



**** New Approaches to Promoting Energy Sector Sustainability ****
Addendum to the Energy Sector Self-Reliance Broad Agency Announcement
(BAA-OAA-E3-ENERGY-2020)

United States Agency for International Development's (USAID)
Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3)
Office of Energy and Infrastructure (E+I)

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers Pertaining to this Solicitation

- 1. Will a study across multiple countries or a study focusing on one sole country be more favorable over the latter can both be accepted under this Addendum?**

Answer: USAID will consider the scale of analysis relative to the significance and innovation of the proposed idea/approach/solution. An Expression of Interest (EOI) focusing on a single country will not be less favorable than an EOI working across multiple countries.

- 2. What is the budget range and expected period of performance for awards made through this BAA?**

Answer: This is USAID's first Addendum under the BAA for Energy Sector Self-Reliance (BAA-OAA-E3-ENERGY-2020). As such, there is no incumbent and thus no typical grant/contract amount or period of performance (duration). USAID uses the BAA process to design solutions - not to a dollar value or to a specific instrument. Additionally, as stipulated in the BAA, USAID is not obligated to issue any financial instruments or awards as a result of this Addendum. USAID will, however, discuss potential funding levels of support with organizations whose EOIs have been accepted for co-creation with the Agency, as well as the expected duration period of performance for awards made.

- 3. Are non-U.S. organizations eligible to submit an EOI for the New Approaches to Promoting Energy Sector Sustainability BAA Addendum? Is collaboration between U.S. organizations and non-US organizations eligible?**

Answer: Non-U.S. and U.S. organizations are eligible to submit an EOI as long as the proposed work is within [a USAID partner country and/or across multiple USAID partner countries](#). USAID seeks EOIs from a diverse range of collaborators as per page 6 of the Addendum. Through the co-creation process, USAID encourages organizations to consider collaborating with other

organizations to form non-traditional partnerships, and to utilize diverse expertise to advance cross-cutting solutions.

4. Are U.S. or U.S.- affiliated Offeror's preferred and/or required?

Answer: There is no preference or requirement for US-based organizations or affiliations.

5. Are there specific countries of interest for USAID?

Answer: While there is no set geographical preference for EOIs, USAID expects the bulk of work under any resulting awards to be performed in [USAID partner countries](#), and in particular ones in which USAID has active energy programs.

6. Can USAID funding be used to support research time from local universities in the countries where we would propose to work?

Answer: Yes.

7. Can USAID funds be used to support workshops? Such funds would cover the costs organizing the workshop as well as funding to support participation by staff from the private and/or government sectors?

Answer: Yes.

8. Is USAID looking for partnerships at the EOI stage, or is it expected that EOIs are from a single Offeror? Can Offerors submit joint EOIs with other organizations?

Answer: Each EOI submitted should be from one primary Offeror. However, in that EOI the Offeror may state how its capabilities could be complemented by a partnership with another specified/non-specified organization. Do note that should an Offeror be invited to a co-creation event based on a submitted EOI, only a limited number of participants may represent the Offeror at the event. Although an Offeror may mention specific collaborators/partners in its EOI, it is ultimately through the co-creation event and subsequent Concept Paper development stage in which partnerships are solidified for a potential new activity design.

9. Can independent consultants submit an EOI, or must they have an organizational affiliation?

Answer: No - per page 7 of the Addendum, EOIs must be submitted on behalf of an established, incorporated for-profit or non-profit entity.

10. Are UN agencies eligible to submit EOIs to the Addendum? Are government agencies?

Answer: UN agencies, multilaterals, and intergovernmental organizations are eligible to submit EOIs to this Addendum. Per page 7 of the Addendum, US and non-US government entities (with the exception of government-affiliated academic institutions) are not eligible to submit EOIs.

11. Can organizations submit EOIs focusing on different geographic scales – global, regional, national, sub-national (city/urban scale) or a mix of either?

Answer: Organizations are encouraged to submit EOIs that work at different geographic scales and/or across multiple administrative levels.

12. Is USAID open to receiving EOIs from Offerors that are holders of the Energy II IDIQ?

Answer: Yes, Energy II IDIQ holders are welcome to submit EOIs.

13. Can USAID arrange a phone call with interested organizations to answer questions about submitting EOIs?

Answer: Unfortunately, USAID staff cannot conduct a call or meet with parties interested in submitting an EOI given that this is a competitive process.

14. If my organization's EOI is selected, but we are unable to attend an in-person co-creation event, can we still participate in the co-creation process?

Answer: Based on past experience, USAID acknowledges that co-creation events are most effective when all representatives are able to attend the event in person. If an Offeror's EOI is selected, the Offeror will be invited to send a representative(s) to the event, but USAID does not plan to have facilities that permit remote participation.

15. Can USAID please clarify if the BAA Addendum Focus Area 1: 'Strengthening Networks of Utility Partnership' is the same as the [Energy Utility Partnership Program III - new FY20 action](#) recently posted on the [USAID Business Forecast](#)?

Answer: Yes, the BAA Addendum Focus Area 1: 'Strengthening Networks of Utility Partnership' does correspond to the [Energy Utility Partnership Program III - new FY20 action](#) on the [USAID Business Forecast](#).

