

3. Support the establishment of a robust, sustainable, domestic capacity for advanced packaging materials and substrate R&D, prototyping, commercialization, and manufacturing; and

4. Promote a skilled and diverse pipeline of workers for a sustainable domestic advanced packaging industry.

Funded activities are expected to include, but not necessarily be limited to, basic and applied research, substrate and demonstration device development and production, commercial viability and domestic manufacturing preparation, integrated workforce education and training, and pilot-level substrate production.

To ensure that funded R&D meets the above objectives, CHIPS R&D expects to define aggressive technical targets (*e.g.*, substrate wiring, via pitches, and number of levels on both sides of the substrate) for applicants to achieve. CHIPS R&D will also encourage proposals for advanced substrates that incorporate one or more passive or active components embedded in the substrate for enhanced functionality. Whereas traditional boards, silicon or glass interposers and small area substrates are not expected to be in scope for this NOFO, composite substrates using fan-out wafer-level packaging, including flexible and biocompatible substrates, are expected to be entertained. CHIPS R&D will further expect that substrates be compatible with direct attach at fine pitch of advanced node CMOS, legacy nodes, and non-silicon dielets. Substrate proposals will be strongly encouraged to incorporate embedded substrate features and active and passive devices and through substrate vias. CHIPS R&D will further expect applicants to define non-technical targets related to advanced packaging education and workforce development and to demonstrating both the commercial viability and the potential for the domestic production of innovations funded under the NOFO.

Eligibility: CHIPS R&D expects eligible applicants and subrecipients will include for-profit organizations; non-profit organizations; accredited institutions of higher education including community and technical colleges; state, local, territorial, and Indian tribal governments.

Applicants must be incorporated in the United States (including U.S. territories). Eligible applicants may only submit one concept paper and one full application under this NOFO. Full applications will only be accepted from applicants invited after the concept paper stage. Entities may not be

included as subrecipients on more than two applications.

Entities that operate Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) may be eligible to receive this funding as sub-subrecipients to an eligible applicant to the extent allowed by law, based on the unique and specific needs of the project.

Foreign organizations may participate as members of a project team, as sub-subrecipients or contractors, subject to CHIPS R&D approval based on a written justification that the foreign partner's involvement is essential to advancing program objectives, among other considerations.

R&D Collaboration: CHIPS R&D expects that applicants assembling teams comprising one or more subrecipients may be best suited to collectively provide the full range of expertise and capabilities needed to achieve the program objectives and to successfully strengthen U.S. materials and substrates innovation. Equally important, these types of partnerships can promote inventiveness, clarify future demand, improve transparency and security, solidify business and domestic manufacturing plans (including plans for technology adoption by defense and commercial partners), help educate the future workforce, mitigate the risk of future chip shortages or oversupply, and support a more productive, efficient, and self-sustaining semiconductor ecosystem.

CHIPS R&D therefore encourages applications that demonstrate collaboration across the innovation, manufacturing, supply chain, and customer landscape.

Application Process and Award Information: The envisioned application process consists of a mandatory concept paper and a required full application. CHIPS R&D anticipates a due date for concept papers of approximately 35 days after the date of NOFO publication. Full applications will only be accepted from applicants invited to apply after the concept paper stage. Submissions from entities other than those specifically invited to submit a full application will not be reviewed or considered in any way.

To provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the NOFO before the concept paper deadline, CHIPS R&D expects to host a Proposers Day after NOFO release to familiarize potential applicants with the NOFO objectives and program structure. CHIPS R&D will announce details regarding the date and location of the Proposers Day via the CHIPS R&D website at <https://www.nist.gov/chips/>

chips-RD-funding-opportunities. This event will be for informational purposes only. Attendance is not a prerequisite for submitting a concept paper or application.

Competition Information: Once the open competition has been announced, further information may be found at <https://www.nist.gov/chips-RD-funding-opportunities>.

System for Award Management: In anticipation of the NOFO, CHIPS R&D encourages potential applicants to complete the following steps, which are required to submit applications for Federal assistance:

- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. CHIPS R&D strongly encourages applicants to register for SAM.gov as early as possible. While this process ordinarily takes between three days and two weeks, in some circumstances it can take six or more months to complete due to information verification requirements. Recipients will be required to maintain an active registration in SAM and re-validate registration annually.

