Object Strategic Session (OSS)
Accelerating Interconnection Through AI (AI4AX) - PPO-CWX-010-GDO
December 5, 2024 (2PM ET)

Thomas (Tom) King — Senior Advisor, GDO
Grayson Dorr — Program Manager, ConnectWerx

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00:01:03.190 --> 00:01:11.869
Grayson Dorr: Good afternoon, everyone. We're gonna give it a a few more seconds and let everyone that's joining. Now. Get a chance to get signed in. I look forward to

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00:01:11.940 --> 00:01:16.829
Grayson Dorr: kicking off this webinar and objective strategic session with you. Shortly.

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00:01:21.390 --> 00:01:22.180
Avi Gopstein: Okay.

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00:01:59.260 --> 00:02:17.680
Grayson Dorr: Alright. Well, welcome, everyone. Good afternoon. We're going to go ahead and get started with this Oss for today. With me today is Tom King, the senior advisor from the grid deployment office and our connectworks team that we represent. We're excited to have you join us today to hear more about

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00:02:17.780 --> 00:02:26.410
Grayson Dorr: this opportunity under Gdo, which is opportunity 0 1 0 or 10. If you're tracking on our opportunities, page next slide

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00:02:30.590 --> 00:02:38.259
Grayson Dorr: some quick housekeeping, please. If you are having any audio issues. Please let us know you're welcome to use the chat

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00:02:38.300 --> 00:02:46.729
Grayson Dorr: function at the bottom of the screen to do so. Just simply send us a note, and we'll address that with you and see if we can troubleshoot

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00:02:46.730 --> 00:02:59.400
Grayson Dorr: separately. If you wouldn't mind. Please keep that chat line open just for those technical difficulties, and then we'll post some helpful links throughout this session just as references.

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00:02:59.400 --> 00:03:23.480
Grayson Dorr: But when we get to the Q. And a feature you'll see at the bottom. Just use that for our questions that you may have that come in. You're welcome to type those throughout the session or wait to the actual Q. And a time we have allocated to the end. But we will be reading those. It's important for us to have them captured there, because if there are any. Follow up questions, we're able to download those and and review them, offline with the Gdo team

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00:03:23.680 --> 00:03:33.509
Grayson Dorr: and provide a response back to you. So again, just a quick reminder there to keep to use that feature. Only this session is being recorded.

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00:03:33.840 --> 00:03:58.299
Grayson Dorr: The slides, the transcript of today's oss as well as the recording will all be posted on the Connectworks website. You'll find it on our opportunities page for the Gdo team and what we have, as well as under our events tab at the top of the screen, and we're happy to show you that as well. But again, if you miss anything, don't hesitate to go back and listen to the recording, or look at the the slides that you'll see today

16
00:04:00.620 --> 00:04:25.059
Grayson Dorr: a little bit about connectworks if you're this is your 1st time joining us, if not welcome back. We're excited to have you on for another one of our sessions. You'll see today is one of our really key opportunities to engage virtually with us. With each of the opportunities that come through. We host oss or webinars with each of the program offices. This is really an opportunity to for you to see details about

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00:04:25.160 --> 00:04:42.910
Grayson Dorr: each of the opportunities to ask questions and really begin to gauge whether you are interested in applying or not. Following this, each of our sessions, we will always host office hours. That's a really intimate, one-on-one type setting where you're able to

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00:04:42.940 --> 00:05:08.539
Grayson Dorr: share your screen. Come off mute ask questions. That is a meeting type setting so a little bit different than a webinar. But that really is a time to ask those final questions. You have as you're formulating a response for the opportunity. So those are great ways. Obviously, if you haven't joined the network, you see a simple QR code there just scan that I think it should take. I've tried it maybe 4 min to complete. Some of you may be able to do a little bit faster.

19
00:05:08.580 --> 00:05:31.419

Grayson Dorr: It's just a way for us to to stay in contact. We promise we're not going to flood your inbox. We really try to to keep that network announcement out to key dates, reminders about deadlines, new opportunities, so that you'll stay informed there's no cost to join none of that. So it's just an easy way to to stay in contact with us and track what's coming

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00:05:31.510 --> 00:05:34.510
Grayson Dorr: out from connectworks and the the DOE

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00:05:35.173 --> 00:05:45.299
Grayson Dorr: encourage you to follow us on social media. We are on Linkedin as well, and then we look forward to put together a newsletter shortly for some of our recap of the 1st quarter of our engagement.

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00:05:45.390 --> 00:06:00.479
Grayson Dorr: So again, just a couple easy ways. Another another fun way to stay engaged with us, if you're out and about, or at a conference, or you think it may be beneficial to to meet. Please submit those ideas or conferences. You may be attending to our inbox

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00:06:00.820 --> 00:06:09.639
Grayson Dorr: pending approval. We'd love to post those on our website, and just let folks know in the market where some of our folks in the network will be.

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00:06:09.670 --> 00:06:13.229
Grayson Dorr: So again, just some easy ways to stay connected with us

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00:06:15.690 --> 00:06:37.299
Grayson Dorr: again. You see there, as I mentioned, there's our Linkedin QR. Code to join, and then our our inbox, where we collect all the feedback, and we're again. We're excited to be here today with the grid deployment office, with Tom and Avi and their team, and and find ways to continuously engage match and collaborate across the Us. With the DOE and their exciting projects coming out.

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00:06:37.350 --> 00:06:41.369
Grayson Dorr: So with that, I'll turn it over to you, Tom, to cover your portion.

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00:06:43.140 --> 00:06:52.530
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Great. Thank thank you, Grayson, and good afternoon. Good morning. Good evening. Wherever you are. We are so excited that you're here joining us

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00:06:53.283 --> 00:07:02.619
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and excited to to share this opportunity with artificial intelligence for interconnection, or AI for Ix.

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00:07:03.446 --> 00:07:12.610
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: We're gonna be talking over the next hour, maybe the most exciting hour of your day, maybe week, maybe year.

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00:07:12.630 --> 00:07:29.460
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So prepare to be dazzled. But we're we're looking forward to engagements in the Q. And A. I'll be talking here for about 20 min or so. Kind of walking through a little bit of background, and maybe we go to the next slide of

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00:07:29.720 --> 00:07:33.990
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: give some brief introductions overview of the grid deployment office.

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00:07:34.320 --> 00:07:59.119
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Looking at the interconnection challenges. I think everybody understands that. But we'll talk just briefly about, you know, putting things in context, which then feeds into the the opportunity and the funding opportunity that we have walk through the application process and then get into the the question and answer session, which I think will be really important. Going forward.

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00:07:59.120 --> 00:08:20.760
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So we go to the next slide, looking at introductions as as mentioned, I'm Tom King in the grid deployment office. I've been here since the beginning since even prior to when grid deployment office was formed over 2 years ago. Joining me is Avi Gobstein, who manages our Grid adaptivity program.

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00:08:21.405 --> 00:08:26.630
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and we also have Eric Olson from the office of technology transitions.

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00:08:26.770 --> 00:08:31.323
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and between or among Avi, Eric, Grace, and others.

