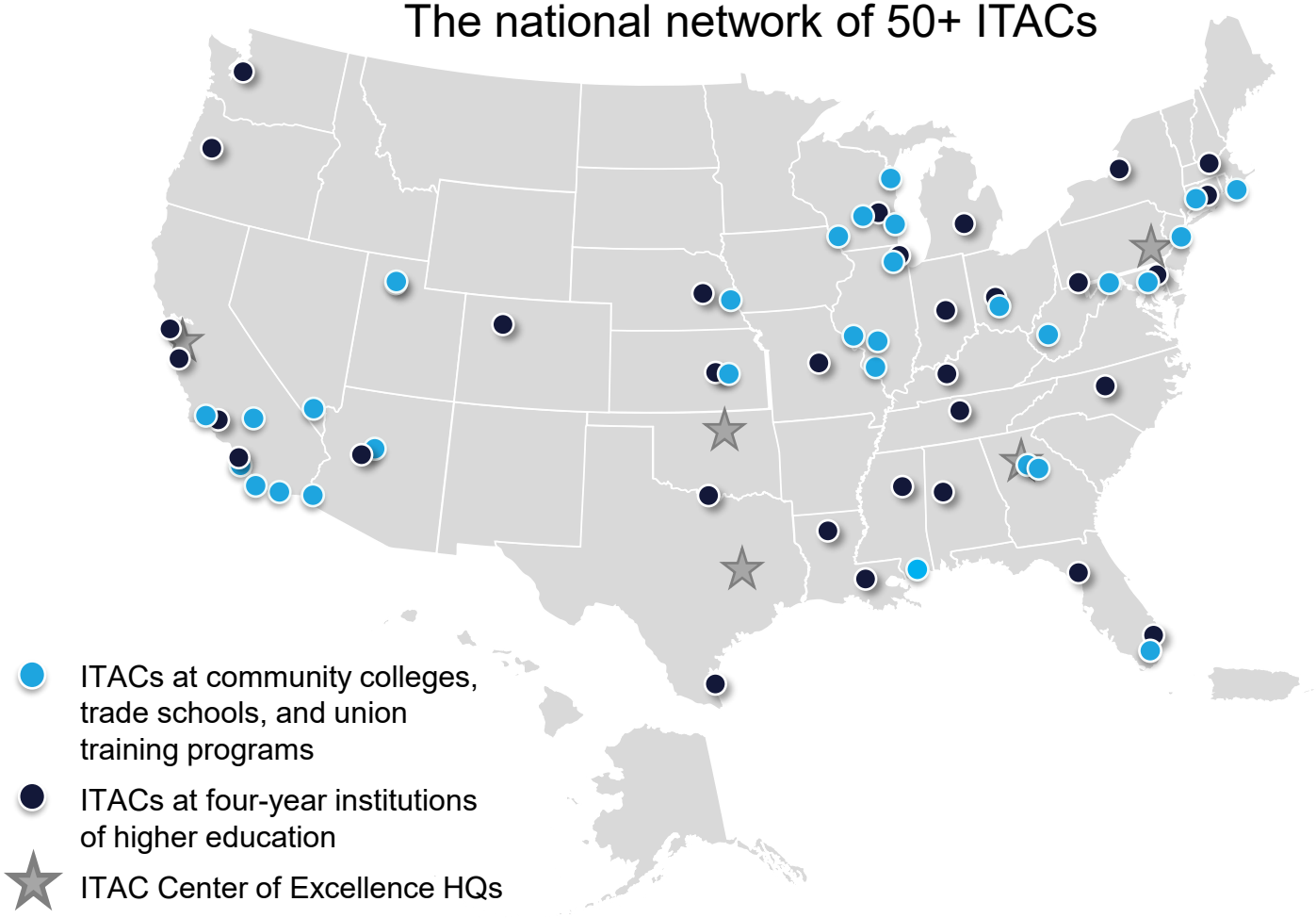
Agenda

- Overview of the Industrial Training and Assessment Center program
- Walk through the Solicitation Overview and Solicitation Objectives
- Discuss application requirements and how to apply for this opportunity
- Q&A

