

Announcement Type: Open Competition Cooperative Agreement
Funding Opportunity Title: Strategic Trade Control Capacity in East/Southeast Asia
Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0009162
NOFO Qs & As

Q1. Under Line of Effort #1, are applicants expected to cover Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Mongolia, or can they select some countries within this list? If applicants are required to cover all countries, can there be primary and secondary recipients of technical assistance within these countries?

A1. Applicants are expected to be able to provide assistance to all of the countries during the period of performance.

Q2. Under Line of Effort #1, are applicants required to "Support drafting of FDI screening model tailored for the targeted countries" in all five of the countries listed?

A2. Applicants are expected to have the capacity to support such drafting in all five of the countries under this award. Circumstances may necessitate disengagement from any particular country(ies).

Q3. NOFO p.23 D.2. "Proposals packages must adhere to the attached Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI)" - Could you please share this document?

A3. The PSI references the subpoints a-p (pg. 23-28) that follow.

Q4. NOFO p.24 mentions a "One page Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Plan" and p.26 says the DEIA "stand alone document should be no longer than two pages." Could you please confirm that the page limit is 2 pages for a standalone DEIA Plan?

A4. Yes, the page limit for the DEIA plan is 2 pages max.

Q5. Can applicants reach out to potential counterpart government institutions in the target countries to discuss their current technical assistance needs in the NOFO areas?

A5. Yes, implementers are able to reach out to potential counterpart government institutions in order to provide a higher quality application. Please note, however, that issuance of this NOFO and/or discussions with any foreign government institutions with which EXBS holds relationships or previous work does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Q6. Could you please clarify if all documents to be submitted must be in Calibri 15-point?

A6. All documents should be 15-point Calibri except the Detailed Budget

Q7. Page 7, bullet 2: Will the identification of priority sectors be conducted in conjunction with local counterparts, (e.g., using their own criteria for priority sectors)? Or is this process conducted by the implementing partner according to what the U.S. DOS would identify as priority sectors?

A7. As the intended award is a cooperative agreement, identification of priority sectors will be done in collaboration with EXBS based on consideration of our foreign partners' objectives.

Q8. Page 19, A.12. Logistics: Will the implementing partner coordinate with one specific EXBS program (i.e., EXBS staff in Indonesia) for the overall program, or are there multiple EXBS officers in the field that the implementing partner should plan to coordinate with?

A8. Applicants should plan to coordinate with all relevant EXBS offices and staff (e.g., covering Indonesia, Malaysia/Singapore, Philippines, Mongolia, etc.) as relevant to an individual line of effort.

Q9. Will the implementing partner be able to access support from the U.S. Government (DOS, Trade and Commerce) and EXBS assistance to ensure local buy-in and engagement on FDI issues?

A9. The EXBS program facilitates engagement with relevant foreign partners on all capacity-building programs, including through cooperation with other US Government stakeholders as relevant and feasible. We cannot guarantee contributions from other entities within the State Department or from other Departments and Agencies.

Q10. For EXSB NOFOs with LOEs, do each LOE need to be a separate application within Grants.gov?

A10. Please see pg. 1 and pgs. 20-28 of the NOFO for detailed application submission instructions.

Q11. For each LOE response do they each need to include all the proposal attachments listed in Section D for each submission?

A11. Yes, each Line of Effort must have their own separate documents as listed in Section D.

Q12. Do all proposal attachments have to be 15-point font size? Does it still apply to the budget narrative and cost volume?

A12. Yes, all documents except the Detailed Budget.

Q13. Can the proposal narrative header and footer be a smaller font size than 15-point font?

A13. Yes

Q14. Can proposal narrative language and content within a graphics or table be smaller than 15-point font? If so, what would be the recommended size?

A14. Yes