Financial Assistance
Notice of Funding Opportunity – DE-FOA-0003339
Part 2

This is Part 2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The NOFO Part 2 is intended as a companion document to the NOFO Part 1. The NOFO Part 1 describes the specific DOE programmatic goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components that are specific to each funding opportunity.

Part 2 includes fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO. This document includes standard information for the application phase and describes expectations for award negotiations and post-award requirements for selected applications.

Applicants should review both the NOFO Part 1 and the NOFO Part 2 prior to applying.

Modifications

Mod. No.	Date	Description of Modification
3	2/14/2025	Correct the information required in Project/Performance Site Location(s).
4	4/08/2025	Extend the Application Due Date to 4/28/2025
5	4/28/2025	Remove references to a Community Benefits Plan (CBP). CBPs were not required for this NOFO. The Application Due date was also extended to May 05, 2025.
6	4/01/2026	The application "Key Dates" deadline for current review cycle, anticipated selection notification date for the current review cycle, and anticipated award date for current review cycle have changed. See date changes on page 6 of NOFO Part 1. Also, applications must now be submitted within the respective application period (July 1 – September 30). See date changes on page 24 of NOFO Part 1.

7	10/02/2026	Application Deadline for Second Review Cycle: has been changed to November 30,2026. See date changes on page 6 and page 24 of NOFO Part 1.
8	11/20/2026	Application Deadline for Second Review Cycle: has been changed to January 31, 2027. See date changes on page 6 and page 24 of NOFO Part 1. No Changes are made to NOFO Part 2



Notices of any modifications to this NOFO will be posted on Grants.gov and the FedConnect portal. You can receive an email when a modification or an announcement message is posted by registering with FedConnect as an interested party for this NOFO. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the NOFO as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any modifications or other announcements.

Table of Contents

Contents

I. Get Registered 6
SAM.gov Registration 6
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) 6
Grants.gov Registration 6
II. Eligibility 8
A. Cost Sharing 8
1. Legal Responsibility 8
2. Cost Share Allocation 8
3. Cost Share Types and Allowability 8
4. Unallowable Cost Share Sources 9
5. Cost Share Verification 9
6. Cost Share Calculation Examples 9
B. Other Eligibility Information 10
1. Questions Regarding Eligibility 10
2. Entity of Concern Prohibition 10
3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application Use 11
III. Program Description 12
IV. Application Content and Form 13
A. Application Format Summary 13
B. Application Content Requirements 14
1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) 14
2. Letters of Commitment 14
3. Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation 15
4. Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) 18
5. Subrecipient Budget Justification 18
6. Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation 19
7. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver) 20
8. Resumes for Non-Research & Development (R&D) NOFOs 21
9. Current and Pending Support 21
10. Transparency of Foreign Connections 25
11. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice 27
12. Project/Performance Site Location(s) 27
13. Lobbying Activities 28
14. Summary for Public Release 28
15. Summary Slide 29
C. Funding Restrictions 30
1. Allowable Costs 30
2. Pre-Award Costs 30
3. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver) Requirement 31
4. Lobbying 31
V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines 32
VI. Application Review Information 33
A. Standard Evaluation and Selection Processes 33
1. Overview 33
2. Pre-Selection Interviews 33

3. Pre-Selection Clarification 33
4. Recipient Responsibility and Qualifications 34
5. Due Diligence Review for Research, Technology and Economic Security 34
6. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel 35
7. Selection 35
VII. Selection and Award Notices 36
A. Selection Notices 36
1. Ineligible Submissions 36
2. Application Notifications 36
3. Applicants Selected for Award Negotiations 36
4. Alternate Selections 36
5. Applicants Not Selected for Award Negotiations 37
B. Post-Selection Information Requests 37
1. Example Information Requests 37
2. Entity Risk Assessment 37
3. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 38
4. Flood Resilience 38
5. Trafficking in Persons 39
C. Award Notices 39
VIII. Award Administration Information 40
A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration 40
1. Award Administrative Requirements 40
2. Subaward and Executive Reporting 40
3. National Policy Requirements 40
4. Applicant Representations and Certifications 40
5. Statement of Federal Stewardship 42
6. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance 42
7. Whistleblower Protections 42
8. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse 43
9. Participants and Collaborating Organizations 43
10. Current and Pending Support 43
11. Prohibition Related to Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs 44
12. Foreign Collaboration Considerations 46
13. Intellectual Property Provisions 46
14. Go/No-Go Review 46
15. Conference Spending 47
16. Invoice Review and Approval 47
17. Cost Share Payment 47
18. Implementation of Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty 48
19. Affirmative Action and Pay Transparency Requirements 48
B. Reporting 49
IX. Other Information 50
A. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate 50
B. Commitment of Public Funds 50
C. Treatment of Application Information 50
D. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities 51
E. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability 51
F. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure 51
G. Retention of Submissions 51
H. Export Control 52
I. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment 52
J. Personally Identifiable Information (PII) 52

K. Annual Independent Audits 52
L. Acronyms 53

I. Get Registered

There are several required one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these actions may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time to complete them. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. If you are already registered, make sure your registration is active and up to date. All registrations are free.

See Step 3: Submit Your Application

SAM.gov Registration

You must have an active account with SAM.gov, the System for Award Management (SAM). This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

- **What is it?** SAM is a federal procurement database. All entities that want to do business with the federal government MUST be registered in SAM.
- Existing SAM registrations must be updated annually.
- **Duration** to complete: can take several weeks.
- **Registration Link:** https://sam.gov/content/home
    - **NOTE:** Subrecipients are not required to obtain an active SAM registration but must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier.
- **HELP:** https://sam.gov/content/help Applicants must allow several weeks for the SAM process to complete. All registrations rely on completion of the SAM registration. (START Early)

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

- **What is it?** UEI is a non-proprietary identifier that has replaced the Federal Government use of Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number effective April 4, 2022.
- Applicants must obtain an UEI from the SAM to uniquely identify the entity. The UEI is available in the SAM entity registration record.
    - **Note**: Subawardees/subrecipients at all tiers must also obtain an UEI from the SAM and provide the UEI to the recipient before the subaward can be issued.
- **Duration** to complete**:** can take several weeks.
- **Registration Link**: https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration
- **HELP:** https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp

Grants.gov Registration

You must have an active Grants.gov registration in order to receive automatic updates when modifications to this NOFO are posted and to submit an application. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

- **What is it?** Website used to enable federal grant-making agencies to notify potential applicants of funding opportunities and to submit an application in response to a funding opportunity. Please note that letters of intent and concept papers will not be accepted through Grants.gov.
- Step-by step instructions for applicants at How to Apply for Grants website https://www.grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/how-to-apply-for-grants

- **Duration** to complete: can take several days.
- **Registration Link:** https://grants.gov
- **HELP:** https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/index.htm#t=GetStarted%2FGetStarted.htm

DISCLAIMER:
Applicants are discouraged from submitting information considered proprietary unless it is deemed essential for proper evaluation of the application. If the application contains information that the applicant organization considers to be trade secrets, information that is commercial or financial, or information that is privileged or confidential, the pages containing that information should be identified as specified in the application instructions. When such information is included in the application, it is furnished to the federal government in confidence, with the understanding that the information will be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application.

The information contained in the application will be protected by DOE from unauthorized disclosure, consistent with the need for merit review of applications of financial assistance awards to assure the integrity of the competitive process and the accuracy and completeness of the information. If a federal financial assistance award is made as a result of or in connection with an application, the federal government has the right to use or disclose the information to the extent authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government's right to use the information if it is obtained without restriction from another source.

II. Eligibility

Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Eligibility* for the eligibility criteria specific to your application. This section includes additional information to help applicants understand the standard eligibility requirements across all DOE NOFOs.

A. Cost Sharing

This section contains additional information to help applicants understand federal cost sharing requirements. Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Eligibility—Cost Sharing* for the cost sharing criteria specific to your application.

1. Legal Responsibility

Although the cost share requirement applies to the entire project, including work performed by members of the project team other than the recipient, the recipient is legally responsible for paying the entire cost share. The recipient's cost share obligation is expressed in the Assistance Agreement as a static amount in U.S. dollars (cost share amount) and as a percentage of the Total Project Cost (cost share percentage). If the funding agreement is terminated prior to the end of the project period, the recipient is required to contribute at least the cost share percentage of total expenditures incurred through the date of termination.

The recipient is solely responsible for managing cost share contributions by the project team and enforcing cost share obligation assumed by project team members in subawards or related agreements.

2. Cost Share Allocation

Each project team is free to determine how best to allocate the cost share requirement among the team members. The amount contributed by individual project team members may vary, as long as the cost share requirement for the entire project is met.

