



New \$10 Million RFP launched by Mexico's Energy Sustainability Fund to support collaborative energy efficiency research between Mexico and the University of California

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's Mexico Energy Initiative (MEI) is pleased to share that Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Pedro Joaquín Coldwell, unveiled a new request for proposals (RFP) that will award up to 200 million pesos (\$10 million dollars) to fund joint energy efficiency research and demonstration projects in Mexico. UC President Janet Napolitano joined Secretary Joaquin to make the announcement at a ceremony held in Mexico City on March 30th. Also present were Leonardo Beltrán, Deputy Secretary of Energy; Víctor Carreón, Deputy Director of CONACYT and Dr. Hermann Tribukait, representing the CONACYT-SENER Energy Sustainability Fund (FSE).

The RFP, entitled "Collaboration Projects in Energy Efficiency; Cooperation with the University of California," builds on the MOU signed between Mexico's Energy Secretariat (SENER) and UC in October 2014 at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. Funded by the CONACYT-SENER Energy Sustainability Fund, the RFP is designed to foster collaborative, high-impact clean energy research between Mexican institutions and the University of California, including Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

The range of project areas to be considered for award by the RFP include diagnosis of public policies; demonstration projects of equipment and new systems to increase energy efficiency, including microgrids; energy efficiency technologies in retrofits of buildings; measures for saving energy in urban services; and creation of mechanisms for the exchange of information to support energy efficiency projects in Mexico. In order to be eligible for funding, projects must include both a Mexican institution as the lead, and a UC researcher as a partner.

To establish successful research collaborations and move the initiative forward, MEI organized a workshop on Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Cities with support from SENER/FSE and the UC Mexico Initiative's Energy Working Group. The workshop was held at UC's Casa de la Universidad de California in Mexico City in November 2016. The workshop included the participation of researchers from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine,

LBNL and colleagues from UNAM (School of Engineering); UNAM (Institute for Renewable Energy); Tec de Monterrey (Monterrey and Jalisco campuses); Tecnológico Nacional de México; the National Institute for Electricity and Clean Energy (INEEL); the National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy (CONUEE); the Mario Molina Center; the Technological Institute for Construction (ITC); World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Association for Normalizations and Certifications (ANCE), in addition to presentations by Andrew McAllister, Commissioner at the California Energy Commission and David Phillips, Associate Vice President for Energy and Sustainability at UC Office of the President.

During the announcement ceremony, President Napolitano recognized SENER's leadership in advancing collaborative research between UC and Mexico. For his part, Secretary Joaquín emphasized the value of the partnership with the UC system, one of the leading academic institutions that has established a close and active cooperation with Mexico, stating, "The work we do with the University of California is a great contribution in the fight against the climate change impacts that threaten our planet." Both leaders recognized the role of LBNL in strengthening UC-Mexico collaboration.

At part of the Lecture Series "The Future of Energy" for SENER and FSE, President Napolitano delivered a keynote address entitled "The Energy Transition: Cross-Border Collaboration Is Fundamental." In her speech, President Napolitano stated, "I have no doubt that the efforts of and collaborations between UC researchers and their colleagues in Mexico will generate substantial benefits for Mexicans, Californians, and our two nations and the world overall."



Leonardo Beltran, Deputy Energy Secretary for Energy Transition and Planning; Pedro Joaquin, Secretary of Energy; Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California and Victor Gerardo Carreon, Associate Director for Planning and Evaluation, National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT)