

**Department of Energy (DOE)**  
**Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)**

**Fiscal Year 2019 Advanced Vehicle Technologies Research  
Funding Opportunity Announcement**

**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0002014**

**FOA Type: Amendment 000001**

**CFDA Number: 81.086**

<b>FOA Issue Date:</b>	4/3/2019
<b>Amendment 000001</b>	4/30/2019
<b>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers:</b>	5/1/2019 5:00 PM ET
<b>Anticipated Date of Concept Paper Notifications:</b>	5/20/2019
<b>Submission Deadline for Full Applications:</b>	6/19/2019 5:00 PM ET
<b>Anticipated Date for EERE Selection Notifications:</b>	August 2019
<b>Anticipated Timeframe for Award Negotiations</b>	September 2019

- Applicants must submit a Concept Paper by 5:00pm ET on the due date listed above to be eligible to submit a Full Application.
- To apply to this FOA, applicants must register with and submit application materials through EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>, EERE's online application portal.
- Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment to issue an award. It is imperative that the applicant/selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines. Failure to do so may result in cancelation of further award negotiations and rescission of the Selection.
- Applicants must review Section III. A. for specific eligibility requirements.

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## Amendments

All changes to the Funding Opportunity Announcement as a result of this amendment are highlighted in yellow.

Amendment No.	Date	Description of Amendment
000001	4/30/2019	Removed “incremental” from project funding in AOI 6b.  Added information regarding vehicle use as cost share to AOI 6c

## NOTE: REGISTRATION/SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### **Registration Requirements**

There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit an application in response to this Announcement (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the System for Award Management (SAM), and register with EERE eXCHANGE.gov). Applicants who are not registered with SAM and Grants.gov, should start the process as soon as possible.

**Applicants must register through the EERE eXCHANGE.**

EERE eXCHANGE website: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>

**Applicants must obtain a DUNS number.**

DUNS website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

**Applicants must register with the SAM.**

SAM website: <http://www.sam.gov/> If you had an active registration in CCR, you should have an active registration in SAM. More information about SAM registration for applicants is found at: [https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick Guide for Grants Registrations v1.7.pdf](https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick%20Guide%20for%20Grants%20Registrations%20v1.7.pdf).

**Applicants must register with Grants.gov.**

Grants.gov website: <http://grants.gov/>

Applicants must register with Grants.gov in order to receive automatic updates, in the event that Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

**Applicants must register with FedConnect.**

FedConnect website: [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net).

In the event that an application is selected for negotiation of award, Applicants must be registered with FedConnect to receive the award. For more information regarding registration with FedConnect review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at

[https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect Ready Set Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect%20Ready%20Set%20Go.pdf).

### **Submission Requirements**

All application submissions are to be made via the EERE eXCHANGE at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. To gain access to the EERE eXCHANGE system, the applicant must first register and create an account on the main EERE eXCHANGE site. This account will then allow the user to submit an application for open EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit,

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whether acting as a team or a single entity, utilize one account as the appropriate contact information for each submission.

Applicants will receive an automated response when the Application is received; this will serve as a confirmation of EERE receipt. Please do not reply to the automated response. A “User Guide” for the EERE eXCHANGE can be found on the EERE website at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Manuals.aspx> after logging in to the system.

To receive notices via email regarding an FOA in EERE Exchange, such as amendments to the announcement or the posting of new questions and answers from eXCHANGE you must initiate an application submission to the FOA of interest. Please note that you must finalize and submit your application before the specified due date and time to be considered for award.

### **Questions**

Questions related to the use of the EERE eXCHANGE website or technical issues concerning the application submittal should be submitted to: [EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov).

Questions related to the content of the Funding Opportunity Announcement must be submitted to [DE-FOA-0002014@netl.doe.gov](mailto:DE-FOA-0002014@netl.doe.gov) and shall be submitted not later than three business days before the Full Applications are due. Questions submitted after that date may not allow the Government sufficient time to respond.

