Request for Proposals: Offshore Wind Science, Research, and Analysis

OSW-2026-03

Date of Issue: March 18, 2026
Proposals Due: April 28, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Total Funding Available: **$2.5 Million**

All proposals must be submitted to:

Offshorewind@masscec.com

CONTENTS

(NOTE: All attachments are provided separately on the MassCEC RFP website.)

I. SUMMARY

Through this Solicitation ("Solicitation"), the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center ("MassCEC") seeks to (1) advance science and applied research activities that are highly relevant to the responsible project design, deployment, and long-term sustainable operations of offshore wind in the southern New England lease areas and in the Gulf of Maine, and (2) grow capacity in Massachusetts and the region to conduct such science and applied research (the "Objectives"). For MassCEC, a critical consideration of responsible offshore wind design, deployment, and operations is the prioritization of science and research that are responsive to stakeholder questions and concerns.

The Solicitation is open to a variety of proposed activities and topic areas. Responses should relate to a well-defined, relatively short-term (e.g., two to three years), science or research project that could be supported through a MassCEC grant agreement. In this case, the response would articulate the specific scope, work plan, budget, and cost share for the proposed activity.

The geographic scope of the Solicitation includes the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England, with an emphasis on the Topic Areas described in Table 1 and further detailed in Section IV. Up to $2.5 million dollars is available for awards under this Solicitation. The preferred maximum award amount is $500,000; however, MassCEC may increase or decrease funding at its sole discretion. In considering funding requests, reviewers will evaluate the overall value proposition of the proposed initiative in comparison to other proposals (e.g., efficient use of MassCEC funds, amount of cost share, and the extent to which other funds are leveraged). Reviewers will also consider the cost justification provided for different methodologies (e.g., desktop studies, novel model development, direct stakeholder engagement, new data collection, etc.).

Table 1. Solicitation Topic Areas and Preferred Maximum Award Amounts

Topic Area	**Brief Descriptions** (see Section IV for full details)	**Preferred Maximum Award**
1. Fisheries: Understanding Effects in Southern New England Lease Areas	Proposals to better understand spatial and economic changes to the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing fleets.	$400,000
2. Wildlife and Habitat	Proposals including, but not limited to, modeling hydrodynamic effects in the Gulf of Maine, habitat enhancement through nature inclusive design, and analyzing existing wildlife protection measures.	$500,000

Topic Area	Brief Descriptions (see Section IV for full details)	Preferred Maximum Award
3. Regional Transmission Planning	Proposals that advance analysis, planning, and engagement relating to regional transmission for offshore wind projects in Massachusetts, New England, Atlantic Coast and Canadian Maritime provinces.	$400,000
4. Gulf of Maine Regional Monitoring	Proposals to create a regional data collection strategy for baseline and preconstruction monitoring for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.	$200,000
5. Communicating Existing Science & Research	Proposals to create valuable and productive communication tools with associated engagement campaigns to a broad audience relating to existing offshore wind related science.	$150,000

II. ABOUT MASSCEC

MassCEC is a quasi-state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the growth of the clean energy sector across the Commonwealth to spur job creation, deliver statewide environmental benefits and to secure long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. MassCEC works to increase the adoption of clean energy while driving down costs and delivering financial, environmental, and economic development benefits to energy users and utility customers across the state.

MassCEC's mission is to accelerate the clean energy and climate solution innovation that is critical to meeting the Commonwealth's climate goals, advancing Massachusetts' position as an international climate leader while growing the state's clean energy economy. MassCEC is committed to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization where everyone is welcomed, supported, respected, and valued. We are committed to incorporating these principles in all aspects of our work in order to promote the equitable distribution of the health and economic benefits of clean energy. MassCEC strives to lead and innovate in equitable clean energy and climate solutions.