3. Cost Share Types and Allowability

Cost share must meet requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.306 and 910.130, and cost principles set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.400-476 and 2 C.F.R. §§ 910.352. In addition, cost share must be verifiable upon submission of the full application. The primary objective of this NOFO is to support cost-shared grants to fund a portion of NRC fees for pre-application review activities and application review activities for advanced nuclear reactors and supporting facilities. In other words, the focus is NRC fees. It is not development of licensing documents or other aspects of the regulatory approval process. Hence, the cost share percentage will be based solely on total NRC licensing fees and cost share may be provided in the form of cash. In-kind contributions, such as research/testing to support licensing documents or labor to develop licensing documents, will not count towards a recipient's cost share contribution because they are not necessary for achieving the objectives of the award (payment of fees), and therefore do not satisfy the requirements of 2 C.F.R. 200.306(b). Cost share must come from non-federal sources (unless otherwise allowed by law), such as project participants, state or local governments, or other third-party financing. DOE Loan Guarantees cannot be leveraged by applicants to provide the required cost share or otherwise support the same scope that is proposed under a project.

Cost share may be provided by the recipient, subrecipients, or third parties (entities that do not have a role in performing the scope of work). Vendors/contractors may not provide cost share. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, DOE will review the cost share dollars according to the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Grants Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

4. Unallowable Cost Share Sources

The recipient and subrecipient(s) may not use the following sources to meet cost share obligations:

- Cost share derived from federal sources (unless otherwise authorized by law).
- Cost share that does not meet:
  - Requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.306 and 910.130;
  - Cost principles set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.400-476 and 2 C.F.R. §§ 910.352;
  - For State Energy Programs, refer to 10 C.F.R. §§ 420.
- Cost share derived from the DOE loan program.
- Revenues or royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the project period;
- Proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity;
- Federal funding or property (e.g., federal grants, equipment owned by the federal government);
- Expenditures that were reimbursed under a separate federal program.
- Cash or in-kind contributions used to meet cost share requirements for another federal project or program;
- Existing data as an in-kind contribution (e.g., data owned by an entity, that is not routinely sold commercially but is instead donated to the project and assigned a value);
- In general, deferred or avoided costs such as unrealized tax credits; or
- In-kind contributions, such as research/testing to support licensing documents or labor to develop licensing documents.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, the cost share dollars will be scrutinized under the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Grants Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

5. Cost Share Verification

Applicants are required to provide written assurance of their proposed cost share contributions in their applications. If selected for award negotiations, applicants are required to provide additional information and documentation regarding their cost share contributions. Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Eligibility—Cost Sharing* for specific requirements.

6. Cost Share Calculation Examples

Cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs.

Example, Standard Cost Share Calculation
The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with $1 million in federal funds with a minimum 20% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

- Formula: Federal share ($) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost
  Example: $1,000,000 divided by 80% = $1,250,000

- Formula: Total Project Cost ($) minus federal share ($) = Non-federal share ($)
  Example: $1,250,000 minus $1,000,000 = $250,000

- Formula: Non-federal share ($) divided by Total Project Cost ($) = Non-federal share (%)
  Example: $250,000 divided by $1,250,000 = 20%

B. Other Eligibility Information

Refer to NOFO Part 1, *Eligibility—Eligible Applicants* for NOFO-specific eligibility information. The information below is standard for DOE NOFOs.

1. Questions Regarding Eligibility

DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to the NOFO Part 1 must be submitted. The decision to apply in response to the NOFO Part 1 lies solely with the applicant.

2. Entity of Concern Prohibition

Prohibition
DOE is prohibited by law from funding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of $10 million or more in DOE funds to Entities of Concern. In addition, such entities (including an individual that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with an Entity of Concern) are prohibited from receiving any funds or performing work under any award involving Department activities authorized under Division A or B of Public Law 117-167, subject to certain penalties. See section 10114 of Public Law 117-167 (42 USC 18912) and section 310 of Public Law 118-42 and other applicable law for additional information.

By submitting an application to this NOFO, the applicant is certifying that neither the applicant nor any of the project participants qualify as Entities of Concern.

Definitions
Entity of Concern is defined as in section 10114 of Public Law 117-167 (42 USC 18912), also known as the CHIPS and Science Act, as any entity, including a national, that is—

(A) identified under section 1237(b) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 105–261);

(B) identified under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note; Public Law 116– 283);

(C) on the Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;

(D) included in the list required by section 9(b)(3) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145; 134 Stat. 656); or

(E) identified by the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the applicable office that would provide, or is providing, covered support, as posing an unmanageable threat—

(i) to the national security of the United States; or

(ii) of theft or loss of United States intellectual property.

3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application Use

Any use of artificial intelligence in the creation of any part of an application for this NOFO must be appropriately attributed. Even with the use of artificial intelligence, each applicant is responsible for and is representing to the U.S. Government that the information in its application documents is accurate, that the applicant is fully capable of performing the work described in the application, and that the submission of the application does not and will not infringe or violate any rights of any third party or entity.

III. Program Description

Refer to NOFO Part 1, *Program Description* for all information related to the specific NOFO goals, objectives, and topic areas, if any.

IV. Application Content and Form

This section contains supplemental information to help applicants understand the application content and form requirements outlined in the NOFO including detailed information on the content and naming conventions of the application content. Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content and Form* section for the application contents and form specific to your application.

Note that some of the required application elements below have separate requirements for Research and Development (R&D) versus non-R&D NOFOs. Refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content Requirements* section for specific instructions.

A. Application Format Summary

All submissions must conform to the form and content requirements described below. Refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content and Form* for the page limits.

Format Requirements	
Parameter	**Requirement**
File Format	Portable Document Format (PDF) unless stated otherwise
Language	English
Paper Size	8.5" x 11"
Margins	Not less than 1" (>= 1") on every side
Font	Calibri typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 12-point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10-point font). A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters, but the font size requirement still applies.
References	References must be included as footnotes or endnotes in a font size of 10 or larger. Footnotes and endnotes are counted toward the maximum page requirement.
Page Numbers	Page numbers must be included in the footer of every page. Each submission must not exceed the specified maximum page limit, including cover page, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs when printed using the formatting requirements set forth above and single spaced.
Page Count Limitations	If applicants exceed the maximum page limitations, DOE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

The following information is intended to address Grants.gov issues typically encountered during the application process. Refer to NOFO Part 1, *Submission Requirements and Deadlines—Application Package* for the Grants.gov site location and support for technical assistance information.

Additional Grants.gov Information	
Deadlines for Submission	Grants.gov is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this NOFO. Applications will not be accepted after the due date and time specified on the NOFO Cover Page.
Submission Difficulties	Applicants who experience technical difficulties with submission PRIOR to the NOFO deadline should contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for assistance.
Application Forms	Grants.gov forms are available at https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/.
Size Limitations	The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the Grants.gov website is 10MB. Files larger than 10MB cannot be uploaded and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file is larger than 10MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the NOFO, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example: "TechnicalVolume_Part_1", "TechnicalVolume_Part_2". DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 10MB.

B. Application Content Requirements

The NOFO Part 1, *Application Content Requirements* identifies which of the following application documents are required including the program-specific requirements such as the technical volume and specified page limits. Each application must be limited to a single concept and must not exceed the stated page limits.

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Applicants must complete the SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance first to populate data in other forms. Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances is available on Financial Assistance Forms and Information For Applicants and Recipients | Department of Energy.

Please ensure that the dates (Block 17) and dollar amounts (Block 18) on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase, or another subset of the project period.

2. Letters of Commitment

Submit letters of commitment from all subrecipients. In addition, submit letters of commitment from all third-party cost share providers. If applicable, the letter must state that the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount or value of in-kind contributions allocated to cost sharing. Letters of support or endorsement for the project from entities that do not have a substantive role in the project will not be accepted. The following information for each third party contributing to cost

sharing should be identified:

Letters of Commitment Content	
Organization Name	Phone, email, and address
Proposed Dollar Amount to be Provided	Value of the contribution

Save the information in a single PDF file named "LOC" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

3. Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation

For any application that potentially impacts Indian Tribes or is on Tribal land[1] including when the potentially impacted Indian Tribe is the applicant, applicants are required to submit additional documentation at the time of application, and possibly during negotiation and prior to award. For any project that potentially impacts Indian Tribes, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating that an authorized representative of each potentially impacted Indian Tribe is, at a minimum, aware of the nature of the application and its potential impacts to the relevant Indian Tribes. The notified authorized representative[2] must be holding their position while the award is open for applications, and documentation must demonstrate affirmative awareness of the application (e.g. a delivery record from certified mail, a reply by the authorized representative).

For any project intended to be sited on Tribal land(s) or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating support from the relevant Indian Tribes at the time of application. Documentation of support submitted at the time of application will also be considered.

Helpful Resources	
Item	**Criteria**
Letter of Support from Tribal Leadership	The letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the Indian Tribe. The signer(s) must be holding their position while the award is open for applications or negotiations.
Tribal Council Resolution, Board resolution (including the Board of Directors of an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC)), or similar act passed by the legislative body of the Tribal government or Board of Directors of an ANC	Must express support for the project.

[1] Tribal land is as defined in 25 U.S.C. §§ 3501(2), (3), (4)(A) and (13).

