Exhibit A – Proposed Product Specifications: OSW Applied Research Administration Grant
Challenge

EXHIBIT A

**Proposed Product Specifications: Offshore Wind Applied Research Administration Grant
Challenge**

Proposed Product Specifications	
Funding Source	A total of $6.35 million will be available through this grant. The $6.35 million is provided through a portion of the $10 million in funding received by NJEDA via two separate grant agreements with the NJ Department of Treasury covering Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations for the Wind Institute for Innovation and Training. A total of $2.2 million will be provisioned through the NJEDA / Treasury MOU dated February 24, 2023, and a total of $4.14 million will be provisioned through NJEDA / Treasury MOU dated February 26, 2024.
Program Purpose	This grant challenge is a competitive program for applicants who can both develop and autonomously manage a competitive research Sub-Grant program through which multiple solicitations will be administered to provide funding to NJ universities and colleges for conducting applied research and tech transfer activities for the OSW industry. NJEDA expects to make one award through this grant challenge and award an Administrator to develop, oversee, and administer a Sub-Grant Program. The Sub-Grant Program will provide grants for research projects that show a connection to potential commercialization or innovation of offshore wind technologies. NJEDA is seeking applications from entities who can independently develop and manage a Sub-Grant Program, create robust processes for selecting and approving Sub-Grant award recipients, and manage research grant awards.

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Eligible Applicants	Applicants must be a non-profit entity with direct experience overseeing and administering one prior offshore wind R&D solicitation. Universities and colleges located in New Jersey are not eligible to apply for the Grant Challenge, as they are the eligible primary applicant pool for awards through the Sub-Grant Program. The applicant must be in substantial good standing with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and provide a current tax clearance certificate when the grant is executed to verify they are properly registered to do business in New Jersey and in good standing with the New Jersey Division of Taxation.
Eligible Uses of Funding	Eligible uses of the Administration Grant include: - Costs incurred by the Administrator for: - Planning, developing, and managing competitive solicitations for the Sub-Grant Program - Scoring and awarding proposals received for the Sub-Grant Program. - Managing awards through the Sub-Grant Program, including legal agreements, compliance, data, milestones, and budgets, and reporting to NJEDA - Costs for the Sub-Grant awards, which will cover research-related expenses incurred by New Jersey universities or colleges awarded through the Sub-Grant Program. Any expenditures that do not comply with the above will be required to be returned by the Administrator to NJEDA at the end of the Grant Agreement term. NJEDA has set forth the following additional stipulations and restrictions for funding awarded through this grant challenge: For the Grant Administrator - No more than twelve percent (12%) of the grant, or $762,200 of the $6,350,000 funding available, can be used

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	for the Administrator's direct and indirect costs. The remaining eighty-eight percent (88%) of the grant, or $5,588,000, must go to awardees of the Sub-Grant Program. • The Administrator cannot use its funding for capital costs. For the Sub-Grantees • Capital costs are allowable costs for research projects awarded through the Sub-Grant Program. Sub-Grantees who identify capital costs as an expected use of funding will be required to acknowledge as part of their application for the Sub-Grant Program that they will be subject to New Jersey labor compliance laws and regulations, including New Jersey affirmative action and prevailing wage, and New Jersey Contractor Registration and that they may be audited.

Additional Requirements	For the Grant Administrator
	• Staff from NJ universities or colleges who have applied for a Sub-Grant Program solicitation may not participate in the proposal evaluation committee(s) for that particular solicitation and the Administrator must ensure any other conflicts of interest are mitigated for the funding awarded through the Sub-Grant Program.
	• Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Grant Challenge grant agreement term expires, any unspent funds or disallowed costs must be returned by the Administrator to NJEDA.
	
	For the Sub-Grantees
	• Research project proposals submitted for the Sub-Grant Program must at a minimum:
	   o Focus on one or more of the following research priority areas:
	      ▪ Climate-smart modeling for high performance wind farms;
	      ▪ Technological solutions for environmental impact assessments;
	      ▪ OSW transmission and grid integration;

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	▪ Power-to-X and energy storage solutions; ▪ OSW component design; and/or other OSW research priority areas subject to approval by NJEDA staff. o Demonstrate a connection to potential commercialization or innovation in technology, construction and operations practices, or other practices that advance OSW development. o Include a holistic timeline for the research project that does not exceed a period of three years and is no less than three months from project start to end. o Include a budget proposal that features clearly defined payment milestones tied to the requested Sub-Grant award amount. The budget milestones must include specific research activities and outcomes throughout the duration of the project with specific verification method(s) outlined to confirm the milestone has been met. o Agree to present and share research data and findings with the NJEDA at least once annually while the research project is active, excluding any information that is or will be protected as intellectual property. o Submit completed research to be featured on the Research with New Jersey website (www.researchwithnj.com)
Term of Grant Period	5 years from its effective date, or until the expenditure of all funds, whichever is sooner.
Description of Services	The Grant Administrator will be required to: • Draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the Sub-Grant Program, stipulating solicitation scope of work, timelines, project eligibility criteria, scoring and evaluation factors, and other key information. • Advertise the Sub-Grant Program solicitations, once public, to NJ colleges and universities. • Run a minimum of two (2) competitive solicitations to their Sub-Grant Program within five (5) years of receiving the

