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August 15, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

Navigant is working with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop an ENERGY STAR test procedure for residential climate controls. The test procedure addresses the usability of climate controls assuming that usability is an indirect measure of energy savings potential (i.e., a climate control device that is easy to program has a greater likelihood of being programmed and will ultimately save energy). In addition, EPA will propose allowing units to qualify via usability testing of alternative interfaces, such as a website or a mobile device app, in the next draft of the climate controls specification. We will be sending out a memo in the near future with more information on how alternative interfaces would be treated, and welcome your feedback.

Based on research conducted at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL), a draft test procedure for climate control usability was developed and published on the ENERGY STAR website (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_specs.climate_controls) on March 31, 2010 for stakeholder review and comment. We recently completed a round of testing, which resulted in an update to the usability test procedure.

Thank you to those of you who submitted proposals for the Request for Proposal (RFP) that we sent out in January. We received a lot of interesting responses and are hoping that you'll participate in this second round of testing. DOE and EPA are interested in conducting further validation testing of this proposed test approach, which includes determining if the tasks and approach are clear and repeatable.

Please find attached an RFP describing residential climate control (programmable thermostat) usability testing. Navigant is soliciting responses from testing laboratories indicating their desire and ability to perform the tasks described in the RFP to aid in development of the ENERGY STAR test procedure and eventual climate controls specification. Three test labs will be chosen to perform independent testing. The response to the RFP shall include:

- 1) A test protocol describing the approach for recruiting the user group and administering the test;
- 2) Cost proposal for testing 4 potential scenarios as described in the RFP; and
- 3) Cost proposal for data evaluation and recommendations, as outlined in the attached RFP.

To comply with Federal regulations, the labs administering the usability testing will need to comply with the Central Department of Energy Institutional Review Board (CDOEIRB) regulations. Navigant will work with the labs to complete any necessary paperwork to be submitted to the CDOEIRB. For more information on the CDOEIRB approval process, please see:

1. [CDOEIRB Standard Operating Procedure](#)
2. [10 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 745, Protection of Human Subjects](#)

If you have questions, please contact Heather Keil at Navigant. If you are interested in responding to the attached RFP, please submit proposals no later than Monday, August 29th at 12:00 noon (EDT) to heather.keil@navigant.com. A hard copy submission is not necessary.

Sincerely,

Heather Keil

Attachments