[2] An authorized representative must be an elected official or designated leader according to the traditions, constitution, or charter of the Indian Tribe, or someone with relevant delegated authority within the Tribal government. Examples include: Chief, Chairman, Chairwoman, Governor, Nation Representative, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Speaker of the Council, Speaker of the Congress, Tribal administrator.

The following resources may be useful to help determine if a project may impact an Indian Tribe(s) resources or reserved rights and the appropriate contacts. These resources are not exhaustive, and many Indian Tribes have resources or reserved rights which extend beyond their Tribal lands, or are covered within treaties, statutes, or case-law. Applicants are encouraged to do additional research:

Helpful Resources	
Item	**Location**
Map of Indian Lands	https://bia-geospatial-internal.geoplatform.gov/indianlands/
Tribal Treaties Database	https://treaties.okstate.edu/
Directory of federally recognized Tribes and Tribal leaders	https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory
Best Practices for Identifying and Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights, Reserved Rights, and other similar rights in federal regulatory actions	https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/inline-files/best_practices_guide.pdf

To help determine if an Indian Tribe's resources or reserved rights may be impacted by the project, applicants must address the following elements, as applicable to the application. If the applicant is an Indian Tribe, these elements should be addressed to ascertain impacts to Indian Tribes other than the applicant. Applicants do not need to reveal specific details about sacred sites such as specific location or specific ceremonies:

Indian Tribe Resource or Reserved Rights Impact Assessment		
Type of Action	**Assessment**	**Mitigation**

If Research and Development (R&D)	Identify any [specific resources] which will be [quantified/modeled] on or near Tribal land, traditional homelands, Tribal historic sites, sacred sites, or in areas where an Indian Tribe maintains rights to [specific resources]. Identify which Indian Tribe(s) may be impacted? Explain any instances of uncertainty or confidentiality."	Explain any actions taken by the applicant to mitigate or address any potential impacts identified, including engaging with the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s), in the application.
If Demonstration and Deployment (D&D)	Identify any elements of the project that will occur on or near Indian land, Tribal historic sites, or sacred sites and describe its potential impacts to Indian Tribes. Identify the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s).	
Subsurface Resource Activities (carbon sequestration, oil & gas, geothermal, critical minerals, groundwater, etc.)	Identify any Tribal mineral rights, subsurface, or water rights at or near the proposed project location. Explain any relevant studies already performed, such as groundwater studies? Identify which Indian Tribe(s) might be impacted. Explain any instances of uncertainty and any potential for subsurface resource migration which has been considered.	
If Hydropower, Offshore Wind, or other Water Related Projects	Identify any Tribal resources or reserved rights (e.g., water, fishing, or other treaty rights) which could be impacted by the proposed project. Identify any Tribal historic sites, sacred sites, or relevant vistas, which could be impacted by the project. Identify the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s) and explain any sources of uncertainty or confidentiality.	
If Infrastructure (e.g., Transmission and Pipeline) Projects	Identify any Indian Land (as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 3501), traditional homelands, or Tribal historic and sacred sites which will be crossed, or adjacent to the proposed infrastructure. Identify which Indian Tribe(s) might be impacted and explain any instances of uncertainty or confidentiality.	
Other Actions Not Categorized Above	Identify any [other] proposed actions which may impact an Indian Tribe(s) resources or reserved rights. Tribal resources and reserved rights include, and are not limited to, an Indian Reservation or Land (as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 3501) [or intersecting Tribal sub-surface rights], historic homelands from which they were removed, cultural sites, sacred sites, water rights, mineral and other subsurface rights, fishing rights, and hunting rights. Identify the Tribe(s) potentially impacted and any sources of uncertainty or confidentiality.	

Applicants are required to document any efforts taken to identify any potential impacts to Indian Tribes, Indian lands, Alaska Native regional and village land, traditional homelands, Tribal rights, or Tribal historic sites, or sacred sites. This includes any correspondence with Indian Tribes. These documents

should be available on request to DOE. An applicant's failure to submit documentation of an Indian Tribe's awareness, or a letter of support, when required as described above, may constitute grounds for determining an application ineligible, non-responsive to the NOFO, not subject to further review, and/or not otherwise subject to selection or award.

Any application that may potentially impact Indian Tribe(s) may be shared with the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s). Applicants should include a Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data identifying any business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information.

Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application or to determine whether the proposed project affects an Indian Tribe(s). If an applicant determines an Indian Tribe(s) will be impacted, the applicant must provide information on the project location, potential impacts and how the applicant will engage with Indian Tribe(s), during the period of performance of the agreement, and, if necessary, after the end of the agreement. If the applicant proposes any activities that could impact Tribal resources or reserved rights, including but not limited to lands, cultural sites, sacred sites, water rights, mineral rights, fishing rights, and hunting rights, they must notify DOE as outlined below in the application submission requirements. DOE will determine if formal government-to-government consultation is needed, and DOE will conduct that consultation accordingly, in addition to any engagement by applicant.

Save the information in a single PDF file named "ImpactedTribes" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

4. Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)

Applicants must provide a separate budget for each year of support requested and a cumulative budget for the total project period of performance. Use the SF-424A Excel, "Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs" form on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at Financial Assistance Forms and Information For Applicants and Recipients | Department of Energy.

An estimate of the projected NRC licensing fees to support the proposed licensing efforts should be provided for each year of support. Government funds will be provided based on actual NRC fees assessed and not based on estimated fees. NRC invoices will need to be submitted to DOE prior to government funds being provided. Costs for support activities such as research should not be provided.

Save the information in a single Microsoft Excel file named "SF-424A" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

5. Subrecipient Budget Justification

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than $500,000 or 25% of the total work effort, whichever is

less. The budget justification must include the same justification information described in the *Budget Justification Workbook* section above.

Save the information in a single Microsoft Excel file named "Subrecipient_Budget_Justification" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

6. Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation

All recipients receiving funding under the applicable NOFO Part 1 must be incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States and have a physical location for business operations in the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, an applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application.

Waiver Criteria

Foreign entities seeking to participate in a project funded under this NOFO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DOE that:

1. Its participation is in the best interest of the United States industry and United States economic development;
2. The project team has appropriate measures in place to control sensitive information and protect against unauthorized transfer of scientific and technical information;
3. Adequate protocols exist between the United States subsidiary and its foreign parent organization to comply with export control laws and any obligations to protect proprietary information from the foreign parent organization;
4. The work is conducted within the United States, and the entity acknowledges and demonstrates that it has the intent and ability to comply with the U.S. Competitiveness Provision (see *Post-Award Requirements--U.S. Manufacturing Commitments* below); and
5. The foreign entity will satisfy other conditions that DOE may deem necessary to protect U.S. government interests.

Content for Waiver Request

A Foreign Entity waiver request must include all of the following:

1. Information about the entity(ies) involved in the proposed work to be conducted outside the United States (i.e., the entity seeking a waiver and the entity(ies) that will conduct the work): name, point of contact, and proposed type of involvement in the project;
2. Country of incorporation, the extent of the ownership/level control by foreign entities, whether the entity is state owned or controlled, a summary of the ownership breakdown of the foreign entity, and the percentage of ownership/control by foreign entities, foreign shareholders, foreign state, or foreign individuals;
3. The rationale for proposing a foreign entity participate (must address criteria above);
4. A description of the project's anticipated contributions to the United States economy;
    a. How the project will benefit United States R&D and manufacturing, including contributions to employment in the United States and growth in new markets and jobs in the United States;
    b. How the project will promote domestic American manufacturing of products and/or services;
5. A description of how the foreign entity's participation is essential to the project;
6. A description of the likelihood of IP being created from the work and the treatment of any such IP; and

7. Countries where the work will be performed. (Note: If any work is proposed to be conducted outside the United States, the applicant must also complete a separate request foreign work waiver.)

DOE may also require:

1. A risk assessment with respect to IP and data protection protocols that includes the export control risk based on the data protection protocols, the technology being developed, and the foreign entity and country. These submissions could be prepared by the project lead (if not the recipient), but the recipient must make a representation to DOE as to whether it believes the data protection protocols are adequate and make a representation of the risk assessment – high, medium, or low risk of data leakage to a foreign entity.
2. Additional language may be added to any agreement or subagreement to protect IP, mitigate risk, or other related purposes.

DOE may require additional information before considering the waiver request. DOE's decision concerning a waiver request is not appealable.

Save the information in a single PDF file named "FEW" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

7. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver)

All work for the projects selected must be performed in the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application. A separate waiver request must be submitted for each entity proposing performance of work outside of the United States.