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00:08:32.030 --> 00:08:53.900
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: when the Q. And a session, they're gonna answer all the hard questions. I'm just here gonna walk through some slides and talk a little bit about the opportunity. So if we go to the the next

slide and just a brief overview for those that aren't familiar with the Grid Deployment office. As I mentioned, we were formed just over 2 years ago

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00:08:53.920 --> 00:09:11.460
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: in response to the investments that are being made on the infrastructure side. Gdo, the mission is focused across the generation side looking at resource adequacy and expanding and enhancing electricity markets

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00:09:11.650 --> 00:09:15.310
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: typically on the hydro and nuclear side is where we focused

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00:09:15.833 --> 00:09:20.716
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: another key area in in mission part of the mission is

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00:09:21.170 --> 00:09:45.949
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: helping to catalyze the development of new and upgraded high capacity electric transmission lines as well as some of the distribution systems. Ultimately, we want to be able to reduce the number of outages, mitigate, prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid. And if we go to the next slide, going a little bit more detail

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00:09:46.070 --> 00:10:04.620
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: within the Department of energy. The grid deployment office is responsible of the 62 billion dollars that the Department of Energy is administering through the bipartisan infrastructure. Law, Gdo is responsible for 22 billion or 26 billion, depending on how you account certain things

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00:10:04.870 --> 00:10:33.109
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: of that 62 billion. So a lot of activity that's been going on. And it's been pretty exciting, because we're getting to the point of setting programs up getting applications and making announcements and now getting steel into the ground. So it's going to be an exciting Fy. 25. As we look at that, and you can see some of the investments that we've been making a key part of where we've been focusing is the grid modernization area.

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00:10:33.150 --> 00:10:50.450
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And maybe people have been hearing about the grip program. This is the grid resilience innovation partnership program been making recent announcements. We also have the formula Grant program, a lot of activities that are going on there. Very exciting

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00:10:51.050 --> 00:10:55.689
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: through these programs. There's been a big effort on technical assistance.

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00:10:55.940 --> 00:11:13.319
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And that's what we're here talking about today is technical assistance. If you go to the next slide, some of the technical assistance areas. We focused on working with state energy offices, state regulators, legislators as well as tribes and us territories.

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00:11:13.320 --> 00:11:26.729
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: When we look at some of these programs that we have, for example, with the formula grants, the State offices are responsible for administering these activities. And a lot of the questions come up of

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00:11:26.790 --> 00:11:55.770
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: boy. We don't understand what the state of the grid is, what the threats are, you know. How do we prioritize and look at projects? And so we've been trying to listen to what those needs are from a technical assistance area. We've identified some of these buckets. One is the capacity building and training where we've worked closely with our partners with associations. Nasio, Naru, Nga, Ncsl. Really understanding and hearing about

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00:11:55.790 --> 00:12:12.490
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: boy, the the resources and the capacity to be able to respond to these is limited. So being able to work in in that facet to to assist on getting those resources to help respond to some of these things. We've also been working on tool development.

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00:12:12.650 --> 00:12:40.059
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And so working with the national labs. Argonne, for example, has a climber tool. This look at climate risk and resilience portal, understanding what those climate risks are, and Oak Ridge is working on a tool and working with some of the States on tasty, grid understanding where the outages are, and seeing where there may be more susceptible disruptions. In certain regions

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00:12:40.190 --> 00:12:55.460
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: we have the multi-lab team working on the North American energy resilience model. And that's the norm. We also have labs working on the economic side and the poet tool that Lawrence Berkeley National Lab works

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00:12:55.510 --> 00:13:13.180
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: doing work on many different facets of assessments and analysis through other pia programs. And that's where I've found that this Pia process is excellent. It's a way to bring those that haven't necessarily worked

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00:13:13.200 --> 00:13:17.529
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: with the government, with the Federal Government in particular department of energy

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00:13:17.980 --> 00:13:20.329
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and help streamline the process maybe

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00:13:20.370 --> 00:13:46.100
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: not make the transactive cost of going through that application process making that a little bit easier. So we're excited about the opportunity where we can bring industry. So we, this is an opportunity to do technical assistance for industry. In this case. One of the areas that I think is really good and valuable in this communication and outreach and understanding lessons learned through through cohorts

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00:13:46.100 --> 00:14:03.060
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and getting the word out. That's something that's going to be a key part of what we're looking for here as well. So technical assistance is a key part of what we're doing. And this AI for Iacs fits right into that technical assistance area in particular, for for the industry.

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00:14:03.740 --> 00:14:29.070
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: if we jump to the next slide, you can find out more information if you go to the QR code or you go to the website listed here. It's the conductor website summarizes a lot of the different funding opportunities, gives you updates. As you know, we're making these awards and announcements. So it's a way to just keep track of the exciting things that are going on throughout. Gdl.

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00:14:30.190 --> 00:14:35.939
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: so let's jump into the interconnection side.

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Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: I think everybody's aware of

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Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the the challenges that we've we've seen, and a lot of work has been going on in the space. And so

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00:14:47.130 --> 00:15:02.060
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: industry is taking strides to address some of these challenges. If we go to the next slide, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory annually comes out with a queued up report, and we have the latest 2024 edition.

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00:15:02.070 --> 00:15:20.529
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: This report compiles and analyzes interconnection data from across all the Rtos, as well as some of the major utilities that cover 95% of the installed Us. Generating capacity report highlights. Some of the challenges of connecting generation to the transmission system

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00:15:20.610 --> 00:15:40.410
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: illustrates the importance of of the need for for transmission infrastructure as well as potential solutions and policy actions that could help unlock the benefits of of the accessing, the the transmission, as you can see on the slide over the past decade. The interconnection queue continues to grow

63
00:15:41.010 --> 00:16:05.819
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: over 2,600 gigawatts of projects that are in the queue. If you go to the next slide. This. This active capacity in the queue is twice the installed capacity of the Us. Power fleet of just over 1,200 gigawatts. It's greater than peak load and installed capacity in all the isos, and that's the the charge that you see on the right.

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00:16:05.980 --> 00:16:08.910
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: But if you look in the chart on the left.

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00:16:09.170 --> 00:16:29.279
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you know, back in the day there were fewer number of larger projects, whereas today larger number of smaller projects. And so a lot of this is with solar coming in to the market as well as wind. We're we're seeing this, you know, this big onslaught of of projects. And it's it's creating challenges within the queue.

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00:16:29.370 --> 00:16:50.279
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: As I mentioned, a lot of work is happening in the industry, and we're excited about that. Gdo is actually supporting some of these efforts through recent announcements through the grip program. And so this is an additional opportunity that focuses specifically on the interconnection process. And as I mentioned really

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00:16:50.300 --> 00:17:05.280

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: it, it's been excellent having these conversations, seeing where we can kind of bring some opportunities and funds to help accelerate this this whole process. So if we go to the AI for Ix program.

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00:17:05.688 --> 00:17:08.720
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you can jump to the the next slide.

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00:17:09.160 --> 00:17:12.349
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the the objective is to be able to apply

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00:17:12.390 --> 00:17:21.549
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the software tools, artificial intelligence tools to accelerate the interconnection process. In particular, the application intake process

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00:17:21.569 --> 00:17:35.929
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: site control is been a challenge. It's been identified creating a large number of deficiencies and increased labor burden within the process. You may be asking yourself, Well, how do you come up with these?

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00:17:35.980 --> 00:17:42.029
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: You know areas in in this area. But we've been meeting with with industry over the past 6 to 9 months.

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00:17:42.500 --> 00:17:52.429
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: talking about some of the challenges and opportunities, and where AI and automation can help play a role in in the solution toolkit.

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00:17:53.237 --> 00:18:00.220
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: We had discussions with the different industry stakeholders, and we've heard

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00:18:00.470 --> 00:18:09.800
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: couple of things. One is AI could apply to the model. In the case studies looking at the model development and the analysis.