III. PROGRAM GOALS AND DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND: OFFSHORE WIND IN THE REGION

Despite recent setbacks imposed by the current Federal administration, Massachusetts and much of the surrounding region remain committed to offshore wind as a key energy source to provide critically needed energy, spur economic development, and create good-paying jobs. In southern New England, construction of Vineyard Wind 1, South Fork Wind, Revolution Wind, and Sunrise Wind are all complete or nearing completion, representing a total of 2,566 MW of

capacity. Other projects in southern New England are in advanced permitting and offtake contracting stages.

For the Gulf of Maine, in 2024, BOEM issued four commercial leases and one research lease. Survey, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement work has begun to ready these leases for offshore wind development. The water depths of these leases will require floating offshore wind foundations and lease areas are in the early site characterization and planning phases, with construction timelines commencing in the mid to late 2030s.

Additionally, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canadian federal government are now advancing plans for offshore wind deployment, with a call for bids to license the first offshore wind projects in Canada planned for later this year. In recognition of our longstanding partnership and shared energy interests, Massachusetts and Nova Scotia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen collaboration on offshore wind development in the North Atlantic.

For a map of the United States lease areas and their statuses related to permitting, construction, and operation, visit: offshorewindpowerhub.org.

MassCEC recognizes that these offshore wind deployments, at various phases of development and operation, are occurring in a dynamic ocean environment that supports a longstanding fishing tradition and other marine uses, is inhabited by critically endangered wildlife, and is itself undergoing climate-induced changes. These factors present a wide range of technical, logistical, and analytical research opportunities related to the offshore wind industry. Focused science and research activities, and the organizational capability to conduct that science and research, are needed in the near- and long-term to inform, optimize, and catalyze industry growth.

MASSCEC'S OFFSHORE ENERGY SCIENCE, RESARCH, AND ANALYSIS GOALS

Within MassCEC's offshore energy team, the Science, Research, and Analysis Program ("Program") has two primary goals:

1. Support the responsible and inclusive development of offshore renewable energy in Southern New England and the Gulf of Maine through direct investment in science and applied research; and
2. Collaborate with partners to generate, coordinate, and disseminate the best available science and research, including investments to build the capacity to conduct that research in Massachusetts.

To advance these goals, the Program supports technical projects and stakeholder engagement on fisheries, wildlife, wind/ocean conditions, transmission, and other areas. The Program also supports projects that advance applied research and innovation, learn from early deployments, and grow the offshore energy research and innovation cluster in Massachusetts.

A key characteristic of the Program is that, in addition to providing funding, MassCEC frequently collaborates with other entities – state or federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, companies, or institutions – in development, funding, and/or implementation of an initiative. MassCEC views partnerships and collaboration as key ingredients to success.

Through this solicitation, the Offshore Wind Science, Research, and Analysis program aims to address key challenges ("challenges") facing the offshore wind industry in this region. Applicants should consider these challenges, along with the topic areas in Section IV, when preparing submissions:

- Global inflation and supply chain shortages have driven up the construction cost of offshore wind and procurement cost ($)/MWh. Reducing the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for fixed and floating offshore wind remains a priority.
- The Gulf of Maine lease areas are in deeper water and at greater distances from shore. This has implications on project design, grid integration, and industry adaptation to the use of floating turbines.
- Larger turbines will strain the capabilities of existing vessels, ports, and infrastructure. New foundation architectures, e.g., floating support structures, will require new approaches to logistics and port facilities adapted to handle these structures.
- The transmission system must expand offshore to reliably deliver large amounts of offshore wind generated energy to load and integrate associated energy storage.
- New and refined approaches are needed for understanding and advancing sustainable coexistence that avoids, minimizes, and lastly mitigates potential effects between offshore wind and (i) fishing and other maritime activities, (ii) wildlife, and (iii) ocean ecosystems.
- The state policies that are driving offshore wind and the broader energy transition require feedback on implementation successes and challenges in order to adapt to changing conditions and, critically, sustain public support for this policy-driven energy transition.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN APPLICATION DESIGN:

While not exhaustive, the list below highlights relevant design considerations and best practices for applications to this solicitation.

Avoid Duplication of Existing Programming

Applicants should clearly articulate how their proposal addresses critical science and research gaps, and/or Massachusetts' capacity to conduct that science and research, and avoids replicating existing offshore wind science, research, and analysis work in the Commonwealth and the region. A robust science and research ecosystem already exists thanks to this Program

and others. Please use the following resources to identify work already funded by other peer and partner organizations:

- Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA): https://www.rosascience.org/resources/fishforwrd/
- Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC): https://rwsc.org/map/; https://database.rwsc.org/
- National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC): https://nationaloffshorewind.org/project-database/
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Offshore-Wind/Focus-Areas/Impacts-and-Benefits
- Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium: https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/researchconsortium
- Tethys, Wind Energy and the Environment: https://tethys.pnnl.gov/wind-energy

Partnerships

Partnerships are encouraged, and applicant teams formed of complimentary organizations are welcomed, but not required. Applicant teams must designate a lead applicant to receive a grant (if awarded), execute a contract with MassCEC, and have responsibility for the completion of the grant tasks and budget management.

IV. TOPIC AREAS

MassCEC will review and consider all eligible project proposals that address one or more of the Solicitation **Objectives** and **Challenges** established above; however, MassCEC also specifically seeks applications to address one or more of the Topic Areas described below. Each Topic Area includes one or more subtopics of particular interest to MassCEC.

1. **Fisheries: Understanding Effects in Southern New England Lease Areas**
    a. *Commercial Fishing Vessel Use Patterns.* With offshore wind projects in Southern New England reaching operational phase, data are available that can depict actual vessel use patterns (e.g., transit routes to and from fishing grounds, transit volume, fishing activity) within and around wind energy areas across different phases of the wind projects (i.e., site characterization, seabed preparation/preconstruction, construction, and operation) that will likely be unique to distinct fisheries, gear types, and vessel sizes. Combining datasets that are readily available or acquirable (e.g., AIS, VMS, VTR, eLogbooks), MassCEC requests proposals to explore and better understand past, current, and future (e.g., next 1-3 years) fishery trends in Southern New England. Proposals should include plans for how the applicant will work with regulators and data managers at the state and federal level. Emphasis should be on spatial and economic data but may also include sociocultural factors. Proposals should build on and

coordinate with the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium funded project: "Measuring Impacts of Offshore Wind on Commercial Fishing Fleets in Southern New England" (see Current Projects).

b. *Recreational and For-Hire Fishing Activity.* As several offshore wind leases have reached partial or complete construction and operation, MassCEC seeks proposals to understand how recreational and for-hire fishing operations are adapting to the presence of new offshore structures, client interest, and other OSW-related shifts to their operations. Proposals should include plans to incorporate existing data, as well as an implementation plan for collecting and analyzing new quantitative and/or qualitative data to describe recent changes to the recreational and for-hire fishing sectors. Emphasis should be on spatial and economic data, but may also include sociocultural factors.

2. Wildlife & Habitat

a. *Modeling Gulf of Maine Ocean Processes.* MassCEC seeks proposals to design and implement a modeled analysis of the potential interactions between individual and cumulative development of floating offshore wind projects and physical and biogeochemical ocean processes in the Gulf of Maine, in particular, lower trophic level ecosystem processes that could affect distribution and abundance of zooplankton prey for whale species (e.g., North Atlantic right whale (NARW)). Proposals may include multiple project phases that could be eligible for future funding, from MassCEC and/or other interested parties. Proposals should:

i. Inform future environmental assessments that will analyze Gulf of Maine offshore wind development's potential effects on the physical and biological features of NARW critical habitat (Unit 1) (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/01/27/2016-01633/endangered-and-threatened-species-critical-habitat-for-endangered-north-atlantic-right-whale);

ii. Build on the recommendations of the 2024 BOEM and NOAA Fisheries North Atlantic Right Whale and Offshore Wind Strategy (see Objective 2.3)(https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/environment/BOEM_NMFS_NARW_OSW_0.pdf);

iii. Build on and coordinate with the following studies (as applicable):

