# e⁻Lab Accelerator 2018

## A BOOTCAMP FOR ELECTRICITY INNOVATION

MAY 1—4, 2018 AT SUNDANCE MOUNTAIN RESORT IN UTAH

On May 1st, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) will convene leading teams throughout North America for e⁻Lab Accelerator: A Bootcamp for Electricity Innovation. e⁻Lab Accelerator is an invitation-only four-day facilitated meeting bringing together teams throughout North America that are working on high-impact and innovative projects at the electricity system's distribution edge.

Teams attending e⁻Lab Accelerator should expect a working session, not a conference. e⁻Lab Accelerator helps unlock opportunities to drive projects forward more effectively and collaboratively. Trained facilitators and technical experts provide cutting-edge processes, customized content, training, and tailored feedback for each team's unique project.

On hand to support teams during Accelerator are e⁻Lab Faculty with national expertise relevant to the types of projects we are seeking, and staff from RMI and Reos Partners. The focus of all activities will be to support and propel initiatives towards meaningful action. Towards this end, teams will find:

- A structured working session to make real progress on their project or initiative
- A safe space to test ideas
- Tools and training to conceptualize problems in collaborative and innovative ways
- Coaching and insights from e⁻Lab Faculty
- A rich learning experience featuring experts on the latest thinking around DERs in the U.S. electricity sector
- Opportunities to build new alliances and a broader support network with other teams working on similar projects

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

RMI is seeking applications from high-impact, innovative projects, from which RMI will select teams to achieve a balance of project types and participants that are poised to make change in the electricity system. Accelerator teams comprise 5–7 people representing critical project stakeholders and partners. The project or opportunity that a team is working on must be actively under development, although it may range from an idea that is just being developed to a project that is well underway. Eligible projects include:

- **Distributed Grid Infrastructure**: initiatives deploying least-cost portfolios of DERs and utility scale renewables that can complement, defer, or avoid traditional infrastructure investments (e.g., T&D assets, generators). *Examples: deferring installation of a gas peaker plant through a competitive procurement of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or battery storage; utility or regulatory efforts to identify integrated resource planning (IRP) best practices to accommodate services and value streams of DERs; efforts related to virtual power plants.*
- **Business Models and Rate Design**: projects advancing the implementation of new business models and pricing mechanisms that accelerate the transformation to a low-carbon energy system and enable cost-effective customer adoption of DERs. *Examples: rate design; compensation mechanisms (e.g. net metering reform, value of DER pricing); alternative revenue opportunities (e.g., electrification, platform fees); customer engagement programs focused on capturing value streams from DERs (e.g. integrated DERs, energy efficiency, electric vehicles); new utility programs and initiatives.*
- **Low and Moderate Income Community Engagement**: projects creating solutions that empower and improve the lives of low-income households and communities through integrated DER solutions. *Examples: utility partnerships with low-income communities to create new DER projects or mutually beneficial business models; new business models that enable partial and/or shared community control and ownership of DERs; new financing solutions for low-income customers.*

- • **DER Adoption Acceleration**: other projects to accelerate the adoption of cost-competitive DERs. *Examples: community-scale DER solutions; microgrid programs; planning or innovation districts; resilient infrastructure pricing and planning; wholesale market reform; 100% renewable energy commitments and action plans; transactive energy and new market platforms (e.g., blockchain).*

**Completed applications are due to RMI by January 19, 2018. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis; early submission is highly encouraged. All project selections will be made by the end of February 2018.**

## TEAM APPLICATION

To be considered for an invitation to attend e⁻Lab Accelerator, please answer the following brief questions. RMI will review applications and follow up with teams to discuss applications further.

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| **Project Title** (or Working Title): |
| **Project Type** (e.g., Distributed Grid Infrastructure): |
| **Project Description** (150 words or less): |

**Why does your project need e⁻Lab Accelerator?** (Provide examples of barriers facing your project that your team might work to address at Accelerator):

**Project Champion** (The project champion is the primary point of contact and can help recruit project stakeholders, share information with the team, and coordinate preparation activities. Please provide relevant contact information):

**Proposed Multi-Stakeholder Team** (7 people or less. This list can constitute a preliminary assessment of the "project stakeholders" and will not necessarily dictate the team that attends Accelerator. RMI staff can work with teams to design the most impactful teams for project acceleration; however, applicants are ultimately responsible for their team composition and are highly encouraged to apply with as complete a team as possible. Please note if the people listed have already committed to support or participate (e.g. Joe Smith – Committed, Ann Brown – Invited).

Note that eLab prioritizes teams that are multi-stakeholder in nature, rather than a project team comprised of participants from a single organization. eLab also seeks out teams that reflect the diversity of the customers and communities they seek to serve.

| Name | Organization | Title | Attendance Status | Team/Project Role |
|------|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
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Other notes:

**What additional stakeholders or expertise are critical to project success?** (For example, is utility support or approval needed for project completion? Does the project need additional local leadership or financial expertise?):

**Describe what progress your team has made on your project to date. What activity or milestones are planned for the next year?** (150 words or less):

**What additional project resources would you like RMI to consider with this application?** For example, please provide links or attachments to related studies, press releases, or web pages that provide further project detail.

**Please note how you heard about Accelerator** (Examples include Twitter, LinkedIn, a specific person, etc.)

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Please submit completed application forms to Margaret McCall at mmccall@rmi.org by January 19, 2018.