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00:18:09.980 --> 00:18:14.750
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And you know, when you have these clusters come in going through setting up the model

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00:18:14.780 --> 00:18:33.350
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and then pulling projects out. You have to rerun. And there's a lot. It's an iterative process and bringing in automation or AI into the picture is an opportunity. We've also seen that industry is doing a lot in this space. So we looked at other areas. And this is where, on the application intake

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00:18:33.550 --> 00:18:37.160
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: this. This came up, and for for certain

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00:18:37.571 --> 00:18:52.840
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: organizations. What we found and what we were told is that within the application process there's 90 up to 90% of the applications are deficient. And this then creates this iterative process that slows the process down. And so

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00:18:52.980 --> 00:19:14.730
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: we see this as a really nice opportunity. We had a meeting and workshop up in Minnesota, where Miso was generous enough to host that meeting, and brought in different stakeholders to to talk more about. Does this make sense, and got a lot of really positive feedback? And so we're excited about this this opportunity.

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00:19:15.496 --> 00:19:29.240
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If you go to the next slide. You know, we work closely with our our sister organizations within Department of Energy, working with through the Interconnection Innovation Exchange i. 2 x

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00:19:30.000 --> 00:19:35.570
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and the the the team, you know. We see it all as as one DOE

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00:19:36.069 --> 00:19:44.790
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: been working closely with ere office policy, ott, etc. and through this the i 2 x

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00:19:45.880 --> 00:19:57.270
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: roadmap has been formed. And so this is the trend. This comes out of the transmission roadmap recently just posted the the distribution roadmap for for comments. So this

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00:19:57.440 --> 00:20:05.470
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: opportunity, AI, for Ix really aligns directly within this the the roadmap

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00:20:05.530 --> 00:20:30.219
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: identifies organizes near as well as long term solutions that require multiple stakeholder actions to enable interconnection process to meet this demand. That's out there within the roadmap. They've identified 4 different goals. Goal number one is to increase data access and transparency goal number 2 is to improve process and timing.

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00:20:30.220 --> 00:20:58.319
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: The 3rd area is promote economic efficiency. And the 4th area is maintain a reliable grid. What I've done is is pulled from goal 2, where this aligns directly, and that's goal 2 is improve process and timing of the interconnection under queue management infected system study. So this program aligns directly with the the technology roadmap through i. 2 x.

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00:20:58.440 --> 00:21:01.533
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If you go to the the next slide.

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00:21:02.230 --> 00:21:04.740
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: one of the ways is, well, how do you? How do you.

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00:21:05.430 --> 00:21:11.380
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you know, measure whether we're making progress through this? So 5 targets in the roadmap

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Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: have been identified where you can use publicly available data to measure performance. These areas include shorter interconnection time, higher completion for projects, and the rates there.

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00:21:26.000 --> 00:21:37.339
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: looking at average interconnection costs as well as cost variance, and then looking at 0 disturbances, and then look or nerc disturbances and trying to reduce those

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00:21:37.350 --> 00:21:57.800
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: we're focused really on the on the 1st one from reduced interconnection process time, where the the recent value of 33 months we're trying to get the target below a year, even though the best time that that's been identified has been 18 months. But if we can get this under, you know, under a year that would be fantastic

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00:21:58.330 --> 00:22:04.900

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: alone. This this program isn't going to be able to do that. But if we can contribute that, that's what we're trying to accomplish.

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00:22:05.720 --> 00:22:10.820
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So let's jump into the application process itself.

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00:22:13.680 --> 00:22:15.469
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If we look at them.

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00:22:15.640 --> 00:22:24.958
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: The the this is intended to. As I mentioned, technical assistance for industry and the eligibility

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00:22:25.680 --> 00:22:43.829
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: on the next slide, you know, not for profit, for profit organizations, but ideally, we would like to see solution providers be able to come in working in partnership with project developers as well as utilities Rtos and and Pmas.

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00:22:44.120 --> 00:23:03.190
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and come together with a solution one entity coming in alone on just a solution without the user community involved. You're you're not gonna be able to demonstrate the the impact. And so we're looking for projects that have the team members that include include the multiple organizations.

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00:23:03.590 --> 00:23:05.289
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: There may be some other

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00:23:05.370 --> 00:23:15.210
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: engineering firms or other organizations that might be able to contribute to the overall goals and objectives, and they're part of they should be

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00:23:15.280 --> 00:23:18.020
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: part of that project team as needed

103
00:23:18.473 --> 00:23:23.560
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: one area that that's kind of boilerplate for for Kia processes.

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00:23:23.700 --> 00:23:36.430

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Applicants must certify. It's it's not owned, controlled by, you know, governments of of country at risk. And and that's that's a a standard eligibility requirement that that we have.

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00:23:36.960 --> 00:23:40.639
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If we jump to the application timeline.

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00:23:41.470 --> 00:23:57.880
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: everybody's favorite right? It's boy. We are in the holiday season, and it's a great time to put out funding opportunities, and we realize this is an aggressive schedule. And

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00:23:58.220 --> 00:24:06.169
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: it was released. November 25.th We're having this oss and and the webinar.

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00:24:06.790 --> 00:24:13.999
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: with submission closes January 10, th and we have holidays mixed in between all of that.

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00:24:14.457 --> 00:24:25.882
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So we understand the the challenge there. I I think the biggest issue is is, how do we get the teams together within that timeframe? And that's but that's part of the the biggest challenge.

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00:24:26.530 --> 00:24:37.730
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the application process itself. And through these Pia processes are we try to make it as flexible as possible, so the application itself is very streamlined.

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00:24:38.030 --> 00:24:55.519
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: The project. Narrative template, you can find. It includes project description. This is 3 pages, and the whole idea is being able to understand what's the technical approach. What are the tools that are going to be used? And what is the impact that's going to be made if awarded and selected

112
00:24:56.070 --> 00:25:16.400
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: along with qualifications of the team. And then there's just typical project management requirements and called out in the template, this looks at work, plan, budget. What are the risks associated with this, you know, who is that project team that's going to participate. So we understand it's aggressive schedule.

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00:25:16.410 --> 00:25:38.220

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: We understand the holidays are tied into it. But hopefully through this streamlined application process takes a little bit of burden where you're not writing a 25 page narrative. This is a 3 page project description piece with about a page for work, the work, plan, budget, and then half page page for some of the risk, mitigation and project team.

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00:25:39.190 --> 00:25:49.410
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Let's go to the next slide, and this gets into as you're putting together the the applications.

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00:25:49.834 --> 00:25:58.979
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Keeping in mind, what is the the criteria that's going to be used for evaluation. The the biggest one that that we see is impact and feasibility at 60%.

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00:25:59.550 --> 00:26:05.030
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: We are really interested in understanding what is the approach that's gonna be taken.

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00:26:05.040 --> 00:26:19.219
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And what is the impact that's going to be achieved? And so you can read some of these on your own. Keep in mind when we look at some of the impact and feasibility. Outreach is important element

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00:26:19.320 --> 00:26:25.220
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: at this miso meeting that I talked about that that was held earlier this year

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00:26:26.060 --> 00:26:55.249
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the participants said, Hey, this is great, but we need to keep the continue to continue the dialogue. And so we want the projects that are selected to have an outreach mechanism, to be able to continue the dialogue, share solutions reaching out to state energy offices, public utility, commissions, utilities, to be able to share the ideas, understand what those challenges are, so that outreach element is really critical.

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00:26:56.160 --> 00:26:58.679
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If we jump to the next slide.

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00:27:00.222 --> 00:27:22.779
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the qualifications and resources. And this gets into that project team, making sure the project team they can deliver from what is the solution? What is the concept that that's being proposed

and being able to deploy and show what those impacts are going to be. And that's that's why the the project team is is important here

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00:27:22.890 --> 00:27:37.909
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: between the impact and feasibility and the qualifications and resources that's 80%. So that's that's a big chunk of of what we're talking about. There's also a focus on community benefits.