All questions and answers related to the content of this FOA will be posted at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FAQ.aspx>. Applicants are encouraged to check the FAQ prior to submitting a question. DOE will try to respond to questions within 5 business days. Applicants are encouraged to review the posted questions and answers daily. **Please note that you must first select this FOA Number in order to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA.**

## Table of Contents

<b>I. Funding Opportunity Description .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Background and Context .....	1
B. Areas of Interest .....	3
C. Applications Specifically Not of Interest.....	25
D. Authorizing Statutes .....	26
<b>II. Award Information .....</b>	<b>26</b>
A. Award Overview .....	26
i. Estimated Funding .....	26
ii. Period of Performance .....	28
iii. New Applications Only .....	29
B. EERE Funding Agreements .....	29
i. Cooperative Agreements.....	29
ii. Funding Agreements with Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDCs) .....	30
<b>III. Eligibility Information .....</b>	<b>30</b>
A. Eligible Applicants .....	30
i. Restricted Eligibility .....	30
ii. Individuals.....	31
iii. Domestic Entities .....	31
iv. Foreign Entities.....	32
v. Incorporated Consortia .....	33
vi. Unincorporated Consortia .....	33
B. Cost Sharing.....	34
i. Legal Responsibility .....	35
ii. Cost Share Allocation.....	36
iii. Cost Share Types and Allowability.....	36
iv. Cost Share Contributions by FFRDCs .....	37
v. Cost Share Verification .....	37
vi. Cost Share Payment.....	37
C. Compliance Criteria .....	38
i. Compliance Criteria .....	38
D. Responsiveness Criteria.....	39
E. Other Eligibility Requirements .....	39
i. Requirements for DOE/NNSA and non-DOE/NNSA Federally Funded Research and Development Centers Included as a Subrecipient.....	39
F. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Full Applications Eligible for Review .....	40
G. Questions Regarding Eligibility.....	40
<b>IV. Application and Submission Information .....</b>	<b>40</b>
A. Application Process .....	40
i. Additional Information on EERE Exchange .....	42
B. Application Forms .....	42
C. Content and Form of the Concept Paper .....	42
i. Concept Paper Content Requirements.....	43

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D.	Content and Form of the Full Application .....	44
i.	Full Application Content Requirements.....	45
ii.	Technical Volume .....	47
iii.	Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) .....	51
iv.	SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance.....	51
v.	Budget Justification Workbook .....	52
vi.	Summary/Abstract for Public Release .....	52
vii.	Summary Slide .....	52
viii.	Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable) .....	53
ix.	Budget for DOE/NNSA FFRDC (if applicable) .....	53
x.	Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA or DOE/NNSA FFRDCs (if applicable) .....	53
xi.	SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required) .....	53
xii.	Location(s) of Work .....	54
xiii.	Waiver Request: Performance of Work in the United States (if applicable) .....	54
xiv.	Cost Share Commitment Letters .....	54
xv.	U.S. Manufacturing Commitments .....	54
xvi.	Environmental Questionnaire .....	56
E.	Post Selection Information Requests .....	56
F.	Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) .....	56
G.	Submission Dates and Times .....	57
H.	Intergovernmental Review .....	57
I.	Funding Restrictions .....	57
i.	Allowable Costs .....	57
ii.	Pre-Award Costs .....	57
iii.	Performance of Work in the United States .....	59
iv.	Construction .....	59
v.	Foreign Travel .....	60
vi.	Equipment and Supplies .....	60
vii.	Lobbying .....	60
viii.	Risk Assessment .....	61
ix.	Invoice Review and Approval .....	61
<b>V.</b>	<b>Application Review Information .....</b>	<b>62</b>
A.	Technical Review Criteria .....	62
i.	Concept Papers (For AOIs 1-5).....	62
ii.	Concept Papers (For AOIs 6a-6e).....	62
iii.	Full Applications (For AOIs 1-5) .....	63
iv.	Full Applications (AOIs 6a-6c, 6e) .....	64
v.	Full Applications (AOI 6d) .....	65
B.	Standards for Application Evaluation .....	66
C.	Other Selection Factors .....	66
i.	Program Policy Factors .....	66
D.	Evaluation and Selection Process .....	67
i.	Overview.....	67
ii.	Pre-Selection Clarification .....	67
iii.	Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.....	68
iv.	Selection .....	68
E.	Anticipated Notice of Selection and Award Negotiation Dates .....	68

