AN ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS PUBLICATION

PEOPLE & POSSIBILITIES

The Arkus Signal

RFPS AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS WORTH PURSUING

CONTRACTS EDITION

26 OCTOBER 2026

ISSUE 06 / PRINT EDITION

CONTRACTS & PAID PROJECT WORK

The lesson needs a place to live.

Energy Trust has $300,000 for two years of running an online training platform and designing accessible courses. Platform licenses are paid separately. The intent date has passed; check whether you can still bid.



Colleagues prepare an online lesson.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A useful training course has work to do after someone presses play. Learners need an account, a clear path through the material and a record of what they completed. Energy Trust wants a team to keep that experience working while turning its existing knowledge into approximately twenty accessible training modules.

Inside: eight contracts stories, with checked official notices, useful repeat coverage and clear first steps. New features and newly issued calls are identified separately.

PARTNERSHIP DESK / ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS

Pursue it with Arkus.

Have a call in mind? Let’s talk about the team it needs.

Arkus leads as prime
We lead the bid and coordinate the team. ↗

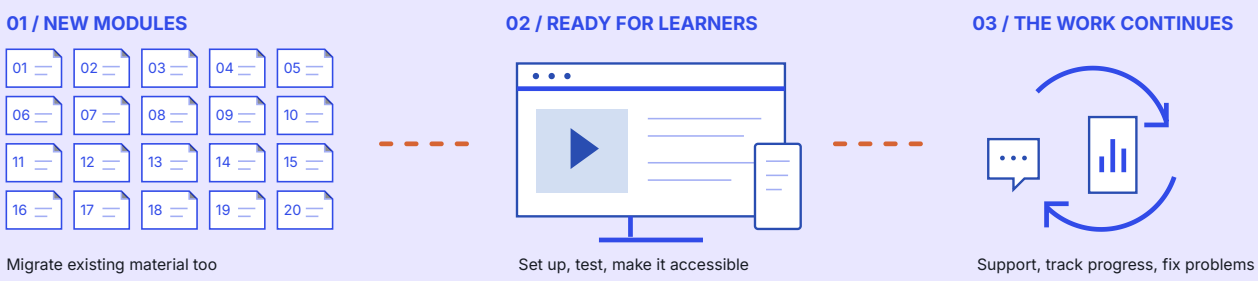
Arkus joins your team
Bring us in for part of the work as a subcontractor. ↗

First, we check whether the call allows that arrangement.

Email Nadia ↗

AFTER THE LAUNCH

A course still needs people.



PLAN WORK
Energy Trust expects about twenty new modules, alongside migration of existing material. Accessible courseware is part of the work.

RUN IT
The services budget covers the initial two-year term. Licensing is separately funded, so bidders should not propose a new platform or hosting package.

HELP USERS
The September 29 intent date has passed. Confirm the effect with the buyer before relying on the October 30 proposal deadline.

An editorial explanation of the work and entry condition. The official request and current answers control.

Read the story ↗

CLOSING SOON · UPDATED DETAILS / REMOTE; PACIFIC HOURS; NORTH AMERICA DATA

1 min read · Early gate passed

The lesson needs a place to live.

Energy Trust has $300,000 for two years of running an online training platform and designing accessible courses. Platform licenses are paid separately. The intent date has passed; check whether you can still bid.

Energy Trust of Oregon · LMS Administration and Instructional Design Project RFP



Colleagues prepare an online lesson.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A useful training course has work to do after someone presses play. Learners need an account, a clear path through the material and a record of what they completed. Energy Trust wants a team to keep that experience working while turning its existing knowledge into approximately twenty accessible training modules.

The $300,000 ceiling covers running the platform and designing courses from January 2027 through December 2028. It is the total for those two years, not an annual allowance. Current answers say Energy Trust will select the learning platform and pay licensing separately; bidders should not propose a platform or hosting package. Existing courses also need to move to the platform, including about fifteen already compatible modules.

Proposals close October 30 at 5 p.m. Pacific daylight time. The September 29 intent date has passed, and its consequence for a late entrant remains unresolved. Read the new answers before using the online form: remote work is allowed, but working hours and data-location rules still matter.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to $300,000

Not-to-exceed services budget for January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028 combined. Platform licensing is funded separately. Optional extension years have separate budgets.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

29 SEP

29 September 2026 · cutoff time unconfirmed

Early gate passed

Before you start Instructional design and learning-system administration firms or teams. Remote work is allowed during Energy Trust Pacific working hours; personnel outside North America require prior written approval. No SAM/UEI required. No fixed diverse-firm subcontract share; team details and resumes required.