123
00:27:37.980 --> 00:27:50.769
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Now, when we look at interconnections and transmissions and understanding, the this is a system of systems. So what specific communities are going to be addressed?

124
00:27:52.460 --> 00:28:02.999
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: You know, we, we understand there's there's challenges. But being able to address and identify what are the benefits to the community is another element that we're looking at from a 20%.

125
00:28:03.030 --> 00:28:10.750
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Lastly, from a programmatic side, DOE has an opportunity to say, from a portfolio perspective.

126
00:28:10.820 --> 00:28:16.110
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: There there could be selections made based upon pro-programatic considerations.

127
00:28:17.510 --> 00:28:27.090
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And let's jump to the next slide of so how do we participate? Did it do we.

128
00:28:28.720 --> 00:28:31.799
Grayson Dorr: Sure. Thanks, Tom. I can. I'll kick things off for

129
00:28:32.080 --> 00:28:32.830
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Excellent.

130
00:28:33.040 --> 00:28:36.159
Grayson Dorr: Q. And a session. But again, thank you for that overview

131
00:28:36.230 --> 00:28:54.729
Grayson Dorr: and the detail and and the nice plug for the Pia. Always appreciate that just, you know, really expanding on that, too. I know we. And we hear and see that we've gotten questions around changes in the

administration, whether that be from funding or looking at the project schedule and the timeline.

132
00:28:54.920 --> 00:29:07.769
Grayson Dorr: Today the funds are obligated. So the funding is is available regarding the schedule. And what you see, I mean, we're we're not today going to speculate on any changes or what that could look like. But

133
00:29:07.820 --> 00:29:21.310
Grayson Dorr: we are moving forward with this schedule. It's not really unique. If you look at the other peas and opportunities, some may look at it and say, that's aggressive, but that's really as Tom mentioned, and some of the reasons, some of the benefits of the Pia, we're able to

134
00:29:21.310 --> 00:29:38.720
Grayson Dorr: streamline the process, the application, the workflows, the reviews, and then ultimately the contracting side. So it's actually a a great thing to have on our side. And you know the schedule was built really, with all of that in consideration. So

135
00:29:38.940 --> 00:29:59.330
Grayson Dorr: we're still tracking, obviously to close the opportunity in early January, and then immediately move towards review. And then obviously selecting Awardees from that time. So, Tom. Anything you want to add to that again, I know that's a important question. We don't want to dismiss those that are coming in. If there are concerns around around that. So.

136
00:30:00.040 --> 00:30:02.389
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: No, that that's great. Thanks, Grayson.

137
00:30:03.840 --> 00:30:06.289
Grayson Dorr: Avi anything else on that or.

138
00:30:07.030 --> 00:30:30.429
Avi Gopstein: Just real quick. I want to emphasize Grayson. What you said actually, which is that this is just one of many piers that connectworks and other intermediaries are executing. So there's really nothing unique. From this Pia to the others that are already in the workflow. So hopefully that addresses any implied concerns.

139
00:30:31.410 --> 00:30:35.780
Grayson Dorr: Thank you and and kudos to Tom and Avi and the team I mean, like he mentioned.

140
00:30:35.820 --> 00:30:57.989
Grayson Dorr: When you look at the application for this. It is very straightforward. The application is hosted on connect work site. There's a few just questions to to lead you in that we're able to capture, and then it's a single document. Upload as far as a template. You can download it, save that off work at your leisure, and then, when you're ready to submit. Do that. So again, very, very straightforward

141
00:30:58.000 --> 00:31:01.909
Grayson Dorr: on the application. And what they're capturing for this.

142
00:31:02.340 --> 00:31:19.999
Grayson Dorr: Tom, are you able to just speak before we start reading off a few more, because I know we've had these questions come in just a little bit about the period performance can, and extend beyond one year, and then also tied to that. What are the maximum number of entities that could be funded as part of of this opportunity?

143
00:31:20.450 --> 00:31:29.540
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah, thanks, Grayson, and we figured this, this would be part of the the Q&A. But as far as period performance.

144
00:31:30.298 --> 00:31:41.049
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Gdo is seeking up the 2 year Project proposals. All projects will be structured, and this is through kind of the the Pm mechanism. With an initial performance here

145
00:31:41.280 --> 00:31:44.591
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and up to an optional 12 month extension. So

146
00:31:45.140 --> 00:32:05.820
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: if if the team believes they can do something within a year, demonstrating stuff wonderful if they believe that they need this extension. 12 month extension great include the entire work plan for that that includes both year one and this optional 12 month extension.

147
00:32:06.860 --> 00:32:12.440
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: The the other question, you know, we have 30 million dollars. So how many projects are you gonna select?

148
00:32:13.443 --> 00:32:16.107
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And you know, this is all gonna be

149

00:32:16.590 --> 00:32:19.800
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: based upon the proposals that come in.

150
00:32:20.070 --> 00:32:28.199
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: But we are are seeing anything where the the
projects or proposals could be various sizes and scale.

151
00:32:28.610 --> 00:32:32.910
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And so we are gonna have multiple awards.

152
00:32:32.990 --> 00:32:38.339
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So if you're coming in and saying, Hey, I have an
idea for 30 million dollars, that's probably not going to cut it.

153
00:32:38.810 --> 00:33:00.819
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: but we could see things as small as a million
dollars. Where, hey? I have a software tool. We we have an AI piece that
can run through documentations and do an analysis for you and do a
demonstration there that could be on the smaller scale. It could be, you
know a million dollars ish versus something that's going to look at the
entire application intake process

154
00:33:00.820 --> 00:33:16.729
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: that could be a 10 to 15 million dollars. So we
didn't want to put any specifications or requirements. We wanted
flexibility in what the teams propose, and do your best, as far as
determining. You know what the size and scale is going to be.

155
00:33:19.850 --> 00:33:39.609
Grayson Dorr: Thank you, Tom, and just a quick reminder for folks,
because I know we've gotten questions. These slides and the recording
will be posted on Connectworks opportunities, page as well as under our
events. So look for the slides to be available shortly after this
meeting, and the recording immediately following, so be on the lookout
for that.

156
00:33:40.230 --> 00:33:46.740
Grayson Dorr: Tom. Are you able, just to clarify what is a public
marketing administrator? I know we've had a few questions around that.

157
00:33:48.304 --> 00:33:53.629
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: The the Pmas are are gonna be your Bonneville
power administration.

158
00:33:54.726 --> 00:34:01.600

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: It could be you know, Southwest power pool. So these are Federal organizations, agencies

159
00:34:01.630 --> 00:34:12.189
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: from a Pma. You have a Tennessee Valley authority that's sort of a pseudo pma, but those organizations are eligible

160
00:34:12.210 --> 00:34:15.830
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: to participate in this effort.

161
00:34:17.250 --> 00:34:39.850
Grayson Dorr: Thank you. And just as a reminder to. Sorry I failed to mention this before. If if you wouldn't mind if you are posting questions just in the chat. If if you would. If you'd be able to just copy those over to the QA. So we can capture those. I see some questions coming in to the chat that that we definitely want to address and are good questions. So if you wouldn't mind, just do that on our behalf it'd be much appreciated.

162
00:34:41.159 --> 00:34:46.740
Grayson Dorr: Tom, we've gotten questions around this probably, you know, for you or Avi to speak more

163
00:34:46.889 --> 00:34:57.560
Grayson Dorr: people are interested in, you know, matching of applicants, you know. Some folks are commenting. They have about half of the team they need may need just a little bit more. How would folks go about

164
00:34:58.940 --> 00:35:08.114
Grayson Dorr: connecting with others, or being a part of the submission? If they're missing a piece of it? Or do they simply just apply and and note what they're missing?

