

## DOE Energy Frontier Research Centers

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC) Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) will foster and accelerate basic research to provide the basis for transformative energy technologies of the future (RE: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/EFRC.html>). They will bring together the skills and talents of a critical mass of investigators to enable energy relevant, basic research of a scope and complexity that would not be possible with standard single-investigator or small-group awards.

All EFRC awards will be selected from the pool of approximately 260 applications received in response to the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by DOE on April 4, 2008, which closed on October 1, 2008. Selection of awards will be based on a merit review process, which is described in the FOA. Each EFRC award will be funded at \$2–5 million per year for an initial five-year award period. The total number of EFRC awards that will be announced in April 2009 is pending the final outcome of the review and selection process. The funding for the EFRC awards will come from two FY 2009 appropriation sources:

- The *Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009* provides up to \$100 million to establish a suite of EFRCs. Future DOE budget requests will include funding levels necessary to maintain these EFRCs at this level of support for the full five-year award period.
- The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (Recovery Act) provides \$277 million to establish additional EFRCs. The one-time Recovery Act augmentation will be used to forward-fund these additional EFRCs for the full five-year award period.

The EFRC program provides tremendous opportunities for universities, DOE laboratories, for-profit companies, and non-profit entities to engage in fundamental basic research critical to future energy technologies, and to inspire, train, and support leading scientists of the future who will ultimately be called upon to solve the nation's energy challenges of the 21st century. The science that will be conducted by the EFRCs is identified by the series of SC Basic Research Needs workshops (<http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/list.html>), and underpins the full gamut of energy technologies emphasized in the President's energy goals in Transportation, Biofuels, Grid, Efficiency, Renewables, Clean Coal and CCS, and Nuclear Energy.

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