- the 2024 National Academies hydrodynamic study of Nantucket Shoals (https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/27154)
- Vineyard Wind Ocean W'aKEs Study https://database.rwsc.org/details?recordId=recSuc8K358tXixIt;
- RWSC-funded study: "Coupled oceanic and atmospheric wake effects and their impact on nutrient supply and zooplankton community structure across turbine-, wind farm-, and regional-scales."

iv. Describe the data collection and monitoring techniques necessary to calibrate and improve model(s) generated by this proposal;
v. Incorporate recommendations (as appropriate) from upcoming workshops hosted by the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) in relation to the Maine Research Consortium Project I.D. 25 (https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/meetings/2025%2008%2013%20AB%20Meeting%20Slides.pdf);

b. *Habitat Enhancement Opportunities.* Past MassCEC-funded projects have supported research into Nature Inclusive Design (NID) ideas and techniques and the associated concept of Marine Net Gain, with the broader goal of achieving improved ecosystem and blue economy outcomes. To inform future investment in and pursuit of these concepts, MassCEC is requesting proposals to develop an implementation framework for incorporating NID into offshore wind projects. Proposals should build on existing literature and the past MassCEC studies linked above, as well as include plans for additional stakeholder engagement, to: a) identify quantifiable NID goals for MA (or the region); and b) develop a suite of implementation options for Massachusetts (and other state and federal) regulators as applicable to consider.

c. *Analysis of Wildlife Protection Measures.* With several offshore wind construction seasons complete, MassCEC solicits proposals to review the outcomes of wildlife protection measures (e.g., time of year restrictions, vessel speed limits, protected species detection methods, bubble curtains, etc.). Proposals should seek to develop recommendations for how, if at all, existing protection measures could be modified to: a) improve conservation outcomes; and/or b) maintain existing conservation outcomes while reducing the number of permitting conditions, required agency oversight, and overall project costs. MassCEC is particularly interested in bioenergetic effects and measurable population level impacts. Proposals may consider single or multiples species and habitat types.

3. Regional Transmission Planning

MassCEC seeks proposals for novel transmission planning and analysis that incorporate and build on existing grid and regional transmission studies (e.g., DOE Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Study 2024; NEMOEC 2023), as well as consider recent developments, such as the planned offshore wind Call for Bids in Nova Scotia, CA (anticipated in 2026) and the Wind West proposal. Proposals may focus on one or more regions (e.g., Gulf of Maine, Southern New England, Atlantic Coast) and should consider near- and long-term feasibility (e.g., economics, technological readiness), permitting requirements, environmental impacts, and socio-political realities.

4. Gulf of Maine Regional Monitoring

Compared to other wind development regions along the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Maine is in the early stages of site assessment activities, with eventual construction likely a decade away. This context presents an opportunity for the development of a regional data collection strategy for baseline and preconstruction monitoring. Such a strategy could inform and guide future research investments and regulatory requirements, ensuring the availability of the data necessary to best measure and understand potential project and regional-level effects of floating offshore wind development.

MassCEC seeks proposals to develop a regional data collection strategy for the Gulf of Maine. Proposals should consider existing data assets, planned data collection campaigns, anticipated state and federal requirements, as well as potential connections to research and monitoring of offshore wind energy areas in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The strategy should include frameworks for collecting multiple data types capable of monitoring several ecosystem variables (e.g., hydrodynamics, benthic communities, zooplankton and/or forage fish populations). The strategy should also address:

i. Possible data collection and monitoring funding sources;
ii. Metrics for measuring success of data collection framework implementation;
iii. Stakeholder engagement plans;
iv. Plans to account for and adapt to rapidly changing ocean conditions (e.g., climate change, new or evolving ocean industries, etc.).