165
00:35:10.917 --> 00:35:24.420
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: That that is, that is a great question, the the more that that you can. And and this is gonna depend on, you know. Are you looking for utility engagements? Are you looking to to engage some of the Rtos?

166
00:35:24.878 --> 00:35:30.929
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: There are different forums to to be able to to reach out to them.

167
00:35:31.570 --> 00:35:40.580

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So so we don't necessarily have kind of a a pool where we're collecting partnering contacts.

168
00:35:41.280 --> 00:35:44.790
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: But that's something we can look back on

169
00:35:45.458 --> 00:35:49.760
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: I would suggest, if you, if you're not successful

170
00:35:49.970 --> 00:36:00.480
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: in in getting all the partners that you have, if you have half of them do your best. Submit something, and and we'll see, because some of the peas are able to stitch together

171
00:36:00.945 --> 00:36:08.280
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: some of the partners. We we didn't necessarily set that up. We'd rather have the project team come in. But that could be something.

172
00:36:08.420 --> 00:36:13.709
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you know, for for consideration, where we may be able to look at some of the the partnering elements.

173
00:36:15.980 --> 00:36:17.480
Avi Gopstein: Awesome stuff.

174
00:36:17.730 --> 00:36:18.170
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah.

175
00:36:18.170 --> 00:36:23.540
Avi Gopstein: I think one of the things we don't want to do is predetermine

176
00:36:23.630 --> 00:36:36.200
Avi Gopstein: the architecture for success here, right? And so we want each applicant to form the team that they think

177
00:36:36.250 --> 00:36:49.509
Avi Gopstein: will be most successful in having the greatest impact on this issue. And, as Tom said, if you have an idea of what the team should be, but you can't get it fully formed.

178
00:36:49.510 --> 00:37:09.820

Avi Gopstein: Well, then, go ahead and submit something, anyway, and we'll see. Maybe maybe there will be the other half of your team waiting in the application queue. But we would like everybody to determine their own structure to be most impactful against the objectives of the opportunity.

179
00:37:12.140 --> 00:37:13.680
Grayson Dorr: Awesome. Thank you. Obvious.

180
00:37:14.040 --> 00:37:14.720
Grayson Dorr: Oh.

181
00:37:15.431 --> 00:37:21.199
Grayson Dorr: Tom, a couple more and thank you all. We have a lot of questions, so I'll try and read through these pretty quickly.

182
00:37:21.660 --> 00:37:32.330
Grayson Dorr: is the focus on application. Intake. Improvement is the excuse me, is the focus on application, intake, improvement, or other steps in accelerating, accelerating. The analysis

183
00:37:32.460 --> 00:37:35.290
Grayson Dorr: after intake is also of interest.

184
00:37:40.510 --> 00:37:45.619
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Boy. This could open the floodgates right? Could open the floodgates for for different things.

185
00:37:46.260 --> 00:37:54.270
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Like like I had said before. You know, we think there's a lot of advancement that that's going on in certain parts of

186
00:37:54.440 --> 00:37:56.919
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: the the interconnection process.

187
00:37:58.191 --> 00:38:03.210
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And based upon that, we focused on the application intake.

188
00:38:04.260 --> 00:38:07.880
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If there are interesting innovative approaches.

189
00:38:08.970 --> 00:38:18.630

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: I don't know if I'd want to dismiss that. But really the the intent of what we're doing is is focusing on that application intake some of the site control.

190
00:38:18.880 --> 00:38:22.699
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: But, Avi, this is a really good question of

191
00:38:22.890 --> 00:38:34.850
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: if there are some ideas. Is is this something that we look at later down the road, or and and then how would we get those ideas? So that that's

192
00:38:35.590 --> 00:38:36.690
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: interesting question.

193
00:38:37.230 --> 00:38:58.820
Avi Gopstein: So I think there's some parallel idea questions along this right? It's really what's what's the scope? I saw? I saw a question that was whether this is bulk system focused only, or if there's a sub transmission level integration interconnection that could be part of this right. So all of these are about what the scope is.

194
00:38:59.490 --> 00:39:20.060
Avi Gopstein: this opportunity is focused on the 90% of applications to the conventional bulk system interconnection queues that are deemed deficient. Right. They're stumbling before they even get to the starting blocks for that multi-year timeline for interconnection. We want to.

195
00:39:20.120 --> 00:39:25.000
Avi Gopstein: for all intents and purposes, eliminate those delays.

196
00:39:26.000 --> 00:39:47.740
Avi Gopstein: based on the success of this effort, based on other information that we receive as part of this effort, we may have a future funding opportunity for distribution, level interconnection. But the, you know, the authorities having jurisdiction, the responsibility of managing these processes change when you go from a bulk

197
00:39:48.475 --> 00:40:01.820
Avi Gopstein: interconnection set of topics to a distribution, interconnection set of topics, etc. So our primary focus remains addressing the barriers

198
00:40:01.850 --> 00:40:06.500
Avi Gopstein: that prevent applications from even starting the process

199
00:40:06.590 --> 00:40:11.289
Avi Gopstein: for the inner, the interconnection process into the bulk system.

200
00:40:11.450 --> 00:40:13.280
Avi Gopstein: If your solution

201
00:40:13.660 --> 00:40:20.579
Avi Gopstein: or your approach can do more than that, that doesn't mean we're not interested in being more impactful.

202
00:40:20.760 --> 00:40:26.640
Avi Gopstein: It just means that our focus and our primary scope remains. What Tom described.

203
00:40:31.140 --> 00:40:38.449
Grayson Dorr: Thank you. Avi. Tom, we've gotten a number of questions just around cost. Sharing is if that's a requirement can you speak to that?

204
00:40:39.550 --> 00:40:43.289
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah, for for this opportunity cost share cost match

205
00:40:43.470 --> 00:40:49.839
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: is is not required. And there were a lot of conversations going on. And that's why we're stressing technical assistance.

206
00:40:50.567 --> 00:40:58.180
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: We, we are not looking at development and research aspects. If this were research oriented

207
00:40:59.005 --> 00:41:07.350
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: it would require some of the the cost match. But because this is technical assistance, there is no cost match requirement for this opportunity.

208
00:41:09.390 --> 00:41:19.760
Grayson Dorr: Thank you, Tom. I know we've we've gotten questions prior to this session, and then I see a few more coming in. Can the national labs be the prime on this or participate. Can you speak to that?

209
00:41:21.143 --> 00:41:22.750
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah. So

210
00:41:23.260 --> 00:41:31.039
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: as you saw in the Technical Assistance, national
Labs are doing a lot for grid deployment office when it comes to
technical assistance

211
00:41:31.520 --> 00:41:35.610
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: for this opportunity. National labs are not the
target audience

212
00:41:35.690 --> 00:41:43.070
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: and are not eligible to be the lead organization
organizations capable of supporting project outcomes

213
00:41:43.200 --> 00:41:47.769
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: lining with the goals that that are described in
the opportunity.

214
00:41:48.220 --> 00:41:55.139
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If if they're needed to get the job done, then
you know, the the project team can include

215
00:41:55.300 --> 00:42:00.139
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: these other organizations, including national
labs, but national labs.

216
00:42:00.270 --> 00:42:03.569
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: They they are not eligible to be a lead
organization.

217
00:42:05.910 --> 00:42:06.700
Grayson Dorr: Thank you.

218
00:42:07.359 --> 00:42:28.029
Grayson Dorr: I know there's questions we've seen. Come in. I can address
a few of these just about confidentiality. So your responses are not
shared publicly. Those are collected through connect works is secure
portal and then obviously sent to the Gdo team for review. But those
responses are not are not shared

219
00:42:28.150 --> 00:42:32.230

Grayson Dorr: or posted publicly, if you will, as far as your submission.