Overall, a waiver request must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DOE that it would further the purposes of this NOFO and is otherwise in the economic interests of the United States to perform work outside of the United States. A request for a foreign work waiver must include the following:

1. The rationale for performing the work outside the United States ("foreign work");
2. A description of the work proposed to be performed outside the United States;
3. An explanation as to how the foreign work is essential to the project;
4. A description of the anticipated benefits to be realized by the proposed foreign work and the anticipated contributions to the U.S. economy;
5. The associated benefits to be realized and the contribution to the project from the foreign work;
6. How the foreign work will benefit the United States, including manufacturing, contributions to employment in the United States and growth in new markets and jobs in the United States;
7. How the foreign work will promote manufacturing of products and/or services in the United States;
8. A description of the likelihood of IP being created from the foreign work and the treatment of any such IP;
9. The total estimated cost (DOE and recipient cost share) of the proposed foreign work;
10. The countries in which the foreign work is proposed to be performed; and
11. The name of the entity that would perform the foreign work.

DOE may require additional information before considering the waiver request. DOE's decision concerning a waiver request is not appealable.

Save the information in a single PDF file named "FWW" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

8. Resumes for Non-Research & Development (R&D) NOFOs

A resume provides information reviewers can use to evaluate an individual's relevant skills and the experience of the key project personnel. Applicants must submit a resume for each project manager, Senior/Key Personnel, and all covered individuals as defined in the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements, Covered Individual Definition, Designation and Responsibility*. DOE reserves the right to not proceed with merit reviews for incomplete applications. Applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails.

Resumes must include the following at a minimum:

Resume Requirements	
Contact Information	Phone, email, and address
Education	All academic institutions attended, major/area, degree
Training	Examples include certification or credential from a Registered Apprenticeship or Labor Management Partnership
Professional Experience	Beginning with the current position, list professional/academic positions in chronological order with a brief description
Current Appointments	All current academic, professional, or institutional appointments, foreign or domestic, at the applicant institution or elsewhere, whether or not remuneration is received, and whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary.
Additional Criteria	There should be no lapses in time over the past 10 years or since age 18, whichever period is shorter.

Save the information in a single PDF file named "Resumes" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

9. Current and Pending Support

Current and pending support is intended to allow the identification of potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support. As part of the application, the Principal Investigator or Lead Project Manager and all covered individuals as defined in the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content Requirements–Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility* at the applicant and subrecipient level must provide a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether paid or unpaid; provided as a gift with terms or conditions or provided as a gift without terms or conditions; full-time, part-time, or voluntary; faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary; cash or in-kind; foreign or domestic; governmental or private-sector; directly supporting the individual's research or indirectly supporting the individual by supporting

students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses. All connections with malign foreign talent recruitment programs must be identified in current and pending support.

Information Required for Each Activity	
Sponsor of the Activity	The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding.
Award Number	The federal award number or any other identifying number.
Award Title	If the title of the award or activity is not descriptive, add a brief description of the research being performed that would identify any overlaps or synergies with the proposed research
Total Cost or Value	The total cost or value of the award or activity, including direct and indirect costs and cost share. For pending proposals, provide the total amount of requested funding
Award Period	The "Start Date" through "End Date".
Person-months	The person-months of effort per year dedicated to the award or activity
Description	To identify overlap, duplication of effort, or synergistic efforts, append a description of the other award or activity to the current and pending support.
Digital Persistent Identifier (e.g., ORCID iD)	For R&D NOFOs only, provide an ORCID iD (optional until May 2025, and required thereafter).
Certification Statement	Covered individuals must provide a separate certification statement listing the required information above regarding current and pending support. Each individual must sign and date their respective certification statement: *I, [Full Name and Title], understand that I have been designated as a covered individual by the Federal funding agency.* *I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Current and Pending Support Disclosure Statement is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, misrepresentations, half-truths, or omissions of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812). I further understand and agree that (1) the statements and representations made herein are material to DOE's funding decision, and (2) I have a responsibility to update the disclosures during the period of performance of the award should circumstances change which impact the responses provided above.*

	I also certify that, at the time of submission, I am not a party in a malign foreign talent recruitment program. **The following CPS certification is optional until May 1, 2025, and mandatory thereafter:** *I further certify that within the past 12 months I have completed one of the following: (1) research security training meeting the guidelines in SEC. 10634(b) of 42 USC 19234, or (2) all of the NSF training modules located https://new.nsf.gov/research-security/training.*
Foreign Government Sponsorship	Details of any obligations, contractual or otherwise, to any program, entity, or organization sponsored by a foreign government must be provided on request to either the applicant institution or DOE. Supporting documents of any identified source of support must be provided to DOE on request, including certified translations of any document.

The information may be provided in the approved common disclosure format available at Common Form for Current and Pending (Other) Support (nsf.gov). Regardless of the format used, the individual must include a signature, date, and a certification statement using the language included in the table above.

Current and Pending Support Disclosures must be submitted for all covered individuals, include the exact certification statement provided above, and must be signed and dated in order to be considered. DOE reserves the right to not proceed with application merit reviews for incomplete applications.

Definitions:

Current and pending support –

A) All resources made available, or expected to be made available, to an individual in support of the individual's RD&D efforts, regardless of
   i. whether the source is foreign or domestic;
   ii. whether the resource is made available through the entity applying for an award or directly to the individual; or
   iii. whether the resource has monetary value; and

B) includes in-kind contributions requiring a commitment of time and directly supporting the individual's RD&D efforts, such as the provision of office or laboratory space, equipment, supplies, employees, or students.

This term has the same meaning as the term "Other Support" as applied to researchers in NSPM-33: For researchers, Other Support includes all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their professional RD&D efforts, including resources provided directly to the individual or through the organization, and regardless of whether or not they have monetary value (e.g., even if the support received is only in-kind, such as office/laboratory space, equipment, supplies, or employees). This includes resources and/or financial support from all foreign and domestic entities,

including but not limited to gifts provided with terms or conditions, financial support for laboratory personnel, and participation of student and visiting researchers supported by other sources of funding.

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program as defined in P.L. 117-167, Section 10638(4):

A) any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual—

i. engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a United States entity or developed with a federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;

ii. being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;

iii. establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a federal research and development award;

iv. being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;

v. through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a federal research and development award;

vi. being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;

vii. being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award;

viii. being required to not disclose to the federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or

ix. having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award; and

(B) a program that is sponsored by—

i. a foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;

ii. an academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232); or

iii. a foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232).

More information can be found at OSTP-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Guidelines.pdf (whitehouse.gov).

Save the information in a single PDF file named "CPS" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

10. Transparency of Foreign Connections

Applicants must provide the following information as it relates to the proposed recipient and subrecipient(s). Include a separate disclosure for the applicant and each proposed subrecipient.

Disclosure exceptions by entity type:

- U.S. National Laboratories and domestic government entities are not required to respond to the Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosure.
- Institutions of higher education are only required to respond to items with an asterisk symbol (*).

Applicants, regardless of entity type, must provide complete responses for project team members that are not U.S. National Laboratories, domestic government entities, or institutions of higher education.

Disclosure Information	
***Entity Name**	Complete legal name of the lead organization.
***Website Address**	Link to the entity's website address.
***Mailing Address**	Complete mailing address for the entity to include zip code.
***Project Participants Party to ANY Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program**	The identity of all owners, principal investigators, project managers, and covered individuals who are a party to any Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program. As part of this requirement, the entity must also certify that each covered individual has been made aware of the Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program prohibition and complied with the certification requirement via the Current and Pending Support disclosure;
Country of Risk Joint Venture or Subsidiary	The existence of any joint venture or subsidiary that is based in, funded by, or has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of risk (i.e., the People's Republic of China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia);
Current or Pending Foreign Contractual or Financial Obligation	Any current or pending contractual or financial obligation or other agreement specific to a business arrangement, or joint venture-like arrangement with an enterprise owned by a foreign state or any foreign entity;
Percentage Foreign Ownership or Control	Percentage, if any, that the proposed recipient or subrecipient has foreign ownership or control;

Disclosure Information	
Percentage Country of Risk Ownership	Percentage, if any, that the proposed recipient or subrecipient is wholly or partially owned, directly or indirectly, by an entity incorporated or otherwise formed in a foreign country of risk or foreign state-owned entity;
Percentage Country of Risk Investment	Percentage, if any, of venture capital or institutional investment by an entity that has a general partner or individual holding a leadership role in such entity who has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of risk;
***Country of Risk Technology Licensing of Intellectual Property Sales**	Any technology licensing, transfer, or intellectual property sales to a foreign country of risk, in effect during the 5-year period preceding submission of the proposal within the same technology area as the application (e.g., batteries, biotechnology, grid, energy generation and storage, advanced computing);
***Foreign Equipment**	Any of the following foreign equipment proposed for use on the project: i. Unmanned aircraft, control, and communications components originally made or manufactured in a foreign country of risk (including relabeled or rebranded equipment). ii. Coded equipment where the source code is written in a foreign country of risk. iii. Equipment from a foreign country of risk that will be connected to the internet or other remote communication system. iv. Any entity from a foreign country of risk that will have physical or remote access to any part of the equipment used on the project after delivery.
Foreign Entity Relationships	Any foreign business entity, offshore entity, or entity outside the United States related to the proposed recipient or subrecipient;
List of Company Directors (and Board Observers)	Complete list of all directors (and board observers), including their full name, citizenship and shareholder affiliation, date of appointment, duration of term, as well as a description of observer rights as applicable;
Complete Capitalization Table	Complete capitalization table for your entity, including all equity interests (including LLC and partnership interests, as well as derivative securities). Include both the number of shares issued to each equity holder, as well as the percentage of that series and all equity on a fully diluted basis. Identify the principal place of incorporation (or organization) for each equity holder. If the equity holder is a natural person, identify the citizenship(s). If the recipient or subrecipient is a publicly traded company, provide the above information for shareholders with an interest greater than 5%;
Principal Place of Incorporation	Identify the principal place of incorporation (or organization) for each equity holder. If the equity holder is a natural person, identify the citizenship(s). If the recipient or subrecipient is a publicly traded company, provide the above information for shareholders with an interest greater than 5%;
Rounds of Financing Table	A summary table identifying all rounds of financing, the purchase dates, the investors for each round, and all the associated governance and

Disclosure Information	
	information rights obtained by investors during each round of financing; and
Organization Chart	An organization chart to illustrate the relationship between your entity and the immediate parent, ultimate parent, and any intermediate parent, as well as any subsidiary or affiliates. Identify where each entity is incorporated.

DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information based on the information submitted.

Save the information in a single file PDF named "BusinessSensitive_TFC" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

11. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice

If the applicant or project team member has other active awards of federal funds, the applicant must determine whether the activities of those awards potentially overlap with the activities set forth in its application to this NOFO. If there is a potential overlap, the applicant must notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state how it will ensure any project funds (i.e., recipient cost share and federal funds) will not be used for identical cost items under multiple awards.

Likewise, for projects that receive funding under this NOFO, if a recipient or project team member receives any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under the DOE award, the recipient must promptly notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state whether project funds from any of those other federal awards have been, are being, or are to be used (in whole or in part) for one or more of the identical cost items under the DOE award. If there are identical cost items, the recipient must promptly notify the DOE Grants Officer in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

Save the information in a single PDF file named "PDFN" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

12. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

The applicant must provide a list of locations where project work will be performed by the prime recipient or subrecipient(s) including the following information for each location:

- Location Type
- Location Type Category
- Is this a Principal Place of Performance?
- Prime or Subrecipient Location?
- If Subrecipient, Subrecipient/Community Name
- Facility Name (if applicable)
- Is location in a foreign country?
- Street Address, City, State, 5-Digit Zip Code - +4
- % of work performed at this location

Applicants must provide the Locations of Work Documentation as an Adobe PDF file.

13. Lobbying Activities

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters. See also *Lobbying* in the Funding Restrictions section below.

a. All recipients and subrecipients that have lobbying activities to disclose:

Complete and submit the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) available at: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL_2_0-V2.0.pdf to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

b. Recipients and subrecipients that have no lobbying activities to disclose:

Complete and submit, Certification Regarding Lobbying form (OMB 4040-0013) available at: https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/GG_LobbyingForm-V1.1.pdf

Save the information in a single file PDF named "SF-LLL" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

14. Summary for Public Release

Applicants must submit a one-page summary of their project that is suitable for dissemination to the public.

Summary of Public Release Content	
Applicant Name	Provide the legal name of the applicant.
Major Participant Names	List all significant project participants and their roles.
Lead Project Manager / Principal Investigator(s)	Provide names and titles.
Project Title	Provide the title for the planned project.
Project Location(s)	Provide the locations(s) of work for the proposed project.
Project Objectives	Identify the overarching project objectives aligned with requirements set forth in the NOFO.

Project Description	The description must include methods to be employed and the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes).
Publicly Releasable (Unlimited Rights)	This document must not include any proprietary or business-sensitive information, as DOE may make it available to the public after selections are made.
Page Limit Clarification	The summary must not exceed the stated page limit when printed, using standard 8.5" x 11" paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12-point.

Save the information in a single file named "Summary" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

15. Summary Slide

Applicants must provide a single slide summarizing the proposed project. The Summary Slide should include the following information:

Summary Slide Content	
Project Title	Provide the title for the planned project.
Applicant	Provide the legal name of the applicant.
Project Location(s)	Provide the locations(s) of work for the proposed project.
PI/LPM and Key Personnel Information	Provide names and titles.
Requested DOE Funds	Identify federal funds requested for the project.
Proposed Cost Share	Provide the amount of cost share contribution.
Technology Summary	Describe the technology to be developed.
Technology Impact	Describe the impact of the proposed technology if the project is successful.
Project Goals	Identify the overarching project goals.
Key Graphics	Illustrations, charts and/or tables
Key Idea / Takeaway	Describe the key takeaway that you would like to provide to the DOE.

Save the information in a single Microsoft PowerPoint file named "Slide" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

C. Funding Restrictions

1. Allowable Costs

All expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. Pursuant to 2 CFR 910.352, the cost principles in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR 31.2) apply to for-profit entities. The cost principles contained in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E apply to all entities other than for-profits.

2. Pre-Award Costs

Applicants selected for award negotiations (selectees) must request prior written approval to charge pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work.

Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and only with the written approval of the federal awarding agency, through the DOE Grants Officer.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and Analysis.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the selectee's risk. DOE is not obligated to reimburse costs: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the selectee anticipated.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements Related to Pre-Award Costs
DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this NOFO is subject to NEPA. Applicants should carefully consider and should seek legal counsel or other expert advice before taking any action related to the proposed project that would have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE completing the NEPA review process.

DOE does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse pre-award costs incurred prior to receiving written authorization from the Grants Officer. If the applicant elects to undertake activities that DOE determines may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Grants Officer, the applicant is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding for its project and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share. Nothing contained in the pre-award cost reimbursement regulations or any pre-award costs approval letter from the Grants Officer overrides the requirement to obtain the written authorization from the Grants Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Likewise, if an application is selected for negotiation of award, and the recipient elects to undertake activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the Grants Officer in advance of DOE completing a NEPA review, the recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

3. Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver) Requirement

All work performed under awards issued under this NOFO must be performed in the United States. The recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

Failure to Comply

If the recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, DOE may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the United States and such costs may not be recognized as allowable recipient cost share. The recipient is responsible should any work under this award be performed outside the United States, absent a waiver, regardless of whether the work is performed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors or other project partners.

Foreign Work Waiver

To seek a foreign work waiver, the applicant must submit a written waiver request to DOE. Refer to Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver) which lists the information that must be included in a request for a foreign work waiver.

4. Lobbying

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-individual-family) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements* for all submission requirements and instructions including the content and form for each submission and deadlines.

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VI. Application Review Information

Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Application Review Information—Review Criteria* for specific compliance and technical criteria. The following describes the DOE evaluation and selection process that is applicable to all NOFOs.

A. Standard Evaluation and Selection Processes

1. Overview

The evaluation process consists of multiple phases; each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews of eligible submissions are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the NOFO. Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors and risk reviews, in determining which applications to select.

2. Pre-Selection Interviews

As part of the evaluation and selection process, DOE may invite one or more applicants to participate in pre-selection interviews. Pre-selection interviews are distinct from and more formal than pre-selection clarifications described below. The invited applicant(s) will meet with DOE representatives to provide clarification on the contents of the applications and to provide DOE an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project. The information provided by applicants to DOE through pre-selection interviews contributes to DOE's selection decisions.

DOE will arrange to meet with the invited applicants in person at DOE's offices or a mutually agreed upon location. DOE may also arrange site visits at certain applicants' facilities. In the alternative, DOE may invite certain applicants to participate in a one-on-one conference with DOE via webinar, videoconference, or conference call.

DOE will not reimburse applicants for travel and other expenses relating to the pre-selection interviews, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

Participation in pre-selection interviews with DOE does not signify that applicants have been selected for award negotiations.

3. Pre-Selection Clarification

DOE may determine that pre-selection clarifications are necessary from one or more applicants. Pre-selection clarifications are distinct from and less formal than pre-selection interviews described above. These pre-selection clarifications will solely be for the purposes of clarifying the application. The pre-selection clarifications may occur before, during or after the merit review evaluation process. Information provided by an applicant that is not necessary to address the pre-selection clarification question will not be reviewed or considered. Typically, a pre-selection clarification will be carried out through either written responses to DOE's written clarification questions or video or conference calls with DOE representatives.

The information provided by applicants to DOE through pre-selection clarifications is incorporated in their applications and contributes to the merit review evaluation and DOE's selection decisions. If DOE contacts an applicant for pre-selection clarification purposes, it does not signify that the applicant has been selected for negotiation of award or that the applicant is among the top ranked applications.

DOE will not reimburse applicants for expenses relating to the pre-selection clarifications, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

4. Recipient Responsibility and Qualifications

Prior to making a federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, DOE is required to review and consider any responsibility and qualification information about the applicant that is in the entity information domain in SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. § 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the entity information domain in SAM.gov and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the entity information domain in SAM.gov.

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the entity information domain in SAM.gov, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206.