5. **Communicating Existing Science and Research**

MassCEC seeks proposals for communication products, strategies and campaigns to be executed by the applicant with MassCEC collaboration and oversight. If successful, the applicant will work with MassCEC to identify a list of topics and corresponding content that are responsive to key offshore wind stakeholder questions and concerns, and for which readily available science and research has been completed but may not have been effectively communicated to the public to date. Applicants should demonstrate a track record of effectively communicating complex science to a variety of audiences and across a variety of platforms. Proposed budgets may include funding to engage directly with scientists to integrate their work into the communication campaign, as well as costs associated with maximizing the reach and impact of any communication materials developed through the campaign. Proposals should be readily scalable (e.g., project can adjust the number of communication topics depending on available funding).

V. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants may be an individual company, organization, or institution, or may be a team of such entities (an “Applicant”). Applicants must have a registered business presence in the United

States, and preference will be given to applications in which the lead Applicant and/or partnering organizations are based in Massachusetts.

MassCEC encourages applications from federally-recognized and state-acknowledged Tribes who have a current and/or ancestral connection to the lands and surrounding waters of present-day Massachusetts.

The proposed activity must have a demonstrable nexus to the Objectives, Challenges, and Topic Areas of this Solicitation as presented above. **MassCEC discourages responses that would otherwise be eligible for an established funding opportunity such as MassCEC's Technology to Market Program or other third-party opportunity.**

VI. ESTIMATED TIMELINE

This timeline is subject to change at MassCEC's discretion.

Table 1: Solicitation Timeline

Process Step	**Target Date**
Release of RFP	March 18, 2026
Open Question & Answer Period (submit via email to offshorewind@masscec.com)	March 25, 2026
Close Question & Answer Period	April 14, 2026
Questions with Answers Posted to MassCEC Website (answers posted on a rolling basis once Q&A period opens)	March 25-April 21, 2026
Public webinar	April 1, 2026
Proposals Due	April 28, 2026
Notification of Award	June 2026

VII. SCOPE OF WORK

MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

MassCEC payments under grant agreements will typically be linked to achievement of specific defined milestones and/or delivery (and acceptance by MassCEC) of specified work products.

In most cases, payments will be an agreed lump sum amount for milestones or work projects defined in grant agreements. In special cases, MassCEC may agree to make payments on a time and materials basis.

Agreements will also include requirements for periodic reporting, submittal of a comprehensive final report, and an in-person or virtual presentation on results of the project or initiative.

Proposals under this program generating new data are required to develop a Data Management & Sharing Plan (DMSP) using the U.S. Atlantic Offshore Research (RWSC & ROSA) template available through DMPTool (dmptool.org). A draft DMSP must be submitted as part of the proposal (see Attachment E for guidance). Awarded projects will be required to prepare a final DMSP within 6 months of project kickoff and updated semiannually throughout the period of performance.

If a project proposal includes the generation of new data and/or modeling, MassCEC expects that all model outputs, code, and data will be made publicly available within approximately one year of generation/collection. The DMSP draft should describe how the applicant plans to meet this requirement.

Also, applications should include a plan for developing a Research Advisory Board, inclusive of subject matter experts and regulators, as applicable (e.g., state, federal, Tribal, academic, environmental NGOs). This entity will advise project development based on relevant experience and expertise.

VIII. HOW TO APPLY

Interested parties must submit an application to MassCEC by the date and time specified in Section VI. Under no circumstances will MassCEC accept responses past the deadline.

Responses should be provided according to the content requirements and format laid out in the Application Form found in Attachment B, should be descriptive but concise, and should be submitted in 11-point font. The submission must be in electronic form, including a completed version of Attachment A, and other relevant attachments, and submitted via email with ATTN to Zach Jylkka, Senior Program Manager at offshorewind@masscec.com. **The words "2026 SRA Application" must appear in the email subject line.**

Accessibility: MassCEC is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. If you have difficulty accessing or completing the Application Form or require a reasonable accommodation to participate in this process, please contact offshorewind@masscec.com to request assistance.