220
00:42:32.861 --> 00:42:44.990
Grayson Dorr: another one just on applications. Can a university be the lead or the partner in the project to develop the AI algorithms. I know we've talked mentioned something about universities a little bit. Can you speak to that?

221
00:42:46.867 --> 00:42:50.842
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Right? I I think, as far as being a lead.

222
00:42:51.260 --> 00:42:55.319
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: we. We see this as being an industry effort. If

223
00:42:55.830 --> 00:43:06.579
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: if a solution provider needs an element from a university or other organizations. That help address the the overall concept.

224
00:43:06.940 --> 00:43:11.300
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: That organization, including universities, can be part of the team.

225
00:43:14.450 --> 00:43:15.269
Grayson Dorr: Thank you.

226
00:43:15.700 --> 00:43:22.463
Grayson Dorr: Let's see. There's a question around support letters.

227
00:43:23.400 --> 00:43:51.940
Grayson Dorr: if they're needed from a utility or Rto partners along with the proposal. I think everyone will see there is a page limit and or guidelines for that they are not required. But, Tom, I don't want to over speak on that. But if it is something that you see meets with inside the framework of the the guidelines, you're welcome to attach that as well. But just be mindful of the page limit. Is that a fair answer, Tom, or anything you'd like to.

228
00:43:52.370 --> 00:43:58.529
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Well, we do want to make sure there is a commitment from the utility or the user of

229
00:43:58.640 --> 00:44:09.149

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: of of that team. And so, being part of that project team is is important. If if that's demonstrated through a letter of support letter of commitment

230
00:44:09.180 --> 00:44:24.820
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: that can be helpful, you know we can put that in Appendix, or you know other places. But we need to make sure that as part of the project team there is a commitment from from all of the participants there.

231
00:44:27.190 --> 00:44:37.480
Grayson Dorr: Perfect. Thank you. And then for those who may not have that or want to include, they can simply just note that inside the application. Right? We have these, and that they could follow up subsequently with those. Is that fair.

232
00:44:37.880 --> 00:44:38.245
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yep.

233
00:44:38.610 --> 00:44:39.790
Grayson Dorr: Okay, perfect.

234
00:44:42.480 --> 00:44:46.452
Grayson Dorr: Let's see here, there's a few more questions coming in.

235
00:44:47.230 --> 00:44:50.309
Grayson Dorr: a lot of questions. And I appreciate this around.

236
00:44:50.500 --> 00:45:05.110
Grayson Dorr: You know, folks wanting to partner. Can. How do they do that? Could they email us, could they? You know, find another way to express their interest in teaming? I think that's something we'll have to discuss. Offline as well, maybe come back to

237
00:45:05.430 --> 00:45:09.370
Grayson Dorr: the group of the best way to capture that. If there's any

238
00:45:09.760 --> 00:45:26.519
Grayson Dorr: any feedback we can provide or guidance in the in the medium. But like, I think, Avi and Tom mentioned, if you're able to supply what your your capabilities are, what you know the team that you have, and maybe potentially what your needs are, that would be suffice for the application given the timeline as well. But.

239

00:45:26.870 --> 00:45:33.923
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: So so you know, from from our perspective, we can't force people to to say, Hey, can you be part of a team?

240
00:45:34.410 --> 00:45:36.529
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: I don't know if there's a way to

241
00:45:36.910 --> 00:45:45.360
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: to put together for those that want to volunteer and say, Hey, we're happy to be partners, whether u utility

242
00:45:46.260 --> 00:45:47.720
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: we're an Rto.

243
00:45:47.890 --> 00:45:54.289
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: If they want to offer that up. You know. Maybe they send that us and and we collect that the partnering list.

244
00:45:54.410 --> 00:45:55.650
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: But that would.

245
00:45:55.900 --> 00:46:02.280
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: That would be a a separate process. We we haven't considered that

246
00:46:02.290 --> 00:46:06.349
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: at at this point we talked initially about. Do we want to go through that, and

247
00:46:06.450 --> 00:46:17.030
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: from a timing side we just didn't have time to do that. Now, is there a way to look at those that want to volunteer and say, Hey, if if you're

248
00:46:17.130 --> 00:46:27.959
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you know, creating a a partner list include our name, and here's our contact, that's something that maybe we consider and and look at how we might do that. Grayson.

249
00:46:28.900 --> 00:46:38.889
Grayson Dorr: Yeah, let's we can take that offline, I think, for those on the call. If if we have an update on that and and guidelines as far as a better way to capture that, or in the meantime.

250
00:46:39.269 --> 00:46:44.379
Grayson Dorr: we obviously have all of your information. We will reach out with communication to the entire

251
00:46:44.982 --> 00:46:58.620
Grayson Dorr: team. And then obviously update on our website as well. About a form or something. You know a process for that. We'll try to keep it, you know. Given the timeline very, very streamlined, very simple. With that. So.

252
00:46:59.100 --> 00:47:02.200
Avi Gopstein: Grayson, if I could just add one thing, I

253
00:47:02.620 --> 00:47:07.990
Avi Gopstein: I do want to emphasize the the timeline that we're looking for for.

254
00:47:08.150 --> 00:47:15.610
Avi Gopstein: for impact at scale, right for demonstrated impact and the ability to scale. So

255
00:47:16.880 --> 00:47:25.659
Avi Gopstein: the Pia period is one year. There is, as as Tom mentioned, the option for somebody to propose that it could take 2 years.

256
00:47:27.910 --> 00:47:43.610
Avi Gopstein: that, we think is still a an aggressive timeline for having, for having demonstrable impact. And so what we want, I think what applicants should avoid is

257
00:47:45.050 --> 00:47:47.470
Avi Gopstein: relying on

258
00:47:47.700 --> 00:48:14.050
Avi Gopstein: partial submissions and saying, Here are all the parts of the team that we think are needed, but we don't have yet, because that will eat into that timeline. If we're really gonna have this impact in one to 2 years, you know, teams got to be ready to go as soon as selections are are made, and so, to whatever extent applicants can

259
00:48:14.350 --> 00:48:18.840
Avi Gopstein: get, there will be important and beneficial.

260

00:48:22.410 --> 00:48:23.210
Grayson Dorr: Thank you.

261
00:48:25.630 --> 00:48:29.599
Grayson Dorr: There's some questions around. Let's see here.

262
00:48:30.550 --> 00:48:45.674
Grayson Dorr: just clarifying. I'll be kind of tied to that. The 2 year
project. Timeline. Does that start after the solution development work,
or does it include it? I think there was another question around the 2
year, mark to. Sorry bear with me. I'm going back up.

263
00:48:46.620 --> 00:48:48.950
Grayson Dorr: Does that include

264
00:48:49.190 --> 00:48:57.679
Grayson Dorr: the bill? Quote? Build time as well? So are we able to
speak a little bit more around the 2 years, whether it includes the bill,
a build time

265
00:48:59.810 --> 00:49:01.910
Grayson Dorr: for additional time as well.

266
00:49:02.300 --> 00:49:03.959
Avi Gopstein: Soup to nuts all in.

267
00:49:04.510 --> 00:49:05.170
Grayson Dorr: Okay?

268
00:49:09.200 --> 00:49:14.989
Grayson Dorr: this is a great question. Shall one team only include
stakeholders from one region, or can be multi regional.

269
00:49:17.820 --> 00:49:21.629
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: That that's up to the the applicant. This could
be

270
00:49:22.430 --> 00:49:27.029
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: a region in that region can be defined by by the
team.