Official call & application details ↗ View the application form ↗ Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

CLOSING SOON · UPDATED DETAILS / PORTLAND METRO PILOT

1 min read · Early gate passed

Good advice needs a second look.

Energy Trust’s roughly $115,000 evaluation asks what helps households choose heating equipment. New answers clarify the people and the pace.

Energy Trust of Oregon · Residential HVAC Advocate Pilot Evaluation RFP



People discuss home heating.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Replacing a heating system means comparing equipment, prices and advice that may arrive from several directions. Energy Trust’s HVAC Advocate pilot gives Portland-area households a guide through those choices. The evaluator’s job is to find out which help people actually use and what should change before the offer grows.

Answers published October 16 put useful boundaries around the study. Three advocates will support customers in English, with one advocate following each household. Anyone who receives guidance counts as a participant, even without a home visit. The buyer wants detailed feedback rather than statistical comparisons from a small pilot. It will share tracking data monthly and may adjust the schedule if recruitment is slow.

The anticipated project budget is about $115,000, with justified higher proposals considered. Final proposals are due October 30 at 5 p.m. Pacific. The required October 13 intent date has passed; the buyer has not resolved whether missing it closes entry. Read that condition before investing in a response.

THE OPPORTUNITY

About $115,000

Anticipated scope budget with time-and-materials pricing and a negotiated ceiling. A higher justified budget may be considered with alternatives; not a guaranteed fixed award.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

13 OCT

13 October 2026 · cutoff time unconfirmed

Early gate passed

Before you start Qualitative evaluation teams with a similar past report, suitable staffing and data safeguards. Required insurance information includes workers’ compensation, general and auto liability; cyber coverage may also be required. Certification is not an entry condition.

Official call & application details ↗ Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / WORK THROUGHOUT OREGON

1 min read · Deadline in 11 days (as of 26 Oct)

Keep the lights on, together.

Energy Trust combines two Oregon planning routes, with about $1.6 million for the work in both. The money may be divided among contractors.

Energy Trust of Oregon · Community Energy Resilience Planning, Capacity Building and Project Development Support RFQ



Neighbors review an area map.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

When a power outage closes a community building, the problem is larger than a dark room. Cooling, communications and essential services may depend on that site. Energy Trust wants contractors to help Oregon communities decide which facilities matter most and prepare practical energy-resilience projects around them.

The request combines two funding routes. Approximately $1.1 million supports community resilience work backed by FEMA; up to $500,000 supports a separate program over as much as two years. These are budgets for the programs, not a promise to one firm. The buyer may divide work by region, task or funding route. Contractors must keep each route's spending and reporting separate.

Applicants need demonstrated Oregon community work and timely on-the-ground support, including travel. The published answers say a team may propose one funding program or region, but must be able to provide all the services required for that choice. The work includes planning and community support, not technical feasibility studies. Cost proposals count toward the eight-page limit. Proposals close November 6 at 5 p.m. Pacific.

THE OPPORTUNITY

About $1.6 million

Approximately $1.1 million for CERG plus up to $500,000 for CuSP. Work may be divided among contractors; no individual award is promised.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

06 NOV

6 November 2026 · 5 p.m. PT

Deadline in 11 days (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Demonstrated Oregon community-planning or related assistance experience, coordination skills and resilience experience. Contractors and subcontractors must provide timely on-the-ground Oregon support and travel as needed.

Official information ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / ENERGY TRUST SERVICE AREA; PROJECT SCOPE VARIES

1 min read · Deadline in 66 days (as of 26 Oct)

A smaller study can ask a large question.

Energy Trust's research pool accepts qualifications through December 31. Later projects are generally below $100,000, with no work guaranteed.

Energy Trust of Oregon · Planning, Evaluation and Research Tasks Qualifications Pool



Consultants review research documents.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

An interview, an energy model and a billing study answer different questions. Energy Trust's research pool lets specialists offer the part they do well. Consultants may seek consideration in one or more of four work areas.

Those areas cover interviews and other research, numerical analysis, engineering studies and resource planning. The pool is intended for projects below $100,000 each; larger assignments normally have separate competitions. Admission offers eligibility for later work, rather than payment or promised assignments. Individual contracts are expected to last no more than two years.