Industrial Training & Assessment Centers (ITACs):

Training the Industrial Workforce and Supporting Smaller Manufacturers

The national network of 50+ ITACs



- ITACs are educational institution-based programs with a two-part mission: 1) providing hands-on training for high-quality manufacturing and clean energy roles while 2) strengthening small and mid-sized manufacturers (SMMs) with hands-on energy audits, incumbent worker training programs, and other services
- ITACs are hosted at universities, community colleges, technical and trade schools, and union training programs nationwide.
- The ITAC Program also provides grants to SMMs to implement energy-saving and productivity-enhancing upgrades recommended by ITACs *(currently paused)*

University-based ITAC Competition/Selection

- There are currently 36 university-based ITACs located throughout the country and funded through five-year cooperative agreements that will end on December 31, 2026.
- CMEI's Analysis and Strategy Office (ASO) is proposing to transition these Cooperative Agreements to Business-to-Business (B2B) agreements managed through the existing Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with EnergyWERX.
- Through this PIA, ASO anticipates selecting the universities who will operate the ITACs for the next five-year period.
- Domestic mining operations also face increasing pressure to reduce energy intensity, improve water efficiency and stewardship, enhance mineral recovery and process efficiency, address maintenance backlogs and aging infrastructure, and close workforce and technology capability gaps.
- In response, ASO intends to leverage experience gained through operating the traditional ITAC program by expanding into the mining and mineral processing sectors. ASO will select approximately 20 percent of new ITACs from this PIA that specialize in technical assistance to mining and mineral processing operations.

Eligibility: Prime Recipients

Every performer must meet the following eligibility requirements:

Must be domestic entities. The entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of operation in the United States.

In good standing for Federal program participation. Entities banned from doing business with the United States government such as entities debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in Federal programs are not eligible. Additionally, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are not eligible to apply for funding.

Must certify it is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of government of Country of Risk.

Eligibility: Academic Requirements

Additionally, each prime recipient needs to meet the eligibility requirements for an ITAC:

Institutions of higher education must be U.S. colleges or universities that have at least one of their four-year undergraduate programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission or the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The applicants must be located within the engineering department that holds the accreditation and must be physically located in the U.S.

Application Tracks

Track 1: Traditional ITACs

- Universities selected to operate traditional ITACs via this PIA are expected to continue providing technical assistance to SMMs
  - Operating within SIC codes 21 thru 39 and wastewater treatment plants,
  - Gross annual sales below $250K,
  - Fewer than 500 employees, and
  - Annual energy bills between $100,000 and $3.5M

Track 2: Mining & Mineral Processing ITACs

- The basic structure of these ITACs are consistent with the traditional variety; however, the clients served, technical challenges faced, and the time required to identify potential solutions will likely increase the time required for technical assistance
  - Providing technical assistance to SMEs within SIC Codes 10 - 14 and 32,
  - Gross annual sales below $250M, and
  - Fewer than 500 employees.

Application Review Criteria and Weight – Track 1

Project Management Approach (30%) – Understanding of Program goals, objectives, and responsibilities; effectiveness of proposed organizational model; ability to use technology and data tools; completeness and reasonableness of proposed workplan and milestones; and identification of risks and timely and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution.

Project Team and Past Performance (25%) – Qualifications of proposed professors and staff; technical expertise working with SMMs; ability to provide or facilitate high-quality training and education to students and SMMs; ability to work with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders; and experience engaging in outreach to SMMs.

Teaching, Training, Workforce Development, and Job Quality (30%) – Quality of plan to develop and deliver effective mentoring, training, and curricular resources; effective technical resources and solutions to SMMs; support student-focused activities, work with SMMs to support workforce education and training.

Project Resources (15%) – Adequacy of facilities, equipment, and other resources and level of commitment from the proposing college or university and the host department that a Center will have strong administrative support.