5. Due Diligence Review for Research, Technology and Economic Security

All applications submitted to DOE are subject to a due diligence review.

As DOE invests in critical infrastructure and funds critical and emerging technology areas,[3] DOE considers possible threats to United States research, technology, and economic security from undue foreign government influence when evaluating risk. If high risks are identified and cannot be sufficiently mitigated, DOE may elect to not fund the applicant. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the applicant and/or proposed project team members for additional information to inform the review. This risk review is conducted separately from the technical merit review.

The due diligence review of covered individuals includes but is not limited to the review of resumes and disclosures, as required in the NOFO. DOE reserves the right to ask for disclosures on project participants not defined as covered individuals. The Applicant need not submit any additional information on non-covered individuals, unless requested by DOE. The volume and type of information collected may depend on various factors associated with the award.

Note this review is separate and distinct from DOE Order 142.3B "Unclassified Foreign National Access Program".

[3] See Critical and Emerging Technologies List Update (whitehouse.gov).

6. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Go/No-Go Reviews, and Peer Reviews, the government may seek the advice of qualified non-federal personnel as reviewers. The government may also use non-federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities, including DOE contractors. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-federal reviewers/administrators. Non-federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest (COI) and non-disclosure acknowledgements (NDA) prior to reviewing an application. Non-federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign an NDA.

7. Selection

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Merit Review Panel's recommendations, program policy factors, risk reviews, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this NOFO.

VII. Selection and Award Notices

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for negotiation of award and negotiating awards by the dates provided on the NOFO Part 1, *Basic Information—Key Dates*.

A. Selection Notices

1. Ineligible Submissions

Ineligible applications will not be further reviewed or considered for award. The Grants Officer will send a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant. The notification letter will state the basis upon which the application is ineligible and not considered for further review.

2. Application Notifications

DOE will notify applicants of its determination via a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in the full application. The notification letter will inform the applicant whether its application was selected for award negotiations. Alternatively, DOE may notify one or more applicants that a final selection determination on particular applications will be made at a later date, subject to the availability of funds or other factors.

3. Applicants Selected for Award Negotiations

DOE may stagger its selection determinations. As a result, some applicants may receive their notification letter in advance of other applicants. Successful applicants will receive written notification that they have been selected for award negotiations including estimated award negotiation dates. Receipt of a notification letter selecting an application for award negotiations does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment by DOE to issue an award nor is it a guarantee of federal government funding. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Grants Officer executes the funding agreement, accessible by the recipient in FedConnect.

The award negotiation process can take a minimum of 60 days up to 180 days depending on the complexity of the project and responsiveness of the selectee among other factors.

The applicant must be responsive during award negotiations by providing requested documentation, including post-selection documentation, and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the applicant fails to do so or if award negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, DOE will cancel the award negotiations and rescind the Selection. DOE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please refer to the Pre-Award Costs section above for guidance on pre-award costs.

4. Alternate Selections

In some instances, an applicant may receive a notification that its application was not selected for award and DOE designated the application to be an alternate. As an alternate, DOE may consider the application for federal funding in the future. A notification letter stating the application is designated as

an alternate does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. DOE may ultimately determine to select or not select the application for award negotiations.

5. Applicants Not Selected for Award Negotiations

DOE shall promptly notify in writing each applicant whose application has not been selected for award negotiation or whose application cannot be funded because of the unavailability of appropriated funds.

B. Post-Selection Information Requests

To reduce burden in the application process required under Memorandum M-24-11 Reducing Burden in the Administration of Federal Financial Assistance, DOE has instituted Post-Selection Information Requests and Submissions procedures. These procedures allow certain elements of an application to be submitted later in the application process, either prior to merit review or after merit review when the application is under consideration for funding.

Applicants will be notified (primarily by e-mail) when Post-Selection Information is needed. This notification is not a Notice of Award, nor should it be construed to be an indicator of possible funding. Applicants should only submit this information when requested. The applicant will be notified on what documents and materials to submit, the format required and where and when to submit.

1. Example Information Requests

The following is a list of examples of information that may be required to complete award negotiations:

- Personnel proposed to work on the project and collaborating organizations
- Participants and Collaborating Organizations;
- Current and Pending Support;
- Other budget information;
- Indirect cost information;
- Letters of Commitment from third parties contributing to cost share, if applicable;
- Lobbying disclosure;
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable;

2. Entity Risk Assessment

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.206, DOE may conduct an additional review of the risk posed by applications submitted under the applicable NOFO Part 1. This risk assessment may consider:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by 2 CFR Part 910;
- History of performance;
- Audit reports and findings; and
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on recipients or subrecipients.

DOE may make use of other publicly available information and the history of an applicant’s performance under DOE or other federal agency awards.

Depending on the severity of the findings and whether the findings were resolved, DOE may elect not to fund the applicant.

In addition to this review, DOE must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR Part 180 and must require recipients or subrecipients to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal programs or activities.

3. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this NOFO is subject to NEPA (42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website at https://www.energy.gov/nepa.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all applicants selected for award negotiations and recipients of an award will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their proposed project. If DOE determines certain documents must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process, the recipient may be required to prepare the documents and the costs to prepare the necessary documents may be included as part of the project costs. DOE will independently evaluate the environmental document and will take responsibility for the contents, including ensuring the professional integrity of the discussion and analysis, as required by NEPA.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

DOE must comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to deciding whether or how to distribute federal funds. Section 106 requires DOE to identify and consider adverse effects to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. DOE may perform a NHPA review under the umbrella of its NEPA review and will require applicants to assist in this review and consider impacts to historic, Tribal, and cultural resources.

4. Flood Resilience

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires agencies engage in a decision-making process to evaluate the potential effects of any action it may take in a floodplain and to avoid development in a floodplain to the extent possible. DOE procedures for implementing the Executive Order are in 10 CFR part 1022. Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input (reinstated by EO 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk), directs federal agencies to "expand management from the current base flood level to a higher vertical elevation and corresponding horizontal floodplain to address current and future flood risk and ensure that projects funded with taxpayer dollars last as long as intended." The higher flood elevation is based on one of three approaches: climate-informed science (preferred), freeboard value, or 0.2% annual flood change (500-year floodplain). Selectees will be required to indicate whether the proposed project location(s) is within a floodplain, how the floodplain was defined, and how the project's design has been modified to reduce the risk of flood loss and minimize the impact of floods on

human safety, health, and welfare. Information to assist in the implementation of these requirements is available at:

- https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/eo-13690-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and-process-further
- https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/intergovernmental/white-house-flood-resilience-interagency-working-group
- http://floodstandard.climate.gov

5. Trafficking in Persons

Awards under this NOFO will be subject to the requirements at 2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons, including the compliance plan and certification requirements applicable if the estimated value of services required to be performed under the grant or cooperative agreement outside the United States exceeds $500,000.

C. Award Notices

Upon successful completion of award negotiations, the DOE Grants Officer will approve the award, and the recipient will then receive notification of award and can access it in the FedConnect system. Selectees must be registered in FedConnect to receive the final award package after successful completion of award negotiations.

Registering with FedConnect® is fast, easy, and free. Only individuals who are designated as Points of Contact in SAM.gov can create a new company account.

- **What is it?** It's how recipient receive their legally executed award package.
- The SAM Unique Entity Identifier Number (UEI) must be obtained before this registration can be initiated.
- Review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- **Duration** to complete: can take two to three days.
- **Registration Link:** FedConnect website: https://www.fedconnect/net/FedConnect/Default.htm
- **HELP**: https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/TechSupport.aspx

Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents

Submission of an application and supplemental information under the NOFO Part 1 through electronic systems used by the DOE, including Grants.gov and FedConnect, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

VIII. Award Administration Information

A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

Note: Please review this document prior to applying.

DOE requires all award recipients to follow and accept requirements governed by laws and policies – both federal government-wide and DOE or program specific. These post-award requirements include: all National and Administrative Policy Requirements; financial assistance general Certifications and Representations; Risk-Based Review of Project Participants; Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver); Fraud, Waste and Abuse requirements; Safety, Security, and Regulatory requirements; and Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

Recipients of an award made under DOE NOFOs must comply with requirements of all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, DOE policy and guidance, instructions in this NOFO, and the award terms and conditions. Recipients must require subrecipients' compliance with all applicable requirements. Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement.

All DOE award recipients must adhere to the following:

1. Award Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by 2 CFR Part 910.

2. Subaward and Executive Reporting

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR Part 170. Recipients must register with the FFATA Subaward Reporting System database and report the required data on their first tier subrecipients. Recipients must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

3. National Policy Requirements

The National Policy Assurances that are incorporated as a term and condition of award are located at: http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp.

4. Applicant Representations and Certifications

Lobbying Restrictions

By accepting funds under this award, the recipient agrees that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence Congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Representations

In submitting an application to a NOFO, the applicant represents that:

a. It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any federal law within the preceding 24 months; and

b. It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations, a corporation is any for-profit or nonprofit entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations].

Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations
In submitting an application to a NOFO the applicant represents that:

a. It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contactors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

b. It **does not and will not** use any federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

''These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive Order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive Orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.''

(1) The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312 Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement (https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/sf312.pdf), Form 4414 Sensitive Compartmented Information Disclosure Agreement (https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/intel/sf4414.pdf), or any other form issued by a federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the U.S. government, may contain provisions

appropriate to the activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received during such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the U.S. government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the U.S. Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

5. Statement of Federal Stewardship

DOE will exercise normal federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under DOE awards. Stewardship activities include but are not limited to conducting site visits; reviewing performance and financial reports; providing assistance and/or temporary intervention in unusual circumstances to correct deficiencies that develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the project objectives have been accomplished.

6. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy)[4] is applicable to all recipients or subrecipients applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant or cooperative agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award. The term "Investigator" means the PI and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. Recipients must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient. Further, for DOE funded projects, the recipient must include all financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable) in its initial and ongoing FCOI reports.

It is understood that recipients or subrecipients receiving DOE financial assistance awards will need sufficient time to come into full compliance with DOE's interim COI Policy. To provide some flexibility, DOE allows for a staggered implementation. Specifically, prior to award, applicants selected for award negotiations must: ensure all Investigators complete their significant financial disclosures; review the disclosures; determine whether a FCOI exists; develop and implement a management plan for FCOIs; and provide DOE with an initial FCOI report that includes all FCOIs (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable). Recipients will have 180 days from the date of the award to come into full compliance with the other requirements set forth in DOE's interim COI Policy. Prior to award, the applicant must certify that it is, or will be within 180 days of the award, compliant with all requirements in the COI Policy.

7. Whistleblower Protections

As provided in 2 CFR 200.217, an employee of a recipient or subrecipient must not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific

[4] DOE's interim COI Policy can be found at https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial-assistance.

danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant. The recipient and subrecipient must inform their employees in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections.

8. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The mission of the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to strengthen the integrity, economy, and efficiency of the Department's programs and operations, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of DOE activities to include grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

The OIG maintains a hotline for reporting allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement. To report such allegations, please visit https://www.energy.gov/ig/ig-hotline.

Additionally, recipients of DOE awards must be cognizant of the requirements of 2 CFR 200.113 Mandatory disclosures, which states:

> An Applicant, Recipient, or Subrecipient of a federal award must promptly disclose whenever, in connection with the federal award (including any activities or subawards thereunder), it has credible evidence of the commission of a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the United States Code or a violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3729–3733). The disclosure must be made in writing to the federal agency, the agency's Office of Inspector General, and pass-through entity (if applicable). Recipients and subrecipients are also required to report matters related to recipient integrity and performance in accordance with Appendix XII of this part. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.339. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. § 3321, and 41 U.S.C. § 2313.) [85 FR 49539, Aug. 13, 2020]

Applicants/recipients and subrecipients (if applicable) are encouraged to allocate sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated for personnel and data infrastructure needs to support performance management and program evaluation needs, including but not limited to independent program and project audits to mitigate risks for fraud, waste, and abuse.

9. Participants and Collaborating Organizations

If selected for award negotiations, the selected applicant must submit a list of personnel who are proposed to work on the project, both at the recipient and subrecipient level and a list of proposed collaborating organizations prior to award. Recipients will have an ongoing responsibility to notify DOE of changes to the personnel and collaborating organizations and submit updated information during the life of the award.

10. Current and Pending Support

Throughout the life of the award, the recipient has an ongoing responsibility to submit: 1) current and pending support disclosure statements and resumes for any new covered individuals, and 2) updated disclosures if there are changes to the current and pending support previously submitted to DOE. Also see the Current and Pending Support information in the Application Contents Requirements section above.

11. Prohibition Related to Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs

Prohibition

As required by law,[5] *Covered Individuals* participating in a *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program* are prohibited from participating in projects selected for federal funding under this NOFO. Should an award result from this NOFO, the recipient must exercise ongoing due diligence to reasonably ensure that no such individuals participating on the DOE-funded project are participating in a *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program*. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy.

Further, the recipient must notify DOE within five (5) business days upon learning that an individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a malign foreign talent recruitment program. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

Covered Individuals and the applicant must provide certifications regarding no participation in *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs* (see the Current and Pending Support section and Transparency of Foreign Connections section).

Non-Discrimination

DOE will ensure that the Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program Prohibition is carried out in a manner that does not target, stigmatize, or discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin, consistent with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

Definitions

Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program. as defined in P.L. 117-167, Section 10638(4):

A) any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual—
   i. engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a United States entity or developed with a federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;
   ii. being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;

[5] See sections 10631-10632 of P.L. 117-167 (42 USC 19231-19232); OSTP-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Guidelines.pdf (whitehouse.gov).

iii. establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a federal research and development award;
iv. being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
v. through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a federal research and development award;
vi. being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;
vii. being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award;
viii. being required to not disclose to the federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or
ix. having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award; and

B) a program that is sponsored by—
i. a foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;
ii. an academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; [1] Public Law 115–232); or
iii. a foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; [1] Public Law 115–232).

Consistent with applicable law (42 U.S.C. 19232), this provision does not prohibit, unless such activities are funded, organized, or managed by an academic institution or a foreign talent recruitment program on the lists developed under paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1286(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 4001 note; Public Law 115–232)—

A) making scholarly presentations and publishing written materials regarding scientific information not otherwise controlled under current law;

B) participation in international conferences or other international exchanges, research projects or programs that involve open and reciprocal exchange of scientific information, and which are aimed at advancing international scientific understanding and not otherwise controlled under current law;

C) advising a foreign student enrolled at an institution of higher education or writing a recommendation for such a student, at such student's request; and

D) other international activities determined appropriate by the federal research agency head or designee.

12. Foreign Collaboration Considerations

For **new** collaborations with foreign entities, organizations, and governments, the recipient will be required to provide DOE with advanced written notification of any potential collaboration with foreign entities, organizations, or governments in connection with its DOE-funded award scope. The recipient will then be required to await further guidance from DOE prior to contacting the proposed foreign entity, organization, or government regarding the potential collaboration or negotiating the terms of any potential agreement.

For **existing** collaborations with foreign entities, organizations, and governments, the recipient will be required to provide DOE with a written list of all existing foreign collaborations in which it has entered in connection with its DOE-funded award scope.
Description of collaborations that should be reported:

- In general, a collaboration will involve some provision of a thing of value to, or from, the recipient.
- A thing of value includes but may not be limited to all resources made available to, or from, the recipient in support of and/or related to the DOE award, regardless of whether they have monetary value.
- Things of value also may include in-kind contributions (such as office/laboratory space, data, equipment, supplies, employees, students).
- In-kind contributions not intended for direct use on the DOE award but resulting in provision of a thing of value from or to the DOE award must also be reported.

Collaborations do not include routine workshops, conferences, use of the recipient's services and facilities by foreign investigators resulting from its standard published process for evaluating requests for access, or the routine use of foreign facilities by awardee staff in accordance with the recipient's standard policies and procedures.

13. Intellectual Property Provisions

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the this award are located at https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/IP%20Provisions%202023-10-2.pdf

14. Go/No-Go Review

Please refer to the NOFO Part 1, *Award Administration Information--Post-Award Requirements* to determine if a Go/No-go review for each DOE-funded project will be applicable (if "Go/No-Go Review" is not listed in the *Applicable Post-Award Requirements and Administration* table, it is not required).

If applicable, each project selected under the applicable NOFO Part 1 will be subject to a periodic project evaluation referred to as a Go/No-Go Review.

A Go/No-Go Review is a risk management tool and a project management best practice to ensure that, for the current phase or period of performance, technical success is definitively achieved and potential for success in future phases or periods of performance is evaluated, prior to beginning the execution of future phases. At the Go/No-Go decision points, DOE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, the extent milestone objectives are met, compliance with reporting requirements,

and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives. Federal funding beyond the Go/No-Go decision point (continuation funding) is contingent upon (1) availability of federal funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program; (2) the availability of future-year budget authority; (3) recipient's technical progress compared to the Milestone Summary Table stated in Attachment 1 of the award; (4) recipient's submittal of required reports; (5) recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the award; (6) DOE's Go/No-Go decision; (7) the recipient's submission of a continuation application[6]; and (8) written approval of the continuation application by the Grants Officer.

As a result of the Go/No-Go Review, DOE may, at its discretion, authorize the following actions: (1) continue to fund the project, contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority; (2) recommend redirection of work under the project; (3) place a hold on federal funding for the project, pending further supporting data or funding; or (4) discontinue funding the project because of insufficient progress, change in strategic direction, or lack of funding.

The Go/No-Go decision is distinct from a non-compliance determination. In the event a recipient fails to comply with the requirements of an award, DOE may take appropriate action, including but not limited to, redirecting, suspending, or terminating the award.