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<b>VI. Award Administration Information.....</b>	<b>69</b>
A. Award Notices .....	69
i. Ineligible Submissions.....	69
ii. Concept Paper Notifications.....	69
iii. Full Application Notifications.....	69
iv. Successful Applicants.....	69
v. Alternate Selection Determinations .....	70
vi. Unsuccessful Applicants .....	70
B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	70
i. Registration Requirements.....	70
ii. Award Administrative Requirements .....	72
iii. Foreign National Access to DOE Sites.....	72
iv. Subaward and Executive Reporting.....	72
v. National Policy Requirements .....	72
vi. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) .....	73
vii. Applicant Representations and Certifications .....	73
viii. Statement of Federal Stewardship .....	75
ix. Statement of Substantial Involvement.....	75
x. Subject Invention Utilization Reporting.....	76
xi. Intellectual Property Provisions.....	76
xii. Reporting .....	76
xiii. Go/No-Go Review .....	77
xiv. Conference Spending.....	77
xv. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements .....	78
<b>VII. Questions/Agency Contacts.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>VIII. Other Information .....</b>	<b>79</b>
A. FOA Modifications.....	79
B. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate.....	79
C. Commitment of Public Funds .....	79
D. Treatment of Application Information .....	79
E. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel .....	80
F. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities .....	81
G. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability.....	81
H. Notice of Potential Disclosure Under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) .....	81
I. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure .....	81
J. Retention of Submissions.....	82
K. Title to Subject Inventions.....	82
L. Government Rights in Subject Inventions.....	83
i. Government Use License.....	83
ii. March-In Rights .....	83
M. Rights in Technical Data .....	84
N. Copyright.....	84
O. Personally Identifiable Information (PII) .....	84
P. Annual Independent Audits .....	85
<b>Appendix A – Cost Share Information .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Appendix B – Sample Cost Share Calculation for Blended Cost Share Percentage.....</b>	<b>91</b>

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subject line.

<b>Appendix C – Waiver Request: Performance of Work in the United States .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Appendix D - Data Management Plan.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Appendix E – Glossary.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Appendix F – Definition of Technology Readiness Levels .....</b>	<b>100</b>



## I. Funding Opportunity Description

### A. Background and Context

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is issuing, on behalf of the Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled, “Fiscal Year 2019 Advanced Vehicle Technologies Research Funding Opportunity Announcement.”

Vehicles move our national economy. Annually, vehicles transport 11 billion tons of freight – more than \$35 billion worth of goods each day<sup>1</sup> – and move people more than 3 trillion vehicle-miles.<sup>2</sup> Growing our economy requires transportation, and transportation requires energy. The transportation sector accounts for about 30% of total U.S. energy needs<sup>3</sup> and 70% of U.S. petroleum use.<sup>4</sup> Oil price volatility affects our national economy, commercial enterprises, and household budgets. The average U.S. household spends nearly one-fifth of its total family expenditures on transportation, making it the most expensive spending category after housing.<sup>5</sup>

To strengthen national security, support American energy dominance, enable future economic growth, and increase transportation affordability for all Americans, VTO invests in early-stage research of a broad portfolio of technologies, generating the knowledge needed for industry to further develop and commercialize affordable, secure, and reliable transportation systems. In partnership with industry, VTO has established aggressive targets to focus research on cost-reduction, efficiency, and performance. VTO-funded research has reduced the cost of advanced batteries by 75% since 2008, and nearly every plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) on the road today uses VTO-developed battery technology, but to enable greater affordability and PEV accessibility for all Americans, VTO seeks new battery chemistries and cell technologies to reduce costs even further, by more than half, to less than \$100/kWh, while increasing

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT, Freight Facts and Figures 2017 Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 ([https://www.bts.gov/sites/bts.dot.gov/files/docs/FFF\\_2017.pdf](https://www.bts.gov/sites/bts.dot.gov/files/docs/FFF_2017.pdf) )

<sup>2</sup> Transportation Energy Data Book 36<sup>th</sup> Edition, ORNL, 2017. Table 3.7 Shares of Highway Vehicle-Miles Traveled by Vehicle Type, 1970-2015.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Table 2.1 U.S. Consumption of Total Energy By End-use Sector, 1973-2017.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. Table 1.13 Consumption of Petroleum By End-use Sector; Table 1.6 U.S. Petroleum Imports, 1960-2017; Table 10.5 Prices for a Barrel of Crude Oil and a Gallon of Gasoline, 1978-2017. Overseas includes countries and territories outside of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. (2017) Transportation Economic Trends 2017. Figure 6-4: Average Individual Household Expenditures (major categories), 2016.