Application Review Criteria and Weight – Track 2

Project Management Approach (30%) – Understanding of Program goals, objectives, and responsibilities; effectiveness of proposed organizational model; ability to use technology and data tools; completeness and reasonableness of proposed workplan and milestones; and identification of risks and timely and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution.

Project Team and Past Performance (25%) – Qualifications of proposed professors and staff; technical expertise and experience working with mining and mineral processing facilities; ability to provide high-quality training and education to students and mining and mineral processing facilities; ability to work effectively with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders; experience engaging in outreach to mining and mineral processing facilities.

Teaching, Training, Workforce Development, and Job Quality (30%) – Quality of plan to support development and delivery of effective mentoring, training, and curricular resources; effective technical resources and solutions to mining and mineral processing facilities; support for student-focused activities; work with mining and mineral processing facilities leading to incumbent workers to learn and earn credentials.

Criterion 4: Project Resources (15%) – Adequacy of facilities, equipment, and other resources and level of commitment from the proposing college or university and the host department that a Center will have strong administrative support.

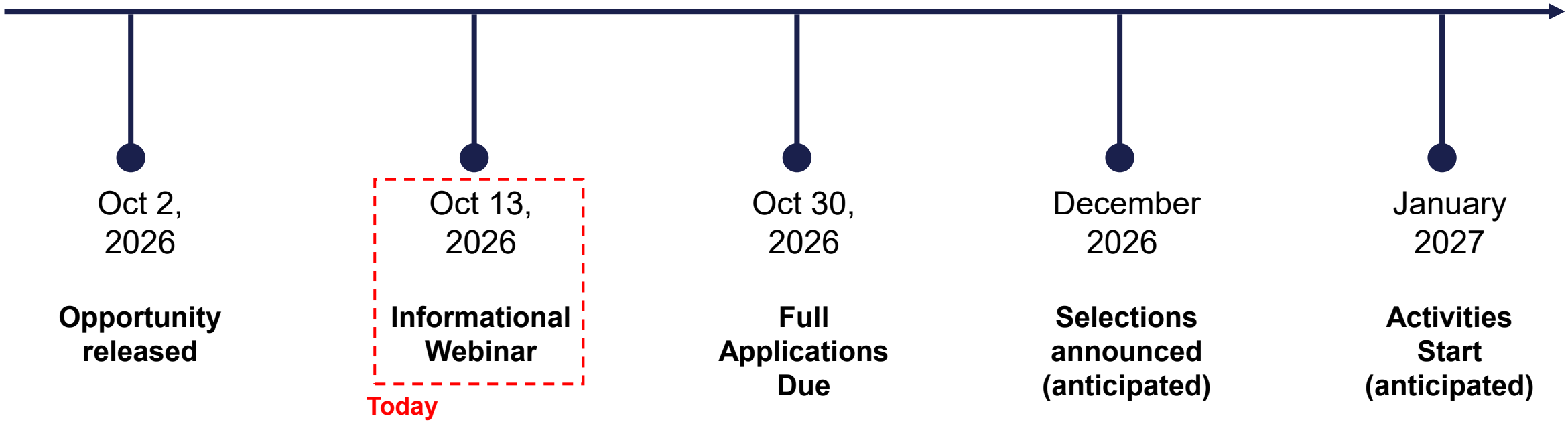
Application Requirements & How to Apply

<u>Required</u> Full Application

Deadline: October 30th at 3:00 pm ET. Requirements:

1. Complete the Full Application in Submittable, including answering all required questions
2. Within Submittable, upload:
    - Project Narrative
    - Resumes
    - Letters of commitment
    - Streamlined budget, using the spreadsheet provided

Timeline and Key Deadlines



Questions?

Email: info@energywerx.org

Thank you!

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation

Thank you for attending the

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- This recording, transcript, and FAQ will be uploaded to the ENERGYWERX website
- If you have any additional questions, please email info@energywerx.org



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