Qualifications are accepted through December 31 at 5 p.m. Pacific standard time. Send examples, three references, staff details and rates, diversity responses, conflict disclosure and a signed cover. Complete submissions should receive an acceptance decision within thirty days. Software and information-technology vendors are outside this request.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Usually below $100k

Typical smaller projects are below $100,000 each. Pool admission pays nothing and guarantees no assignment; later work requires a contract.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

31 DEC

31 December 2026 · 5 p.m. PT

Deadline in 66 days (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Consultants in one or more research, engineering or resource-planning areas. Relevant examples, three references, staff resumes and rates, diversity responses, conflict disclosure and signed cover are required. Software vendors are excluded.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

ROLLING / ENERGY TRUST SERVICE TERRITORIES

1 min read · No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

The project has people in it.

Energy Trust's photography pool seeks portraits, events and project images. Its $100,000 annual figure is a shared budget.

Energy Trust of Oregon · Design Professionals Pool: Photographers RFQ



A photographer works in a home.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A photograph of an energy project can show a machine. A useful photograph also shows why someone chose it, where it works and who lives with the result. Energy Trust is seeking photographers who can make that connection across homes, businesses, events and community settings.

The pool covers planned and candid event pictures, environmental portraits, staff images and project storytelling. Photographers edit their work and provide high-resolution files suited to print and digital use, with clear licensing and organized handoff. Energy Trust owns the assets created. Its stated annual budget for the described scope is up to $100,000 across the pool, with assignments and payments not guaranteed.

The current application is accepting qualifications. Prepare a cover letter, daily and hourly rates, an online portfolio or three to five samples, and a conflict disclosure. Relevant energy, nonprofit or public-sector work is preferred. Certified small and diverse businesses are encouraged; certification is not stated as an entry requirement. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, so choose your own preparation date.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to $100k / year

Stated total annual budget across the described scope/pool. No individual award or assignment is guaranteed. Do not add it to the design pool's matching figure as a verified combined budget.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PICK A DATE

Ongoing qualifications intake; no fixed closing date stated.

No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Professional photography experience, an original and diverse portfolio, suitable production tools, collaboration skills and a record of reliable delivery. Energy, nonprofit or public-sector experience is preferred; certified small/diverse businesses are encouraged, not stated as required.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

ROLLING / ENERGY TRUST SERVICE TERRITORIES

1 min read · No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

Make the useful thing easier to see.

Energy Trust's creative pool covers graphics, illustration and animation. The stated $100,000 annual total is shared, with no individual award promised.

Energy Trust of Oregon · Design Professionals Pool: Creative Services RFQ



A designer reviews visual layouts.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A clear diagram can save a reader from three paragraphs of avoidable confusion. So can a well-made form, a useful presentation template or a brochure whose next step is easy to find. Energy Trust's creative pool seeks designers, illustrators and animators for that everyday communication work.

Assignments can include brand materials, explanatory graphics, print materials, digital campaigns and reusable PowerPoint templates. The buyer expects collaboration, revisions and working files with clear rights. It owns the finished assets. The stated annual total for the work is up to $100,000, shared across work rather than offered to each designer. Its relationship to the photography pool's matching figure is unstated; adding the two would invent a budget.

The linked application currently accepts a cover letter, rates and a portfolio or three to five samples, plus conflict and certification information. Relevant energy, nonprofit and public-sector experience is preferred. There is no fixed closing date. Show original work and dependable delivery, then choose a realistic date to prepare your qualifications.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to $100k / year

Stated annual total for the described creative scope/pool, not an individual award or guaranteed assignment. Relationship to the photography scope's identical figure is unstated.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PICK A DATE

Ongoing qualifications intake; no fixed closing date stated.

No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Professional graphic-design, branding or visual-communications experience; original portfolio; suitable design tools; collaboration and reliable delivery. Relevant energy/nonprofit/public-sector work is preferred. Certification is encouraged, not an entry requirement.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

ROLLING / US FEDERAL CONTRACTING

1 min read · No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

The federal door stays open.

GSA continues accepting OASIS+ offers across thirteen service categories. Admission is the first step in qualifying, followed by separate competition for work.

U.S. General Services Administration · OASIS+ Phase II Continuously Open Solicitations



A professional-services team prepares a qualifications portfolio in a civic meeting room.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

GSA accepts applications on an ongoing basis, but firms still need to show they can do the work. GSA's OASIS+ program accepts offers across thirteen professional-service categories. For an experienced supplier, the useful question is which category matches documented projects, rather than how many boxes can be selected.