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driving range to 300 miles and decreasing charge time to less than 15 minutes by 2028. In addition, building on prior research, VTO has identified opportunities to significantly increase the power density of electric drive systems. New innovations in motor technology – printable magnets, high-conductivity windings, and novel architectures – could lead to much smaller, very high energy density systems with twice the useful life that can enable more affordable, better performing PEVs.

Similarly, there are benefits to be gained with advanced combustion engine research. The co-optimization of engines and fuels – simultaneously manipulating combustion processes and fuel properties together – has the potential to achieve significantly higher efficiencies than possible with current fuels and engines, improving passenger fuel economy by as much as 35% by 2030 (vs. a 2015 baseline of 36 miles per gallon). In addition, the integrated research of advanced materials, such as high-temperature alloys, and combustion strategies can not only expand engine operating parameters but also enable lighter-weight engines for better performance and efficiency.

There are also efficiency opportunities beyond vehicle components and systems. Advances in connectivity and automation have the potential to dramatically improve transportation system-level energy efficiency, energy productivity, and affordability. Leveraging high performance computing resources unique to the national laboratory system, VTO has developed robust modeling, simulation, and big data analytics capabilities, while research of advanced sensing and perception technologies, system controls, and other connected and automated technologies has advanced rapidly. Partnerships between academia and industry can apply advanced computing and data analytics capabilities with new mobility technologies to create state-of-the-art testbeds that validate and support new, optimized, highly-efficient, and affordable transportation systems.

This FOA seeks research projects to address priorities in the following areas: advanced batteries and electric drive systems, energy efficient mobility systems, materials for more efficient powertrains, co-optimized advanced engine and fuel technologies, and alternative fuels and new mobility options. Detailed technical descriptions of the specific areas of interest are provided in the sections that follow.

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## B. Areas of Interest

AOI Number	Area of Interest (AOI)
1	Solid State Batteries
1a	Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries
1b	Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development
1c	Solid State Battery Modeling Development
2	Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X
3	Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research
4	Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines
5	New Material and Engine Technologies for High-Efficiency Powertrains
6	Technology Integration
6a	Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness
6b	New Mobility Services in Rural America
6c	Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets
6d	EV Data Collection
6e	Open Topic

### **AOI 1: Solid State Batteries**

Lithium-ion batteries have made tremendous progress in the last two decades and are now instrumental in creating worldwide demand for electric vehicle (EVs), but the liquid organic electrolyte in lithium-ion battery cells is highly reactive and flammable. There is growing interest in the use of solid lithium-ion conducting materials in place of the liquid electrolyte. Solid electrolyte materials are non-flammable, and they not only allow more robust cell operation but also the integration of metal-based anodes needed to achieve VTO's aggressive cost, energy density, and cycle life targets. Solid electrolyte materials face challenges, however, including low conductivity, poor voltage stability, and inadequate mechanical properties.

As described below, this AOI seeks projects that overcome these challenges, including (a) research of new solid electrolytes that can address materials challenges

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and enable next-generation chemistries, (b) complementary diagnostics, and (c) modeling techniques to ensure materials development progress.

### **AOI 1a: Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries**

This AOI seeks to research, develop, and test lithium metal-based batteries that implement solid lithium-ion conductors capable of achieving the cell performance identified in the table below.

**Performance Targets**

Energy Storage Performance Requirements	Cell Level Targets
Useable Specific Energy @ C/3	≥ 350Wh/kg
Calendar Life	15 Years
Cycle Life (C/3 deep discharge with <20% energy fade)	1,000
Cost	≤\$100/kWh

Anticipated technology approaches include, but are not limited to:

- New solid electrolytes that can promote uniform lithium plating and have high conductivity and low reactivity against lithium metal and against high voltage cathodes;
- New polymer electrolytes that have the potential to operate at room temperature and possess the mechanical properties to prevent dendrites;
- Novel architectures/cell designs to protect metallic lithium from dendrite formation;
- Novel approaches to integrate solid ion conductors into cathode materials that can result in low interfacial impedance; and
- New designs of the sulfur cathode host to achieve high sulfur loading (≥6 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>) good sulfur utilization, minimal polysulfide diffusion, and limited excess electrolyte (goal of electrolyte to sulfur ratio of 3 ml/mg).

### **AOI 1a Specific Requirements**

In addition to the information provided in the narrative above specific to this AOI, applications must do the following:

- Identify the proposed cell chemistry – anode and cathode materials (electrochemical couple), electrolyte composition, and cell composition/construction;
- Demonstrate knowledge of major issues impeding the proposed technical approach and clearly identify the particular barrier(s) that the research effort will target; and

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- Identify the testing and diagnostics to be performed to understand the causes of the issues being addressed and identify methods and technologies to mitigate those issues.

