

Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)

DOE Partnership Intermediary Pilot

Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Number: DE-FOA-0002930

Type: Modification 0001

The purpose of this modification is to revise 7. Of the WHITE PAPER REQUIREMENTS. The description of previous PIAs section does not count toward the 10-page limit of the white paper.

Assistance Listing Number: 81.010

Issue Date:	11/30/2022
Submission Deadline:	1/03/2023 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications:	1/16/2023
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:	1/31/2023

- **DOE's online response portal** - To respond to this BAA, entities must register with and submit responses through EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. Entities must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom DOE will communicate.
- **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)** - Each respondent is required to: (1) Be registered in the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov> before submitting its response; (2) provide a valid UEI number in its response; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. DOE may not enter into an agreement to an entity until it has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements.
- **NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process, they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).**
- The Department of Energy (DOE) seeks to understand the current market capabilities of entities that are performing, or are eligible to perform, as Partnership Intermediaries (PI) that have strong working relationships with an innovative industrial base across the country.

- DOE is posting this announcement for the purpose of obtaining information on current market capabilities of entities that are performing, or are eligible to perform, as Partnership Intermediaries (PI). Submission of responses or information under this Announcement does not guarantee that any potential partner(s) will be issued an agreement. DOE may use the information submitted under this announcement to hold discussions with one or more potential agreement holders which may lead to an agreement.
- DOE shall not reimburse, as a direct cost, any costs associated with responding to this Announcement.
- **Original Set Aside:**
 - Product Service Code: A - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
 - NAICS Code:
 - 541990 - All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
 - Place of Performance: Nationwide

Background: To assist in carrying out DOE program missions, including but not limited to its technology transfer mission, DOE has an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c), to work closely with OTT, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities.¹

Section 3715(c) defines partnership intermediary as “an agency of a State or local government, or a nonprofit entity owned in whole or in part by, chartered by, funded in whole or in part by, or operated in whole or in part by or on behalf of a State or local government, that assists, counsels, advises, evaluates, or otherwise cooperates with small business firms, institutions of higher education as defined in section 1141(a) 1 of title 20, or educational institutions within the meaning of section 2194 of title 10, that need or can make demonstrably productive use of technology-related assistance from a Federal laboratory, including State programs receiving funds under cooperative agreements entered into under section 5121(b) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 2781 note).”

Any resultant agreement(s) with a PI will not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulations and will instead be made pursuant to DOE’s Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) authority codified in 15 U.S.C 3715 and/or its Other Transactions Authority (OTA) codified in 42 U.S.C. 7256(a).

DOE is requesting white papers from prospective PIs describing their capabilities to provide services to increase the likelihood of success of cooperative or joint activities between DOE, and DOE National Laboratories (Labs) and Facilities, and small business firms, institutions of higher education and/or educational institutions, non-traditional partners, and industry.

The goal is to establish a Partnership Intermediary Pilot supported by the award of one or more five-year agreements, each of which would include a two-year base period with three one-year options. The total amount of DOE funding placed onto the agreement(s), for administration by the PI(s), will depend on the overall interest of DOE programs in the use of this mechanism. While unclear at this time, successful outcomes are expected to result in increased funding of activities through the PI(s). The purpose of this/these PI(s) will be to support DOE increasing its outreach to small businesses, universities, and other non-traditional partners in pursuit of clean energy, national security, energy security, and climate goals.

¹ Government-owned production facility or other Non-National Lab facility operated under DOE program cognizance.

Description: DOE is requesting interested entities that meet the requirements of 15 U.S.C. 3715 (c) to express their interest in a PIA pilot by submitting a white paper outlining their capabilities and how they align to the lines of work described below.

Through this pilot, DOE is seeking to expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission. Potential PI activities include facilitating and/or managing innovation hubs and/or public-private partnerships; performing technology and market research and scouting; acting as an independent facilitator between DOE programs and projects, DOE National Labs, and external solution providers; and facilitating rapid prototyping, demonstration, deployment, and/or manufacturing, in furtherance of DOE's mission.

Initial Lines of Work (I-LOWs):

DOE has identified the following I-LOWs for the first year of the PI pilot. The I-LOWs are designed to allow an intermediary to focus on the initial LOW in the first year of the pilot, while providing the flexibility for DOE to open additional LOWs over time.² DOE believes this phased approach will increase the chance for success in the first year of operation while maintaining flexibility to expand the scope of activities over the course of the pilot period. DOE has a need for a PI capable of undertaking these activities on a national scope.