The program has six contract families, including unrestricted, small-business and several routes for certified businesses. GSA recommends checking the relevant qualification scorecard before submitting through Symphony. Project evidence, value tests and category scores matter. A business claiming a route for a certified business must check that route's requirements; an ordinary small-business declaration is not a substitute for every certification.

GSA says all six solicitations remain open until further notice, and admission does not promise orders. The Small Business notice on SAM.gov displays January 11, 2027 at 4 p.m. Eastern as an offer date, although its text says applications are continuously open. Check the current notice and amendments for the route you choose before preparing an offer.

THE OPPORTUNITY

No individual award stated

Standing federal contracting vehicle, with no individual project amount stated here. Admission is separate from competition for orders and guarantees no revenue.

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

PICK A DATE

GSA: open; SAM.gov shows 11 January 2027

No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Suppliers must meet their chosen contract family's current solicitation and domain qualification matrix. Certification-specific routes have SBA status requirements. Complete current SAM.gov amendments were not readable in this check.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

ROLLING · FULL TERMS UNVERIFIED / ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

1 min read · No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

A congregation's land can hold a larger plan.

Enterprise is building a Southeast consultant list for future faith-based development work. Qualifications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Enterprise Community Partners · Faith-Based Development Initiative RFQ in the Southeast



A community leader, housing adviser and local resident discuss a site model in a community hall.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Land and buildings need a workable plan before they can support a community's development goals. Enterprise is qualifying firms and consultants for its Faith-Based Development Initiative and related Southeast partner programs, adding successful applicants to a roster for future work.

The scope covers Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. No fee range, project budget or assignment guarantee is published. Applicants should receive their qualification status within twenty business days of submission; that is a review period, not a deadline.

This August 4 call is an older discovery, not a newly issued call. Applications go through SlideRoom. Detailed requirements were unread, and the public page links grant terms despite describing a contractor roster. Confirm the requested experience and applicable terms before responding. Intake is rolling; choose your own reminder date.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Budget not published

Roster admission for future consulting opportunities. The public notice publishes no fee range or project budget and promises no assignment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PICK A DATE

Rolling qualifications intake; choose a preparation reminder date

No fixed deadline (as of 26 Oct)

Before you start Firms and consultants supporting Southeast real-estate development and community partner programs. Detailed SlideRoom qualifications and required materials remain unverified; confirm the applicable terms before preparing a response.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

Source check dates vary by story. Use the complete official notices to check the first step, eligibility and current terms before deciding to apply or bid.

The sentence that changes the plan

The condition that decides a project often lives beyond the announcement.

An opportunity can look unchanged while becoming a different proposition. The headline remains, the closing date holds, and one sentence in the detailed guide changes who may apply or how much they may request. For a small team, that sentence can matter more than the announcement. It deserves to travel with the story.

This week, the useful reading often happened beyond the first page. A program description introduces the ambition. An application guide defines the conditions. A frequently asked question may clarify an exception, or introduce a disagreement that the headline cannot resolve. Reading across those documents is ordinary preparation, even when the documents would rather be read separately.

The same care applies to partnerships. A government body may be an essential collaborator without being allowed to lead. A nonprofit may qualify in principle and still need a particular budget, operating history or service area. The people around the table can be right while the applicant named on the form is wrong.

A prominent funding figure needs its surrounding sentence too. A maximum request may also depend on the applicant's own budget. A program pool may support several grants. A consultant roster may offer a way to compete for future work without promising a contract. None of those distinctions makes the opportunity smaller; each makes it possible to understand.

The practical habit is to keep the promise and its condition together. Save the official guide, note when it was checked, and revisit the parts that determine the decision before committing to an application. When two official pages disagree, preserve the disagreement and ask the issuer. A tidy summary should reduce the reading burden without quietly removing the sentence that changes the plan.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Find sources

Keep terms with dates.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Set roles

Keep terms with dates.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Read terms

Keep terms with dates.

Based on current official notices: Read the issuer's complete instructions ↗ The opening scene is hypothetical.

OPINION / THE EDITOR'S VIEW

A partner is a role

A partnership becomes useful when someone can explain who will do the work. The invitation to collaborate is a beginning. It still needs a lead applicant, agreed responsibilities, a credible budget and permission to use each organization's name. A familiar logo cannot supply those details. Nor can a long list of possible collaborators. Good public calls say what they expect from a partnership; good applicants make the arrangement concrete before describing it as settled. This is less glamorous than announcing an alliance, which may explain the relative shortage of photographs. It is also how the proposed work acquires people who can actually deliver it. Start with the responsibilities. The nouns can follow.