16. Would an EOI that focuses on supporting workforce development among local power plant operators be a suitable topic for funding under this BAA?

Answer: Unfortunately, USAID cannot respond to individual ideas for EOIs presented in email. Offerors are encouraged to read the four Focus Areas presented on pages 3-5 of the Addendum, and submit EOIs that respond to the challenges identified. Please note that individual Offerors may submit more than one EOI – but each individual EOI submitted should clearly respond to only one of the four Focus Areas below.

17. Under Focus 1, Page 4 sections a,b and d, reference is made to Utilities/ Energy associations. Could USAID please confirm how it defines “Energy Associations” for the purpose of this EOI? Specifically, does USAID’s definition include the following entities: the Afghan Renewable Energy Union (AREU), Kabul University RE lab, The Afghan National Standards Authority, or the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA)? Could you please clarify if USAID will consider EOIs focusing only on energy associations, or if there is a preference for activities that build capacity of both utilities and energy associations?

Answer: For this solicitation, USAID embraces a broad definition of ‘Energy Associations’. The organizations referenced would not be prohibited from being included in an EOI prepared by a potential Offeror. USAID does not have a preference whether EOIs focus just on energy associations, just on utilities, or on both energy associations and utilities.

18. Under Focus 1, Page 4 section c, reference is made to “utility workforce development” training. Does this include vocational training at all levels of the skilled workforce spectrum? Does it include vocational training for energy associations (not specifically mentioned)?

Answer: Yes, “utility workforce development” training does include vocational training at all levels of the skilled workforce spectrum, and includes vocational training for energy associations.

19. Under Focus 1, Page 4 section d, reference is made to “Pooling energy Resources”, can USAID please further define what is meant by this? Specifically, does this mean electricity generation resources only or does it also include human capacity and enabling market environment capacity as energy resources? Anything else included in the definition?

Answer: In this specific section of the solicitation, “pooling energy resources” refers to physical energy resources that are accessed/traded within energy sector supply chains. However, USAID is also interested in EOIs that address the need for sharing/exchanging human technical expertise among energy associations and utilities as a means to enhance the workforce capacity of energy sector entities.

20. Will the co-creation process be impacted by restrictions on travel and meeting sizes due to COVID-19?

Answer: USAID is carefully following the development of this emergency situation and will work to ensure the health and safety of staff, attendees and the public. All options are currently being considered including delays and virtual convenings. Plans for the co-creation process will be communicated to applicants with selected EOIs.

21. Does USAID include nuclear power in its energy portfolio when offering to assist countries seeking to address inadequate electrification?

Nuclear Energy is not currently a large focus of USAID’s energy programs, as a majority of USAID’s partner countries do not have nuclear capabilities. However, USAID’s broad goal is to improve the affordability, reliability and sustainability of the electricity sector in partner countries and does not a priori exclude any particular energy source relevant to these goals, unless constrained by earmarks, congressional directives or other Agency requirements.

22. What working relationships exist with DOE and DOS in this technical area? In particular, how are issues related to the Atomic Energy Act, Section 123¹ addressed? USAID coordinates extensively with the interagency, including the Department of Energy and the Department of State, on energy issues, in particular around initiatives such as Power Africa or Asia EDGE, where a whole-of-government approach is taken. USAID complies with all federal laws, statutes and regulations related to our work.

23. Will the selected firms collaborate with USAID directly or work with institutions in the US (working for USAID) to complete tasks within the specific Focus Area?

USAID is interested in facilitating direct access to technical experts through this call, though the exact structure of any contractual relationship is yet to be determined. Firms selected through this process will be involved in providing technical expertise to USAID programs. This could be

¹ U.S Atomic Energy Act - https://www.oecd-nea.org/law/nlbfr/documents/087_090_USAtomicEnergyAct.pdf

directly, through an award from USAID, but could also involve partnership mechanisms with other entities, both US-based and international.

A focus of the co-creation process will be to explore what structures and management formats facilitate the introduction of best-in-class energy-sector expertise to USAID programs. It is of interest for USAID staff and energy program managers to have direct interaction with these technical experts during program design, management and evaluation.

USAID will also participate in a co-creation process with those entities whose EOIs were selected. For additional information on the process please see USAID's overview of the BAA process: <https://www.usaid.gov/partnership-opportunities/respond-solicitation/baa-process>

24. The submission length is limited based on characters rather than pages. Could we provide material such as CVs in annex that is not covered within the restriction?

CV's are not requested at this time. Please only provide information in response to the questions in the form within the character limit.

25. Does USAID have priority countries to work in with regards to this call?

No priority countries have been identified for this DC-based solicitation. USAID seeks expertise that can support energy programs globally, within all developing countries that USAID assists.

26. In view of co-creation events that need physical (on-site) attendance such as workshops, does USAID have targeted/present areas where these will be held?

Due to current travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID has not yet fixed a date for the co-creation event(s) nor determined whether the event(s) will be held in-person or remotely, over a video conference platform. If it is determined that an in-person event can be held safely, then it will be held in Washington DC. Additional information regarding logistics of the co-creation event will be provided to those organizations whose Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are evaluated favorably and are invited to participate in the event.