

## I<sup>2</sup>SL Lab Benchmarking Working Group

Group Conference Call 1/18/2018

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Alison Farmer, David Landman, Allison Paradise, Tim Deak, Kathleen Brady, John McDonald, David Cohen, Hillary Weitze, Phil Wirdzek, Michelle Fennell, Matt Erwin, Charlie Johnsrud, Dan Doyle, Graham Lierley.

- 1) Alison and Dan will be attending the bEQ committee meeting at this weekend's ASHRAE meeting in Chicago. bEQ is interested in expanding to include lab building rankings and we'll be discussing a possible collaboration. We'll report back on our next call.
  - a. Group is in favor of ASHRAE collaboration – great way to get data from many buildings.
  - b. Group provided some additional questions for the meeting: we'll ask about bEQ's funding and revenue sources, and about their data QC.
- 2) Still no funding from DOE, but it's not been cancelled either. I<sup>2</sup>SL is now interested in exploring other avenues for funding development of its various initiatives – including benchmarking.
- 3) Phil described some potential funding routes (sponsorship and/or grants) for the new benchmarking tool and the potential for bundling the BM tool with the other I<sup>2</sup>SL tools. Group discussion ensued. Main points:
  - a. No issue seen with industry sponsorship. There are likely to be industry vendors interested in sponsoring a new lab BM tool.
  - b. Matt E: NOAA may have suitable grants. Phil will follow up with Matt – Alison will put them in touch.
  - c. Approx cost of tool creation and initial data outreach is ~\$200k. Annual maintenance estimated at \$10k.
  - d. Obtaining grants from foundations often requires connections and may also be slower than desired. Sponsorship-only may be the best route.
  - e. If DOE funds are released, can they still be used if I<sup>2</sup>SL has started using other funds to further develop the tool?
  - f. Allison P, Graham, and Alison F will discuss Graham's research on granting foundations.
  - g. Michelle will start sounding out some Boston-area vendors for level of interest in funding the tool.
  - h. Number of sponsors needed? Levels of sponsorship? Minimum donation per sponsor? Need to establish. Phil will work on a revised version of the sponsorship benefits memo.
  - i. Alison will work on an updated version of the 2-page funding prospectus. Please send Alison comments by Wednesday 1/24.
  - j. Revised versions of sponsorship doc and prospectus will be issued by Friday 1/26. These will be versions for distribution.
  - k. LBNL has funding in place for back-end database development and needs to use it this year. LBNL is keen to collaborate and to divest themselves of the front-end tool. LBNL's API license is free provided there are < 2000 database queries per month. Otherwise cost is \$1500/yr for organizations with < 50 employees and \$3000/yr for larger organizations.
- 4) Please contact Phil and/or Alison with any funding or sponsorship ideas! I<sup>2</sup>SL needs your help with making this happen.
- 5) Next call in approx 1 month. Alison will schedule.

Alison Farmer  
18 Jan 2018

## **APPENDIX: Meeting Agenda**

- 1) Welcome / purpose of meeting / news (Alison, 5 min)
  - a. ASHRAE bEQ
  - b. DOE
- 2) I<sup>2</sup>SL's proposed strategy for funding the benchmarking tool (Phil, 10 min)
  - a. See the two attached documents (draft prospectus and document on I<sup>2</sup>SL's thoughts on sponsorship for a new benchmarking tool)
- 3) Discuss proposed strategy (group, 10-15 min)
- 4) Targeting granting foundation (Phil, 2 min)
- 5) Address/discuss in sequence: (Alison, Phil, Dan)
  - a. What level of funding is needed and for how long to create the tool (e.g., \$250K over 3 years)?
  - b. What could be asked of industry as a shared cost for a grant (e.g. 25%)?
  - c. How much could be matched as invested effort of the WG (sweat equity)?
  - d. Should there be a minimum dollar amount to sponsor (e.g. \$10K/sponsor)?
  - e. What may be the cost to promote, maintain and QC a "live" tool (\$10k/yr)?
  - f. Should a fee be requested for data entry or access?
  - g. What expertise would be needed to maintain the "live" tool?
- 6) WG to add to or edit documents (assignment for WG)
- 7) Next steps/next meeting (Alison)