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January 31, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

Navigant is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 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). 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](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_specs.climate_controls)) for stakeholder review and comment. EPA and DOE are interested in validating this proposed test approach, which includes determining the minimum user group sample size and evaluating if the tasks and approach are clear and repeatable.

Please find attached a Request for Proposal (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. The response shall include:

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

To comply with Federal regulations, the lab administering the usability testing will need to receive approval from the Central Department of Energy Institutional Review Board (CDOEIRB). Navigant will work with the lab to complete the necessary paperwork and submit all requirements 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, February 14<sup>th</sup> to [heather.keil@navigantconsulting.com](mailto:heather.keil@navigantconsulting.com). A hard copy submission is not necessary.

Sincerely,

Heather Keil

Attachments