271
00:49:29.620 --> 00:49:45.000

Grayson Dorr: Thank you. Yeah. There was a question around, is there a benefit to submitting early? The only thing on our side, I'll add from connectworks is we are collecting those the earlier the better, because you know, we're all human. And if we see something and hey, there's a wrong attachment, or

272
00:49:45.000 --> 00:50:11.619
Grayson Dorr: we're able to confirm and see that, you know some folks even like to say, Hey, did you receive it? We're obviously welcome to do that. It's a little bit harder when it's right up on the deadline. But you know, we're not going through and reviewing the applications ahead of time and providing feedback. We're just really doing, checking for compliance, making sure everything was added. Really, if you would think of it for completeness. So I think that there is always a benefit to applying early

273
00:50:11.620 --> 00:50:16.054
Grayson Dorr: with that guard, and having a peace of mind that everything was received, and

274
00:50:16.940 --> 00:50:19.830
Grayson Dorr: and file correctly. So we welcome that

275
00:50:22.330 --> 00:50:30.680
Grayson Dorr: again. What we talked a little bit about cost share, kind of tied to it, or matching funds required by the applicant. What is the percent matching? If so.

276
00:50:30.900 --> 00:50:35.229
Grayson Dorr: I don't think, do we need to add anything to that, Tom? Okay, just making sure.

277
00:50:36.410 --> 00:50:45.490
Grayson Dorr: If the proposed budget is out of reach. But DOE Gdo believes there's still merit. Will you reach back out and let

278
00:50:45.550 --> 00:50:51.539
Grayson Dorr: let the respondent know what a more attractive budget slash scope would look like.

279
00:50:56.310 --> 00:51:01.909
Avi Gopstein: I think Tom was pretty clear. Is the funding opportunities clear on the maximum budget, and Tom was was

280
00:51:02.100 --> 00:51:05.039

Avi Gopstein: clear on the range of budgets.

281
00:51:06.520 --> 00:51:08.910
Avi Gopstein: I so

282
00:51:09.950 --> 00:51:19.489
Avi Gopstein: I would urge people to be cognizant of that guidance.
Right, Tom, you said that we imagine projects to be

283
00:51:19.810 --> 00:51:34.530
Avi Gopstein: anywhere falling from as small as a million dollars to as
high as 15 million dollars. We do not anticipate using the whole 30
million dollar budget on a single project. So that is the constraint, and
I would optimize your application within that constraint.

284
00:51:36.540 --> 00:51:45.389
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And and that could mean, instead of looking at a
larger region, it's, you know, focused in on a on a smaller region as an
example to.

285
00:51:47.770 --> 00:52:15.249
Grayson Dorr: Thank you. Just some questions. I can answer these around
contract vehicles again, just a reminder. These are not grants a little
bit different for those that have not gone through the Pia process. They
are contract based milestones, if you will. So all of that is negotiated
and discussed in the agreement phase. But again, it is not a grant. It's,
you know, contract based milestone based to be finalized at a later date.
So thank you for that question.

286
00:52:17.230 --> 00:52:46.999
Grayson Dorr: are there interview rounds, etc? How is a post application
process and selection planned again? Just speaking very high level, Tom,
please add to this as well, but you know, once the application closes in
the review period, those that are selected will be notified. At that
time. Our best practice is to go ahead and and supply a sample of an
agreement. So you're able to review it. And then we begin, obviously from
that phase

287
00:52:47.240 --> 00:52:57.970
Grayson Dorr: the contract discussion that is issued, obviously through
connectworks, and our team is heavily involved. Along with Gdo and and
representing the DOE for that. So

288
00:52:58.344 --> 00:53:02.329
Grayson Dorr: anything, Tom Albie, you want to add to that. But I think
it's again

289
00:53:03.110 --> 00:53:15.120
Grayson Dorr: we can. We could get into the weeds about how that process
works. But I think the focus, obviously, for today is making sure
everyone has the the information needed to gauge interest in applying for
that. But.

290
00:53:16.120 --> 00:53:20.280
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And and we're gonna do everything we can to
expedite the evaluation process.

291
00:53:20.620 --> 00:53:28.939
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: there, there are certain things that we want to
be able to to move quickly on and depending on the

292
00:53:29.210 --> 00:53:43.039
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: proposals that come in and the applications that
we review that that could drive certain aspects where we, you know. Maybe
there is an interview process, but that that is going to be dependent on
the applications that come in.

293
00:53:46.460 --> 00:53:53.510
Grayson Dorr: Thank you. Let's see, I'm doing a quick time check. We have
8 min remaining. I know we still have a lot of great questions, and so
we'll do our best to

294
00:53:54.440 --> 00:54:02.501
Grayson Dorr: to give each one if we can, and and if you we didn't
address your question, don't worry. We will follow up with you all for
those

295
00:54:03.160 --> 00:54:08.489
Grayson Dorr: that supplied your contact and didn't mark anonymous. We'll
we'll supply a response back to you. But

296
00:54:08.620 --> 00:54:23.830
Grayson Dorr: Tom, just moving through a few of these, an impact on
quantifying community benefits the 20% it mentioned scenarios of grid
resilience, implementation. What are the grid resilience scenarios that
apply to AI for Ix.

297
00:54:24.380 --> 00:54:46.130
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: You know, when, when we're we're looking at this,
as I mentioned, community benefits is kind of a standard evaluation
criteria. This is a system of systems. So it's really important to share

how you think that this can make an impact, it's going to help accelerate
some of the the projects getting into that will drive, you know, the

298
00:54:46.870 --> 00:54:58.050
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: access accessibility to transmission. And
ultimately those things are some of the key aspects where it will provide
solutions to communities

299
00:54:58.220 --> 00:54:59.410
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: as as a whole.

300
00:55:02.770 --> 00:55:12.320
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Thank you. But we're we're not prescriptive, and
there's opportunities to figure out what what that looks like depending
on what the project is, and so

301
00:55:12.360 --> 00:55:17.220
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: each project may have a different take on what
that community benefit piece looks like.

302
00:55:19.950 --> 00:55:23.050
Grayson Dorr: Okay, this is kind of a

303
00:55:23.140 --> 00:55:30.449
Grayson Dorr: initial question and a little bit of a clarification on it.
So all applications do. They have to be submitted with an involved Iso
rto

304
00:55:31.341 --> 00:55:34.360
Grayson Dorr: instead of that, could we partner with a project developer?

305
00:55:35.248 --> 00:55:39.529
Grayson Dorr: And can a vendor lead the submission? Does the Iso

306
00:55:39.570 --> 00:55:44.230
Grayson Dorr: have to lead, or does it not matter so just a little bit
around the lead on that.

307
00:55:45.890 --> 00:55:50.280
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: You know, we're we're looking to have the user
community part of the the team.

308
00:55:52.580 --> 00:55:56.130

Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And let's see applications.

309
00:55:58.870 --> 00:56:00.690
Grayson Dorr: Sorry, Tom. I moved it. It's.

310
00:56:00.690 --> 00:56:03.540
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah, okay, it's just basic.

311
00:56:03.540 --> 00:56:08.369
Grayson Dorr: Around the Iso being the lead, or can the can there be a partner?

312
00:56:08.776 --> 00:56:11.949
Grayson Dorr: Can a can a vendor lead the submission.

313
00:56:11.950 --> 00:56:12.440
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Absolutely.

314
00:56:12.440 --> 00:56:13.070
Grayson Dorr: Bye.

315
00:56:13.340 --> 00:56:36.849
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah. So so a vendor software vendor could be, you know the the lead for this with team members of a project developer and you know, utility that utility could be, you know. A large utility could be within an Rto. But we are looking for kind of that. That teaming of the user community with the solution providers.