- Facilitating collaboration, matchmaking, and/or connections through events; clearinghouses; coordination with convening bodies, such as Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers; providing collaboration spaces; and other means to bring together potential solution providers including small business and non-traditional partners to complement the activities of DOE programs, DOE Laboratories, and DOE Facilities;
- Facilitating and/or administering Lab voucher programs, rebate programs, and prize competitions;
- Facilitating, managing, and assisting in the awarding of research, development, demonstration and/or deployment funding, innovation hubs, collaborations, public-private partnerships and SBIR/STTR funding/programs;
- Facilitating rapid prototyping, demonstration, deployment, and/or manufacturing, in furtherance of DOE's mission.
- STEM activities and workforce development, including STEM education and work-based learning programs supporting scientists and engineers across the DOE enterprise, including DOE Laboratories, DOE Facilities, and funding recipients of DOE programs;
- Providing technical assistance to increase outreach and lower barriers of access for domestic small businesses, academic institutions, non-traditional partners, and industry, with the goal of increasing the likelihood of engagement between such entities and DOE and its Laboratories and Facilities;
- Providing access to physical collaboration space(s) with tools that can enable virtual engagements. Host planned and/or ad-hoc engagements with DOE and members of the innovative academic and industrial base across the nation;
- Fostering and tracking a network of academic and industrial base members, keeping them up to date on DOE engagements with academia and industry, funding opportunities, etc.; and
- Planning and executing outreach, training, events, and other programs for industry and academic stakeholders.

² DOE may at its sole discretion determine to increase or decrease the authorized LOWs in any year.

Supplementary Lines of Work (S-LOWs):

DOE has identified the following supplementary LOWs for the PI pilot dependent on demand and availability of funding:

- National Laboratory technology matchmaking including but not limited to facilitating patent and intellectual property (IP) management, such as patent and licensing assistance, or partnering for continued development;
- Tech scouting and horizon scanning for DOE Programs, DOE National Laboratories, and DOE Facilities including technology and market research and hosting technology showcases;
- Encouraging industry collaborative investment of leveraged research resources as having high potential for commercialization, especially in areas related to DOE missions;
- Providing manufacturing, design, business, and incubation assistance to DOE awardees, licensees of DOE technologies, and other DOE stakeholders, including those interested in submitting funding proposals to DOE, for the purpose of successfully maturing and transitioning technologies to commercialization or providing small production runs of critical technologies that would otherwise be too small of an order to be of interest to manufacturers;
- Identifying promising technologies that currently exist or are in the developmental phase at DOE, DOE Facilities, or DOE awardees, that could be efficiently, and cost effectively transitioned to the market; and
- Establishing a network of subject matter experts to engage with DOE Program Managers to review and evaluate promising technology solutions for technology transfer and commercialization to industry.

WHITE PAPER REQUIREMENTS

DOE is requesting interested entities that meet the requirements of 15 U.S.C. 3715 (c) to express their interest by submitting a white paper outlining their capabilities and how they align to the LOWs described herein.

White papers shall not exceed ten (10) pages, must be in PDF format, and should succinctly address the entity's ability to meet the LOWs, its qualification as a Partnership Intermediary, and its eligibility under 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c). An entity does not need to respond to every LOW.

White papers should identify the following:

1. Name and address of organization, UEI Number, entity type.
2. Name, address, email, and phone number for the technical and administrative points of contact for the entity.
3. Name and address of proposed team members or partnering organization(s), UEI Number(s), entity type and contact information.
4. Written evidence of how your entity qualifies as a PI in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 3715(c). Acceptable evidence can include an organizational charter or bylaws.
5. Briefly summarize your organization's capability and experience to meet the Lines of Work (I-LOW and S-LOW). Specifically, what type of work has your organization performed in the past in support of the same or similar requirements?

6. Description of business systems and controls that answers the following questions. What is the status of your organizations' Accounting System? Does your firm have a Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) approved Accounting System? Does your organization have any other Government approved business systems?
7. Provide a brief description of any/all Partnership Intermediary Agreements or similar agreements your entity has had in the past 5 years. Include the following:
 - a. Agreement identification number
 - b. Period of Performance
 - c. Government partner
 - d. Location where primary PI services were/are performed
 - e. Cumulative dollar value of each agreement
 - f. Brief summary of types of PI services provided

This section does not count toward the 10-page limit.
8. Resumes for the key personnel who will contribute to the development and execution of the proposed activities. Each resume shall not exceed two pages and does not count toward the 10-page limit.
9. A one-page summary slide outlining the overall white paper. A template is intentionally not provided to encourage creativity. The slide should be able to be read when presented on a screen during briefings. The summary slide does not count toward the 10-page limit.

White papers may be submitted any time during the open period. White papers must be submitted through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) eXCHANGE online response portal at <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov>.

Entities must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom DOE will communicate.

EERE Exchange is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this BAA. The "Apply" and "Submit" buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines. Should applicants experience problems with EERE Exchange, the following information may be helpful.

Applicants that experience issues with submission PRIOR to the BAA deadline: In the event that an applicant experiences technical difficulties with a submission, the applicant should contact the EERE Exchange helpdesk for assistance (EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov). The EERE Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

Prohibited Activities: PI services that are prohibited under this effort include: (1) services beyond an intermediary role that resemble scientific research work where the development of intellectual rights by the PI is likely; (2) efforts in which there is an actual or apparent conflict of interest; and (3) performance of inherently governmental functions.