15. Conference Spending

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the U.S. government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the U.S. government would otherwise exceed $20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

16. Invoice Review and Approval

DOE employs a risk-based approach to determine the level of supporting documentation required for approving invoice payments. Recipients will be required to provide some or all of the following items with their requests for reimbursement:

- Invoices/receipts from the NRC;
- Other items as required by DOE.

17. Cost Share Payment

DOE requires recipients to contribute the cost share amount incrementally over the life of the award. The terms and conditions of the award will specify the recipient's cost share interval, such as by billing period or on a budget period basis. The recipient's cost share for each interval must always reflect the overall cost share ratio negotiated by the parties (e.g., the total amount of cost sharing on each invoice

[6] A continuation application is a non-competitive application for an additional budget period within a previously approved project period. At least ninety (90) days before the end of each budget period, the recipient must submit its continuation application per the instructions in the award terms and conditions.

when considered cumulatively with previous invoices must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated).

In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the DOE Grants Officer may approve a request by the recipient to meet its cost share requirements on a less frequent basis than required by the terms and conditions of the award. Regardless of the interval requested, the recipient must be up to date on cost share at each interval. Such requests must be sent to the Grants Officer during award negotiations and include the following information: (1) a detailed justification for the request; (2) a proposed schedule of payments, including amounts and dates; (3) a written commitment to meet that schedule; and (4) such evidence as necessary to demonstrate that the recipient has complied with its cost share obligations to date. The Grants Officer must approve all such requests before they go into effect.

18. Implementation of Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty

States, local governments, and other public entities may not condition subawards in a manner that would discriminate against or otherwise disadvantage subrecipients based on their religious character.

19. Affirmative Action and Pay Transparency Requirements

All recipients must comply with all applicable federal labor and employment laws, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the National Labor Relations Act, which protects employees' right to bargain collectively and engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of mutual aid or protection.

All federally assisted construction contracts exceeding $10,000 annually will be subject to the requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended—Equal Employment Opportunity:

- Recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors are prohibited from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.
- Recipients and contractors are required to take affirmative action to ensure that equal opportunity is provided in all aspects of their employment. This includes flowing down the appropriate language to all subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors.
- Recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors are prohibited from taking adverse employment actions against applicants and employees for asking about, discussing, or sharing information about their pay or, under certain circumstances, the pay of their co-workers.

DOL's Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs (OFCCP) uses a neutral process to schedule compliance evaluations related to Executive Order 11246, as amended. Consult OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide[7] to gain an understanding of the requirements and possible actions the recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors must take. Additional guidance may also be found in the National Policy Assurances, produced by DOE.

[7] See OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide at: https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ofccp/Construction/files/ConstructionTAG.pdf?msclkid=9e397d68c4b111ec9d8e6fecb6c710ec Also see the National Policy Assurances http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp

Additionally, for construction projects valued at $35 million or more and lasting more than one year, the recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors may be selected by the OFCCP to participate in the *Mega Construction Project Program*. DOE, under relevant legal authorities including Sections 205 and 303(a) of Executive Order 11246, as amended, will require participation as a term of the award. This program offers extensive compliance assistance with Executive Order 11246. For more information regarding this program, see https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/construction/mega-program.

B. Reporting

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement.

DOE must measure the performance to show achievement of program goals and objectives, share lessons learned, improve program outcomes, and foster the adoption of promising practices. DOE will establish program goals and objectives during negotiations and incorporate it into the award terms. To clearly communicate the specific reporting requirements to meet the program goals and objectives in the federal award, DOE combined all reporting into one document, the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist. This document, attached to the award agreement, provides any expected outcomes (such as outputs, service performance, or public impacts of any of these), indicators, targets, baseline data, or data collections that the applicant will be responsible for measuring and reporting

Refer to the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (DOE F 4600.2), attached to the award package, for award-specific reporting requirements

IX. Other Information

A. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this NOFO and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

B. Commitment of Public Funds

The Grants Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by anyone other than the Grants Officer, either express or implied, is invalid.

C. Treatment of Application Information

Applicants should not include trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the NOFO. Applicants are advised to not include any critically sensitive proprietary detail.

The Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, requires DOE to release certain federal financial assistance documents and records requested by members of the public regardless of the intended use of the information. DOE will release funded applications and funded progress reports, including award data, as legally releasable at the conclusion of the competitive funding process. However, DOE will generally withhold this information during the pendency of competitive stages of the funding process.

If an application includes trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it is furnished to the federal government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for merit review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Applications and other submissions containing trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The federal government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose as authorized by law.

The cover sheet of the application, and other applicant submission must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information:

Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:

Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance agreement between the submitter and the government. The government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source. [End of Notice]

In addition, (1) the header and footer of every page that contains trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as follows: "Contains Trade Secrets, Business-Sensitive, Proprietary, or Otherwise Confidential Information Exempt from Public Disclosure," and (2) every line or paragraph containing such information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

D. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities under this NOFO include those that describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

E. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability

DOE reserves the right to conduct an independent third-party review of financial capability for applicants that are selected for negotiation of award (including personal credit information of principal(s) of a small business if there is insufficient information to determine financial capability of the organization).

F. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure

Applicants are required to make a full and complete disclosure of all information requested. Any failure to make a full and complete disclosure of the requested information may result in:

- The cancellation of award negotiations;
- The modification, suspension, and/or cancellation of a funding agreement;
- The initiation of debarment proceedings, debarment, and/or a declaration of ineligibility for receipt of federal contracts, subcontracts, and financial assistance and benefits; and
- Civil and/or criminal penalties.

G. Retention of Submissions

DOE expects to retain copies of all applications and other submissions. By applying to DOE for funding, applicants consent to DOE's retention of their submissions.

H. Export Control

The United States government regulates the transfer of information, commodities, technology, and software considered to be strategically important to the United States to protect national security, foreign policy, and economic interests without imposing undue regulatory burdens on legitimate international trade. There is a network of federal agencies and regulations that govern exports that are collectively referred to as "Export Controls." All recipients and subrecipients are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable United States Export Control laws and regulations relating to any work performed under a resulting award.

The recipient must immediately report to DOE any export control investigations, indictments, charges, convictions, and violations upon occurrence, at the recipient or subrecipient level, and provide the corrective action(s) to prevent future violations.

I. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

As set forth in 2 CFR 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (federal funds and recipient cost share) to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain *covered telecommunications equipment or services*. As described in Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, covered telecommunications equipment or services is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

See Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, 2 CFR 200.216, and 2 CFR 200.471 for additional information.

J. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

All information provided by the applicant must, to the greatest extent possible, exclude PII. "PII" refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, Social Security number, or biometric records, alone or combined with other personal or identifying information linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth or mother's maiden name. (See OMB Memorandum M-17-12 dated January 3, 2017.)

By way of example, applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails. **Under no circumstances should Social Security numbers (SSNs) be included in the application**. Federal agencies are prohibited from collecting, using, and displaying unnecessary SSNs. (See the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec 18, 2014; 44 U.S.C. § 3551).

K. Annual Independent Audits

If a for-profit entity is a recipient and has expended $1,000,000 or more of DOE awards during the entity's fiscal year, an annual compliance audit performed by an independent auditor is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 CFR 910.501 and Subpart F.

If an educational institution, nonprofit organization, or state/local government is a recipient or subrecipient and has expended $1,000,000 or more of federal awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year, a Single or Program-Specific Audit is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 CFR 200.501 and Subpart F.

L. Acronyms

Acronym	Spelled Out	Acronym	Spelled Out
ANC	Alaska Native Corporation	**NSF**	National Science Foundation
BABA	Build America, Buy America Act	**OFCCP**	Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	**OIG**	Office of Inspector General
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	**OMB**	Office of Management and Budget
COI	Conflict of Interest	**OSHA**	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CRADA	Cooperative Research and Development Agreement	**OSTI**	Office of Scientific and Technical Information
DBA	Davis-Bacon Act	**OTA**	Other Transactions Authority
DEC	Determination of Exceptional Circumstances	**PII**	Personally Identifiable Information
DMP	Data Management Plan	**PLA**	Project Labor Agreement
DOE	United States Department of Energy	**RD&D**	Research, Development, and Demonstration
DOI	Digital Object Identifier	**RMP**	Risk Management Plan
DOL	United States Department of Labor	**RTES**	Research, Technology, and Economic Security
EO	Executive Order	**SAM**	System for Award Management
FCOI	Financial Conflicts of Interest	**SciENcv**	Science Experts Network Curriculum Vita
FFATA	Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006	**SMART**	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center	**SOPO**	Statement of Project Objectives
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act	**SPOC**	Single Point of Contact
M&O	Management and Operations	**STEM**	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
MFA	Multi-Factor Authentication	**TA**	Technical Assistance
NDA	Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement	**TRL**	Technology Readiness Level

NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	**UCC**	Uniform Commercial Code
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	**UEI**	Unique Entity Identifier
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration	**WBS**	Work Breakdown Structure
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity	**WP**	Work Proposal