- Register for a Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/>) account. It is advisable also to go to “manage subscriptions” on Grants.gov and sign up to receive automatic updates when amendments to a funding opportunity are posted.

Disclaimer. This NOI does not constitute a solicitation. No applications may be submitted in response to this NOI. Any inconsistency between information within this NOI and the eventual NOFO announcing the CHIPS NAPMP Materials and Substrates award competition shall be resolved in favor of the NOFO.

Authority. DOC CHIPS activities were authorized by Title XCIX—Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116–283, often referred to as the CHIPS Act).

Tamiko Ford,

NIST Executive Secretariat.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (“PRA”), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (“ICR”) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (“OIRA”), of the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”), for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected costs and burden.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of this notice’s publication to OIRA, at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Please find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the website’s search function. Comments can be entered electronically by clicking on the “comment” button next to the information collection on the “OIRA Information Collections Under Review” page, or the “View ICR—Agency Submission” page. A copy of the supporting statement for the collection of information discussed herein may be obtained by visiting <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

In addition to the submission of comments to <https://Reginfo.gov> as indicated above, a copy of all comments submitted to OIRA may also be submitted to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “Commission” or “CFTC”) by clicking on the “Submit Comment” box next to the descriptive entry for OMB Control No. 3038–0082, at <https://comments.cftc.gov/FederalRegister/PublicInfo.aspx>.

Or by either of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

- **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Same as Mail above.

Please submit your comments using only one method.

All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments submitted to the Commission should include only information that you wish to make available publicly. If you wish the Commission to consider information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, a petition for confidential treatment of the exempt information may be submitted according

to the procedures established in § 145.9 of the Commission’s regulations.¹ The Commission reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, redact, refuse or remove any or all of your submission from <https://www.cftc.gov> that it may deem to be inappropriate for publication, such as obscene language. All submissions that have been redacted or removed that contain comments on the merits of the ICR will be retained in the public comment file and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under the Freedom of Information Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christina McGlosson, Acting Director, Whistleblower Office, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, (202) 418–5051; email: cmcglosson@cftc.gov, and refer to OMB Control No. 3038–0082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: The Whistleblower Provision of section 23 of the Commodity Exchange Act (OMB Control No. 3038–0082). This is a request for extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: 17 CFR 165.3(a) requires the submission of information to the Commission on a Form TCR. The Form TCR, “Tip, Complaint, or Referral,” and the instructions thereto, are designed to capture basic identifying information about a complainant and elicit sufficient information to determine whether the conduct alleged suggests a violation of the Commodity Exchange Act. 17 CFR 165.7(b)(1) requires the submission of information to the Commission on a Form WB–APP. The Form WB–APP, “Application for Award for Original Information Provided Pursuant to Section 23 of the Commodity Exchange Act,” and the instructions thereto, are designed to elicit sufficient information to determine whether and to what extent a claimant qualifies for a whistleblower award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.² On November 21, 2023, the Commission published in the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed extension of this information collection and provided 60 days for public comment on the proposed extension, 88 FR 81064 (“60-Day Notice”). The Commission received one comment requesting individual staff feedback on

each submission received, in addition to the automated reply currently sent by the CFTC as notice of receipt. We appreciate the comment but would like to clarify that determinations on the submitted applications (including their supplements) are provided in due course according to the procedures outlined in 17 CFR part 165. Given the non-public nature of investigations, it would not be feasible for the CFTC to provide individual feedback on each submission received.

Burden Statement: The respondent burden for this collection is estimated to be as follows:

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1800 per year.

Estimated Average Burden Hours per Respondent: 0.5 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 900 hours.

Frequency of Collection: Once.

There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this collection.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

Dated: January 29, 2024.

Robert Sidman,

Deputy Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2024–01973 Filed 1–31–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 5679–041]

Energy Stream, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment

On July 15, 2022, Energy Stream, LLC filed an application for a subsequent license for the 512-kilowatt M.S.C. Hydroelectric Project (M.S.C. Project or project; FERC No. 5679). The M.S.C. Project is located on the Quinebaug River, in Windham County, Connecticut.

In accordance with the Commission’s regulations, on November 14, 2023, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA notice, staff does not anticipate that licensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the application to license the M.S.C. Project. The EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All

¹ 17 CFR 145.9.

² 44 U.S.C. 3512, 5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi). See also 46 FR 63035 (Dec. 30, 1981).