IX. SELECTION CRITERIA

All applications will be reviewed together after the respective due date specified in Section VI.

Threshold Review. The evaluation process will include a threshold review to assess overall responsiveness to the Solicitation including the clarity, completeness and credibility of the concept or proposal. MassCEC reserves the right to accept, reject, or place Applications on hold based upon the threshold review.

Evaluation. MassCEC will evaluate all applications that pass the threshold review stage against the criteria presented below. MassCEC staff may contact Applicants to request supplemental information prior to formal review. MassCEC may also request an interview with Applicants or engage external reviewers for input or recommendations.

Table 2: Selection Criteria

Criterion	Description
Project Scope, Objectives, Approach, and Benefits	• Clearly articulated scope, objectives, and approach. • Consistency with the Solicitation Objectives, Challenges, and/or Topic Areas (see Section IV). • Extent of outcomes and expected benefits; relevance to Massachusetts. • Clarity and relevance of the team structure, membership, and roles.
Commitment to Equity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice	• Extent to which the Applicant and team members demonstrate a genuine and proactive commitment to equity, inclusion, and environmental justice, both internally within their organizations, and in any external programs, projects, or other work.
Organization-al Structure, Work Plan, and Schedule	• Presentation of a clear and appropriate organizational structure for management of the initiative and a sound approach to efficient and effective project management. • Presentation of a clear strategy and work plan for activities necessary to complete the initiative, including well-articulated tasks, milestones, deliverables, and a data management plan (if the project is generating data). • Extent to which the proposed work plan, schedule, milestones, and deliverables seem appropriate and achievable.

Criterion	Description
Team Qualifications and Experience	• Qualifications and experience of the Applicant and team organizations in fields and on projects relevant to proposed scope. • Qualifications and experience of key team members to deliver high-quality work for relevant projects of similar complexity. • Quality of performance of the Applicant and key partner organizations on similar assignments as demonstrated through references. • Business address of applicant and partnering institutions (preference will be given to Applicants who are located in, or partner with organizations located in Massachusetts). • Proposed team composition contributes to Massachusetts' workforce capacity to complete offshore energy related science and research (e.g., opportunities for new employment; undergraduate or graduate internship(s)) for students from Massachusetts college, university, or research program).
Budget and Funding	• Extent to which the requested information is provided in sufficient detail. • Extent to which the project demonstrates a cost-efficient approach to the proposed tasks, and completion of the overall initiative at a reasonable cost. Includes consideration of overhead rate (less than 15% preferred). • Efficient use of MassCEC funds, amount of cost share, and the extent to which other funds are leveraged. • Identification of additional sources of funding if applicant is including a proposed cost-share in the proposal.
Value Demonstra-tion	• Overall value proposition of the proposed initiative in comparison to other proposals. • Contribution to a diverse portfolio of funded activities. • Letters of support or testimonials from industry partners, researchers, or stakeholders.

X. BUDGET

AVAILABLE FUNDING AND COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS

MassCEC has allocated up to **$2.5 Million Dollars ($2,500,000)** in funding for awards and commitments under the Solicitation. We expect that awards will range from approximately $50,000 to $500,000. An application proposing higher amounts of MassCEC funding must present a compelling case for the funding need and potential outcomes toward achieving the Objectives.