Evaluation Criteria: Initially, a determination will be made if each submitter's organization is qualified in meeting the statutory definition of a "partnership intermediary," and has a comprehensive understanding

to undertake the PI role based on the information stated in the white paper. DOE will evaluate white papers responsive to the I-LOWs and S-LOWs discussed herein. White papers will not be evaluated against each other.

The evaluation process will include an initial eligibility review and a technical review. Technical reviews of eligible submissions are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the BAA. Ultimately, the selection official considers the recommendations of the reviewers and any information gathered through pre-selection interviews in determining which, if any, entity to select as a PI.

All white paper submissions must:

- comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in the BAA;
- include all required documents;
- be successfully uploaded in EERE Exchange <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>, including clicking the “Submit” button; and
- be submitted by the deadline stated in the BAA.

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions.

The evaluation criteria are:

- a) Technical Merit (45%)
 - The degree to which the submitter’s proposed approach and activities support I-LOW and S-LOW, with a particular emphasis on I-LOWs.
- b) Team Capabilities (35%)
 - Experience and effectiveness in performing as a Partnership Intermediary
 - Related and recent experience, especially with other Federal Agencies and Federal laboratories, or State and local governments, that is integral to achieving the stated LOWs;
 - The degree to which the proposed team demonstrates the ability to effectively facilitate and expedite activities listed in the LOWs;
 - The ability to monitor the performance of multiple activities to assure adherence to performance goals, time schedules or other requirements as appropriate to the terms of the agreement
- c) Business Systems and Processes (10%)
 - The capability of the entity’s business systems and controls in managing contracts, to include adequate estimating, purchasing, and accounting systems;
 - The capability of the entity’s business processes and procedures for engaging with Government partners, subcontractors, domestic small businesses, academic institutions, non-traditional partners, and industry, in supporting efforts under the LOW between such entities and DOE and its Laboratories and Facilities;
 - The capability of the entity to have sufficient controls and procedures in place to identify and mitigate organizational and financial conflicts of interests between employees, entities and/or activities.

d) Geographic and Innovation Ecosystem Scope (10%)

- The demonstrated ability to support LOW activities across multiple states and innovation ecosystems;
- Demonstrated partnerships with organizations to ensure a wide geographic representation.

NOTICE: When appropriate, DOE Contractors and their employees may also have access to white papers that may be utilized to objectively analyze white papers and provide comments and recommendations to the Government stakeholders. All Covered DOE Support Contract advisors shall comply with procurement integrity laws. The Government shall take into consideration requirements for avoiding conflicts of interest and ensure advisors comply with safeguarding submission data. Submission of a white paper constitutes approval to release the submitted information to Covered DOE Support Contract advisors and waives any requirement for separate non-disclosure agreements.

Pre-Selection Interviews: DOE may conduct interviews with some or none of the submitters to better determine qualifications of the PIs. Interviews are not indicative of a selected submission and are not required.

If invited for an interview, invited submitter(s) will meet with DOE representatives to provide clarification on the contents of the submission and to provide DOE an opportunity to ask questions regarding the qualifications of the submitter or the content of their submission. The information provided by submitters to DOE through pre-selection interviews contributes to DOE's selection decisions.

DOE may arrange to meet with the invited submitters 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 submitters 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 submitters have been selected for an award.

Proposed Funding and Cost Analysis Mechanisms: Detailed cost analysis will not be conducted for the purposes of awarding an Agreement under the BAA. As requirements and tasking are identified by DOE (and subject to funding availability), individual orders (Project Orders (POs)) will be placed against the agreement with the PI.

DOE anticipates that PI activities, including work under POs, will be undertaken under a fixed-price structure. However, DOE will evaluate the reasonableness of the estimated budget and spend/staffing plan for LOW activities. DOE will consider allowing alternative approaches, including a reimbursable cost-based approach, especially at the sub-tier level. Should respondents wish to use something other than a fixed price structure, the white paper should include details on the proposed approach(es) and why they would be advantageous to DOE should DOE choose to implement something other than a fixed-price structure for work with or performed through the PI.

PI Agreements: DOE plans to enter into at least one Agreement with a PI. All selection(s) will be based on the individual merit of the white paper and interviews (as applicable). DOE reserves the right to select all, some, or none of the white papers received in response to this announcement, and all funding is subject

to the availability of appropriations. There is no commitment by the DOE to be responsible for any monies expended by the submitter before execution of the agreement by DOE. Access and use of certain DOE Facilities may require security clearances and U.S. citizenship.

Place of Performance: As determined by the tasking, but includes government facilities, the PI's facilities, or accommodations nearby.

Questions/Agency Contacts: Upon the issuance of a BAA, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the BAA except through the established question and answer process as described below. Specifically, questions regarding this BAA must be submitted to: **OTT_BAA@ee.doe.gov**. Questions must be submitted not later than 3 business days prior to the white paper due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual responses will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this BAA will be posted on EERE Exchange at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>. **You must first select this specific BAA Number to view the questions and answers specific to this BAA.** EERE will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.

Attachments/Links:

No attachments or links have been added to this announcement.

Contact Information:

Golden Field Office

Primary Point of Contact: OTT_BAA@ee.doe.gov