RFP for an Energy Modeling Director
June 17, 2018
Proposals are due on August 15, 2018

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) is accepting proposals from energy modeling experts to work with RESNET staff as a consulting authority on issues concerning the consistency of RESNET accredited HERS® Rating Software Tools.

Background of RESNET

The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) was founded in 1995 as an independent, non-profit organization to help homeowners reduce the cost of their utility bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

RESNET sets the national standards for rating the energy performance of homes and has created the HERS Index. The RESNET HERS Index is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. The HERS or Home Energy Rating System was developed by RESNET and is the nationally recognized system for inspecting and calculating a home's energy performance. Certified RESNET Home Energy Raters conduct inspections to verify a home's energy performance and determine what improvements can be made to increase it.

The data points collected by HERS Raters are then entered into a RESNET accredited software tool to calculate the HERS Index.

Software tools must pass a suite of tests to be accredited by RESNET. The currently approved versions of these software tools are listed on the RESNET website under Accredited HERS Software Tools.
http://www.resnet.us/professional/programs/energy_rating_software

HERS Rating Software Tools must comply with the provisions of the RESNET/ICC ANSI Standard 301-2014 - Standard for the Calculation and Labeling of the Energy Performance of Low-rise Residential Buildings using an Energy Rating Index -
https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/document/details/toc/843

To date over 1,900 certified RESNET Home Energy Raters have rated over 2 million homes in the U.S.

For more information on RESNET go to www.resnet.us.

Roles and Responsibilities

RESNET will be forming a Software Consistency Committee whose members will include representatives of all RESNET accredited HERS Software Providers and other independent subject matter experts.

The RESNET Energy Modeling Director will act as the arbitrator of the Software Consistency Committee (SCC), making technical decisions about modeling tests, requirements, and guidelines with the support of other members of the committee. The position will also be the liaison between the SCC and RESNET staff.

Proposals will be accepted from individuals or a team of individuals.

Other responsibilities would include:
- Respond to software modeling consistency inquiries from RESNET membership:
  - Investigate instances of software modeling tools calculating different results with similar inputs.
  - Research and identify what major drivers are causing the inconsistency by using the relevant software tools and leveraging the Software Consistency Committee.
  - Propose resolutions that will enhance consistency between software tools.
- Generate and update modeling guidelines to improve consistency of modeling techniques between software tools.
- Propose RESNET Standards updates to enhance software consistency.
- Enhance and expand RESNET test suites to enforce software consistency.
- Assist in development of Scope of Work for a single source modeling engine.

It is estimated that the work would involve between 20 to 80 hours a month.

The contract will be for two years with an annual option to renew.

Requirements for a successful Candidate

- Significant experience with developing and testing (not just using) energy modeling software.
- Deep and up-to-date knowledge of methodologies and best practices for modeling residential energy use.
- Access to other energy modeling industry expertise.
- Ability to evaluate accuracy of various energy modeling techniques.
- Adeptness at using advanced capabilities of energy modeling software to diagnose unexpected results.
- Ability to communicate technical concepts clearly, and to understand RESNET business constraints when developing consistency resolution proposals.

Information to be Contained in Response to RFP

The proposal shall contain the following information:

- Documentation of the ability to meet the above requirements

- Listing and bios of key staff to be involved in project

- Proposed hourly rate to be charged

Summiting Proposals

Proposals shall be submitted electronically to Kathy Spigarelli, RESNET Deputy Director at kspig@resnet.us

An employee, agent, or significant shareholder of an accredited HERS Rating Software Developer may not submit a proposal for this project.

Proposals shall be submitted by August 15, 2018.

Proposal Evaluation

RESNET will evaluate proposals on a qualitative basis.

At its discretion, RESNET may decide to not issue a contract for the services called for in the RFP.