

R021-B: Distributed Geothermal Power
Submitted by UND
Principal Investigator: Michael Mann
Request for \$100,230; Total Project Costs \$200,835

Technical Advisor Comments

- Two reviewers recommended fund, one recommended funding may be considered.
- The 50% match comes from industry (\$10,000 in-kind), UND (\$10,000 cash), & DOE (\$80,605).
- All reviewers felt the project was achievable.
- All 3 reviewers were comfortable with the methodology for installation. However, 2 reviewers would have liked more information about the usage – whether it’s intended for the grid or will be used onsite, and how that would take shape.
- 1 reviewer commented, “The NDIC name associated with this project will bring positive press and awareness to your organization worldwide...”
- 1 reviewer would have liked to see more details on how the project results would be disseminated and who the targeted audience would be.
- All 3 reviewers felt the background of the investigators was sufficient.
- 1 reviewer would have liked a more detailed explanation of the installation process and requirements.
- 1 reviewer commented that “...the team might want to consider bringing on an additional resource (perhaps even just as an advisor) to begin thinking through business model possibilities.”
 - The applicant has indicated that Access Energy has invested approximately \$1 million into this project with the goal of developing and demonstrating a product that generate significant sales. They will be an aggressive marketer of the technology and provide a big commercialization push.”
 - Access Energy is based out of California.
- 1 reviewer commented, “This project will make a significant contribution to the research community, the oil & gas industries ability to understand how to reduce their impact on the land, and the state of ND as the leader in the development of geothermal energy within an oil & gas field.”
- 1 reviewer commented, “...The project does not address the complex policy issues that surround the regulated electrical industry. Federal policies, state policies, regional suppliers...all have the potential to have significant impacts on the economic viability of this type of project, yet they are barely mentioned in the proposal...”
 - The applicant has responded that many of these issues were addressed in the first phase of the study.

Technical Advisor Recommendations

Fund. The proposal offers an excellent opportunity to explore synergies between renewables and oil & gas and establish a geothermal industry in the state. There is a great need for additional energy in the western half of the state. This could help meet that need while reducing our carbon footprint which may align well in meeting new EPA regulations.

Additionally, private entities are already involved in the project, providing a great demonstration of public/private partnership and enhancing opportunities for commercialization.

Suggested Contingencies If Funded

- None.