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Grant Challenge award and host informational webinars or other activities to ensure prospective applicants are aware of the solicitation opportunity. • Respond to Sub-Grant Program application inquiries as appropriate via email and/or through established questions and answer process during the open proposal submission period. • Develop a "frequently asked questions" document or other supports as needed to facilitate Sub-Grant Program applicants. • Perform quality control checks on all proposals received for the Sub-Grant Program to ensure that all submitted proposals meet the minimum requirements for consideration and all required documentation has been provided. • Organize and facilitate scoring committee(s) for each solicitation topic area. The scoring committee will consist of subject matter and technical experts in the relevant fields. The Administrator will collect confidentiality agreements from each scorer and establish timelines for scoring to be completed; upon completion, the Administrator will rank proposals by averaging each scoring committee expert's score. • Establish a process to select and award the top-scoring proposals. • Integrate processes and protocols to ensure bias and conflicts of interest are mitigated for the scoring and selection of Sub-Grant Program awards. • Provide EDA with access to all data associated with project proposals. • Manage contract negotiations and enter into contracts with Sub-Grant Program award recipients. • Assign members of its staff to manage project awards, keep track of progress against project milestones and deliverables, and process payments. • Hold responsibility for the review and payment of invoices for the Sub-Grant Program and ensuring they comply with the Grant Challenge terms and conditions. • Submit quarterly reports to NJEDA detailing Administrator's use of grant funds, including the Administrator's direct and indirect costs as well as disbursement of Sub-Grant funds and any associated

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	deliverables submitted by the Sub-Grantees. • For each Sub-Grant research project, form an industry advisory board comprised of at least three (3) subject matter experts who can support its commercialization. • Conduct monthly check-ins with project award recipients and maintain a public project dashboard on a website that details key project information. • Coordinate with Sub-Grant Program award recipients to provide an annual presentation on research projects and research findings to NJEDA and relevant stakeholders. • Conduct regular check-ins with NJEDA to provide program updates.
Grant Amounts	A single grant of $6,350,000 will be awarded for the Administration Grant.
Scoring Criteria	The minimum score requirement to be considered for an award is eighty (80) points, with the highest score possibility being one hundred (100) points. Applications will be scored by an Evaluation Committee based on the following criteria: Highest Score Possibility: 100 points Minimum Score Requirement: 80 points Applicants will have the opportunity to receive the points outlined below based on the following criteria: Criteria 1 – Experience and approach for developing and administering research solicitations for offshore wind (Up to 40 points) • Possess substantive experience administering R&D competitive funding solicitations to advance OSW technology (Up to 20 Points), with points awarded as follows: o 15-20 Points: Comprehensive experience and clear ability to execute

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- o 8-14 Points: Moderate experience and ability to execute

- o 1-7 Points: Minimal experience and ability to execute

- o 0 Points: No experience and evidence of ability to execute

- Detail a compelling and impactful concept for developing a new Sub-Grant Program for NJ colleges and universities to conduct applied research that has the potential for commercialization or innovation in technology, construction and operations practices, or other practices that advance offshore wind development in NJ (Up to 20 points), with points awarded as follows:

  - o 15-20 Points: Comprehensive plan and clear ability to execute

  - o 8-14 Points: Moderate plan and ability to execute

  - o 1-7 Points: Minimal plan and ability to execute

  - o 0 Points: No plan and evidence of ability to execute

Criteria 2 – Approach for engaging subject matter and technical experts to score and select research proposals (Up to 20 points)

- Plan for organizing and facilitating scoring committee(s) consisting of subject matter and technical experts to review proposals received for the Sub-Grant Program (Up to 10 points).
- Plan for engaging with the OSW industry and subject matter experts to analyze the commercial impact of research projects (Up to 5 points).
  Outlines a clear strategy for leveraging subject matter experts to align technology innovators, research institutions, project developers, supply chain companies, utilities,

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	government agencies, and other stakeholders towards common R&D objectives (Up to 5 Points). Criteria 3 – Approach for project management of research grant awards (Up to 30 points) • Describes a clear and realistic approach to administratively manage contracts, budgets, and disbursements with Sub-Grant Program awardees (Up to 15 points). • Establishes robust technical supports for Sub-Grant Program awardees throughout the duration of each research project (Up to 5 points). • Details a process for tracking Sub-Grant Program research projects against project milestones and deliverables (Up to 5 points). • Details a clear process for reporting Sub-Grant Program data and outcomes to NJEDA (Up to 5 points). Criteria 4 – Administration Budget(Up to 10 points) • Provides a realistic Administration budget (Up to 10 points).
Fees	Per (N.J.A.C. 19:30-6.1A(b)3), the application fee will be waived for this grant challenge.
Funding Disbursement	The Administrator will enter into a grant agreement with NJEDA, and funds will be disbursed on the following schedule: Upon execution of the grant agreement, NJEDA will provide a disbursement equal to the agreed upon amount for the Administrator's direct and indirect costs. The remaining balance will be disbursed upon the launch of each Sub-Grant Program solicitation, with the disbursement amount equal to the total funding made available through each respective Sub-Grant Program solicitation.