The Deadline Desk

A fictional planning puzzle. Three teams each handle one task on a different day, Monday through Wednesday. Registration happens Monday. Beacon works Wednesday. Cedar confirms the partner. The budget check happens the day after Cedar works. Use the clues to answer all three questions.

Who handles registration?

- ◯ Team Alder
- ◯ Team Beacon
- ◯ Team Cedar

When is the partner confirmed?

- ◯ On Monday
- ◯ On Tuesday
- ◯ On Wednesday

What does Beacon handle?

- ◯ Portal registration
- ◯ Partner confirmation
- ◯ Budget check

Solve the fictional clues and circle one choice per question. Solution: Alder registers Monday, Cedar confirms the partner Tuesday, Beacon checks the budget Wednesday. These are not issuer deadlines. Registration is Monday. Cedar handles the partner before the budget check, so Cedar works Tuesday. Beacon checks the budget Wednesday, leaving Alder on registration.

A fictional planning puzzle, not an application calendar.

Between the lines.

Three scenes, each sparked by an opportunity in this week's editions.

Another Front Door

A complete proposal approaches the entrance.



The smallest gate can still stop the whole plan.

For OJJDP's youth treatment call, begin SAM.gov registration or renewal by October 30 if needed. Official opportunity details ↗

AFTER THE LAUNCH

The launch party has one final agenda item.



Running the course is part of the work.

Energy Trust's learning contract includes ongoing administration and learner support. Official opportunity details ↗

Different Badges

Two collaborators arrive with one promising plan.



Collaboration improves when the roles are clear.

Cities Deliver requires a municipal partner, while government cannot lead the application. Official opportunity details ↗

About twenty lessons. Keep them working.

WATCH THE STORY / 24 SECONDS

THE ARKUS SIGNAL

CONTRACTS / 26 OCT 2026

About twenty lessons. Keep them working.

ENERGY TRUST / LEARNING PLATFORM

Up to $300,000

Services cap · initial two-year term

LMS licenses funded separately



01
BUILD LESSONS

02
RUN THE PLATFORM

03
SUPPORT LEARNERS

30 OCTOBER Proposal · 5 p.m. Pacific · online application

Intent date passed · check eligibility before applying

AI-generated scenes. Editorial illustrations, not photographs of these projects.

A short guide to Energy Trust's learning services contract and its passed intent date. Silent, with on-screen captions. Photographs are generated illustrations. The official notices control.

ABOUT ARKUS

MEET THE FULL TEAM ↗

About Arkus

Evidence, design and commercial judgment, brought together for practical decisions.



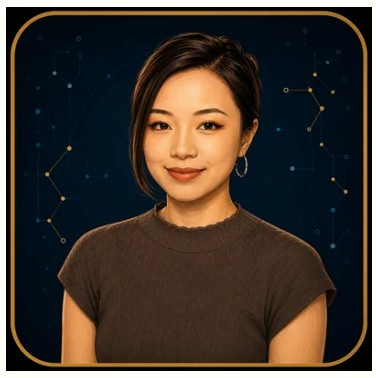
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Cloud (Yiyun) Qiu
Partner · Design and Innovation Strategy



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Arkus Innovation Studios is a commercial venture studio and innovation advisory firm. We help founders, research institutions, investors and corporate teams decide what is worth building, then turn that decision into practical work. We start with the technology, the people who need it and the questions still unanswered.

Our work includes the **Startup Diagnostic**, **Portfolio Diagnostic**, **Innovation Compass** and AI Workflow Sprint. Research, design and commercial judgment belong together. We examine the market, make uncertainties visible and help teams choose a useful next step. A working product and a convincing proposal each need more than an interesting idea.

Arkus works alongside two legally separate organizations: 360 Social Impact Studios, which carries nonprofit and social-impact work, and Enough Ventures, a capital platform established in 2024. Each has its own structure and responsibilities. Those differences matter when a call restricts who may apply or sign. The Arkus Signal brings opportunities and their decisive conditions into one readable place. Our team works across the United States and Brazil, with English and Portuguese delivery.

To discuss working together, send Nadia the public call, your idea or relevant capabilities, and the role you have in mind. We can then examine how Arkus can help.

Talk through a possible partnership
nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com ↗