316
00:56:38.010 --> 00:56:38.960
Grayson Dorr: Yeah, and I think that.

317
00:56:38.960 --> 00:56:40.839
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Nice, we can be a vendor. Yeah.

318
00:56:41.060 --> 00:56:44.260
Grayson Dorr: Yeah. And I think that ties to another question. Just someone asks about

319
00:56:44.350 --> 00:56:49.530
Grayson Dorr: the general expectation that the solution provider is a vendor, but not a university, so I think that's a fair

320

00:56:52.170 --> 00:57:06.370
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: And and there are some universities that have incubation. And there's, you know, businesses that start up, you know, working through universities. And in those incubators right? That are kind of putting up

321
00:57:06.490 --> 00:57:08.590
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: some of these small businesses.

322
00:57:09.180 --> 00:57:18.506
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: That would be a a really nice opportunity to to potentially lead in in this. If if the tools are ready.

323
00:57:19.380 --> 00:57:27.400
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: you know, and and they're commercially ready, it's an opportunity where you have that, you know. Startup company.

324
00:57:33.550 --> 00:57:36.041
Grayson Dorr: Let's see, just looking through.

325
00:57:38.980 --> 00:57:44.290
Grayson Dorr: I know there were some questions around. Just can you tell us what a you know? A team? I know we're not able to

326
00:57:44.630 --> 00:58:03.505
Grayson Dorr: to provide what a ideal team looks like. I mean, that's, I think, in alignment with once you study the criteria so there was another question around that the selection criteria that is available on the opportunity page you can and in the slides that Tom supply you can see that. But build the team around that. And

327
00:58:03.820 --> 00:58:16.679
Grayson Dorr: you know, factoring all of those. There's another question around just application errors. Scanning for that again, what we were referencing there from connect work sizes, we look for completeness and just making sure the submissions have been received.

328
00:58:17.081 --> 00:58:21.450
Grayson Dorr: So thank you for that question. We're not going into each one of those and

329
00:58:21.540 --> 00:58:27.099
Grayson Dorr: and making determinations of, or any, or speculating of, any of the responses. So

330
00:58:28.060 --> 00:58:35.460
Avi Gopstein: Hey, Grayson, I actually wonder if that question was more about whether there has been an analysis of the application errors for interconnection requests.

331
00:58:35.460 --> 00:58:37.499
Grayson Dorr: Oh, okay, okay, thank you. Thank you, Alvin.

332
00:58:37.500 --> 00:58:38.689
Grayson Dorr: I misread that. Thank you.

333
00:58:38.690 --> 00:58:59.179
Avi Gopstein: We. We had a an excellent workshop at Miso, with participants, a number of participants from industry. There are a range of application errors. Some of them are are from model submission errors to right. But but the the dominant

334
00:58:59.490 --> 00:59:05.350
Avi Gopstein: conformance issue or the deficiency issue that we heard from

335
00:59:05.570 --> 00:59:16.650
Avi Gopstein: project developers, utilities. Asset owners, system operators is about site control and site control is

336
00:59:17.290 --> 00:59:26.260
Avi Gopstein: complex because it deals with everything from local property law to

337
00:59:26.500 --> 00:59:46.690
Avi Gopstein: market operator, queue requirement and then also to the asset owner. Right? What is the path that you're going to take to tie into their system? And I think this leads to another set of questions that I've seen in the Q. And a. There are a lot of questions about, does it have to be AI?

338
00:59:47.675 --> 00:59:48.500
Avi Gopstein: I

339
00:59:50.040 --> 00:59:58.240
Avi Gopstein: I don't know that it has to be AI. But I will tell you that the complexity of the problem in this space.

340

00:59:58.400 --> 01:00:02.509
Avi Gopstein: where property law goes down to the local level.

341
01:00:02.900 --> 01:00:07.170
Avi Gopstein: and where we have thousands of utilities

342
01:00:07.270 --> 01:00:16.239
Avi Gopstein: and grid infrastructure asset owners and many different market operators.

343
01:00:16.740 --> 01:00:24.309
Avi Gopstein: It it is patently unclear to me that there is an approach other than AI that could be impactful

344
01:00:24.320 --> 01:00:29.579
Avi Gopstein: on a on a solution, space that complex.

345
01:00:29.600 --> 01:00:34.269
Avi Gopstein: And so I would urge folks to consider

346
01:00:34.610 --> 01:00:40.330
Avi Gopstein: how, if if that this is structured in a way to try and address

347
01:00:41.236 --> 01:00:57.370
Avi Gopstein: the the 90% deficiency rate that we've seen and learned about from the interconnection queue from from those who are running the interconnection queues. And their statement that site control is such a big challenge.

348
01:00:57.370 --> 01:01:22.269
Avi Gopstein: And when we look at the complexity of that space nationwide where property law goes down to the local community and all the different asset owners. I think it has to be an AI based solution to scale appropriately. If you have an alternate solution that is not AI based, you are welcome to submit an application. If you have the impact that we're looking for, we will certainly consider it. I just don't know how that's feasible.

349
01:01:24.960 --> 01:01:46.640
Grayson Dorr: Thank you, Avi, and again, I'm doing a time check. I know we're out of time for today. We have a lot of great questions still outstanding. So thank you all for that. I wish we had another 20 min, 30 min to continue discussion, but we will follow up with each of you. I

think there is one that just hung out. If someone can comment. I'm not
familiar

350
01:01:46.780 --> 01:01:57.920
Grayson Dorr: regarding DOE funding. I know we we asked for that if
they've had it in the last couple years. Does the American made prizes
count? I don't know. I'm not familiar with that

351
01:01:58.590 --> 01:02:04.289
Grayson Dorr: a type. But again, it's the intent there is. Just if you
receive DOE funding, there's no that has no

352
01:02:04.350 --> 01:02:16.550
Grayson Dorr: wait on the application. We're just trying to capture that
to better understand. From each of those that are applying. Have you
worked with the DOE before in the past? But I don't know if anybody has
any familiarity with American made prizes or

353
01:02:18.200 --> 01:02:23.759
Grayson Dorr: But I would just say, just just answer to the best of your
knowledge again, there's there's no waiting on that. We're just trying to
collect

354
01:02:23.830 --> 01:02:27.871
Grayson Dorr: meaningful data with that and back into it. So

355
01:02:28.490 --> 01:02:40.860
Grayson Dorr: again on behalf of connectworks. Thank you all for joining
us. You see, we put the timeline in front of you. I think you know, as a
next step, logically. it'd be great for many of you to join us back on
December 17.th

356
01:02:40.870 --> 01:03:01.970
Grayson Dorr: We'll have office hours again. That'll be very informal.
That'll be a meeting, and then again looks like we will plan on hosting
again back on January 6.th I know that is close to the deadline, but we
wanted to give folks another opportunity to come in and ask questions
right before. So we are hosting 2 office hours, that second one. Our
target will just be a 30 min session

357
01:03:01.970 --> 01:03:12.639
Grayson Dorr: for that to answer any final questions you may have. So
please plan to join us for either one of those or both, and with that,
Tom, I'll turn it. Turn it over to you to wrap us up.

358

01:03:13.890 --> 01:03:31.360
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: Yeah, well, thank you, Grayson. Appreciate your your efforts through this. Eric. Thank you so much from Ott. Helping to facilitate this whole thing. We are really looking forward to seeing your ideas and you know

359
01:03:31.530 --> 01:03:41.600
Thomas (Tom) J King Jr: opportunities for further conversations through through these office hours. So good luck to you all. Thank you all very much, and you all take care.

360
01:03:43.400 --> 01:03:44.310
Grayson Dorr: Thank you all.