For grant awards, MassCEC prefers that Applicants commit to a specific level of cost share and describe the expected value or benefits to Massachusetts of any directly leveraged activities. Cost share means Applicant or third-party funds applied to the proposed scope of activities for the MassCEC award, and is expressed as a percentage of the overall budget for funded activities (Refer also to Section 7 of Attachment C, the template grant agreement). For example, a $45,000 grant request with $5,000 cost share would equate to a $50,000 overall budget, and a 10% cost share. The preferred level of cost share varies depending on the total grant application budget, and whether the applicant is a private or public/non-profit entity. MassCEC expects that relatively large grant requests will propose accordingly higher levels of cost share and/or leverage accordingly greater benefits (See Table 4). Leveraged activities are those that are demonstrably advanced by a MassCEC commitment but are separate from the scope of the proposed MassCEC award. In rare instances, successful project applicants may enter into a service agreement with MassCEC (see Contract Requirements under Section XII). MassCEC does not have a cost share expectation for service agreement awards.

Presented below in Table 4 are preferred minimum levels of cost share for grants.

Table 3: Preferred Minimum Cost Share for Grants

Total Budget for Scope of Activities	**Preferred Cost Share Private Entity**	**Preferred Cost Share Public or Private Non-Profit**
Less than $*300,000*	10% cash	10% cash or in-kind
Greater than/equal to $*300,000*	25% cash	25% cash or in-kind

MassCEC also strongly prefers that Applicants' indirect/overhead rate does not exceed 15% of the total budget. If the overhead rate exceeds 15%, Applicants should include a justification.

Lastly, MassCEC encourages Applicants to include budget to support one or more internship positions to be filled by undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a Massachusetts-based college, university, or research program.

XI. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

Please submit all questions in writing to Zach Jylkka, MassCEC's Offshore Wind Senior Program Manager, (offshorewind@masscec.com) by the date stated in Section VI above. **The words: "Question – 2026 SRA RFP" must appear in the email subject.**

XII. GENERAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONDITIONS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

As a public entity, MassCEC is subject to Massachusetts' Public Records law, codified at Chapter 66 of the Massachusetts General Laws ("Public Records Law"). Applicant acknowledges and agrees that any documentary material, data, or other information submitted to MassCEC is presumed to be public records. An exemption to the Public Records Law may apply to certain records, including materials that fall under certain categories under a statutory or common law exemption, including the limited exemption at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 23J, Section 2(k) regarding certain types of confidential information submitted to MassCEC by an applicant for any form of assistance. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that MassCEC, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether any particular document, material, data or other information is exempt from or subject to public disclosure. Thus, MassCEC urges applicant to carefully consider what documents, materials, data and other information is submitted to MassCEC in connection with this RFP. If confidential information is submitted as part of the application and not clearly marked as confidential, such information may be made publicly available by MassCEC without further notice to the applicant. **Please note**: consultant rate sheets will be considered a public record subject to disclosure.

DISCLAIMER & WAIVER AUTHORITY

This RFP does not commit MassCEC to award any funds, pay any costs incurred in preparing an application, or procure or contract for services or supplies. MassCEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, waive minor irregularities in submittal requirements, modify the anticipated timeline, request modification of the application, negotiate with all qualified Applicants, cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines, when it is in MassCEC's best interests.

This RFP has been distributed electronically using MassCEC's website. It is the responsibility of Applicants to check the website for any addenda or modifications to an RFP to which they intend to respond. MassCEC accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation to Applicants who submit an application based on an out-of-date RFP document.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Upon MassCEC's authorization to proceed with the proposal, MassCEC and the awarded applicant(s) will execute a contract, substantially in the form of the template grant agreement attached hereto as Attachment C, which will set forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties.

In certain instances, if a successful Application involves work that is more appropriately considered direct consultant services for MassCEC, where MassCEC retains direct project

management authority, and full ownership rights over all deliverables that the awardee prepares, MassCEC and the awarded applicant will execute a service agreement contract, substantially in the form of the template attached hereto as Attachment D. MassCEC retains sole discretion to determine the appropriate form of contract agreement.

XIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Authorized Representative Signature and Acceptance Form

Attachment B: Application Form

Attachment C: Grant Agreement Template

Attachment D: Service Agreement Template

Attachment E: Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMSP) Guidance

(NOTE: All attachments are provided separately on the MassCEC RFP website.)