**AOI 1a Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, the following deliverables are required for awards made under this AOI:

- A quarterly Battery Materials Research (BMR) Progress Summary Report; and
- Attendance at the VTO Annual Merit Review (AMR) and Peer Evaluation Meeting in Washington, DC and an annual Battery Materials Research meeting at a to-be-determined (TBD) Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

**AOI 1b: Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development**

This AOI seeks to research, develop, and demonstrate in-situ microscopy, spectroscopy, and associated ex situ tools capable of effectively predicting the physical and chemical changes of lithium-metal based battery components during charge and discharge.

Anticipated model outputs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Quantification of the chemo-mechanical effects that determine the formation of dendrites at the lithium metal/electrolyte interface; and
- Quantification of the impact on capability and cyclability due to examination of the cathode solid electrolyte interface (SEI) against a solid electrolyte.

**AOI 1b Specific Requirements**

In addition to the information provided in the narrative above specific to this AOI, applications must do the following:

- Identify the specific technical issue that the proposed diagnostic technique(s) will address; and
- Describe in detail the diagnostics techniques to be performed.

**AOI 1b Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, the following deliverables are required for awards made under this AOI:

- A quarterly Battery Materials Research (BMR) Progress Summary Report; and

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- Attendance at the VTO Annual Merit Review (AMR) and Peer Evaluation Meeting in Washington, DC and an annual Battery Materials Research meeting at a to-be-determined (TBD) Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

### **Area of Interest 1c: Solid State Battery Modeling Development**

This AOI seeks to research, develop, and demonstrate advanced lithium-metal based battery models. Models should address electrochemical/chemical and transport processes (kinetics, thermodynamics, phase transitions, ion transport, etc.) that occur in a wide range of length and time scales.

Anticipated models could describe technology areas that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Charge transfer at interfaces, with details on the reaction products and rates of competing reactions; and
- Lithium dendrite growth against solid electrolytes.

#### **AOI 1c Specific Requirements**

In addition to the information provided in the narrative above specific to this AOI, applications must do the following:

- Identify the specific technical issue that the modeling will address and its importance to advancing the state-of-the-art; and
- Describe in detail the methods of validation for the modeling techniques.

#### **AOI 1c Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, the following deliverables are required for awards made under this AOI:

- A quarterly Battery Materials Research (BMR) Progress Summary Report; and
- Attendance at the VTO Annual Merit Review (AMR) and Peer Evaluation Meeting in Washington, DC and an annual Battery Materials Research meeting at a to-be-determined (TBD) Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

### **AOI 2: Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X**

In support of VTO's Electric Drive R&D activity, the Electric Drive Technologies (EDT) Consortium, a multi-disciplinary team of national labs and universities, coordinates

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and conducts a portfolio of research to advance the state-of-the-art in electric drive technologies. The Consortium has established the following strategic goal listed in the table below:

<b>EDT Research Consortium Strategic Goal</b> (compared to 2015 baseline)
<p>A 125 kW electric traction drive system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8X power density improvement, or 1/10 the volume (33 kW/L)</li> <li>• 1/2 the cost (\$6/kW)</li> <li>• 2 X useful life (300,000 miles)</li> <li>• 100 kW/L inverter and a &gt;20,000 rpm, 50 kW/L electric motor</li> </ul>

Additional information about VTO's electric drive systems technical targets and requirements can be found in the U.S. DRIVE Electrical and Electronics Technical Team Roadmap: <https://energy.gov/eere/vehicles/us-drive-partnership-plan-roadmaps-and-accomplishments>.

Through this AOI, VTO will select "seedling" projects for innovative, new ideas that accelerate the development of advanced motor designs and materials in support of the EDT Research Consortium goals. VTO will manage and review work conducted as part of the seedling projects in conjunction with the Consortium; project teams will communicate and coordinate their efforts with Consortium partners and members.

Potential technologies in response to this AOI include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Printable magnetic materials for motors – Instead of laminations, one approach to building high power density, high-speed motors is using solid 3D printed materials. Novel approaches are needed to build stators/rotors with no laminations.
- Covetic/Printed Steel – There is a need for low-cost, high-efficiency steels to achieve low-cost and high power density electric motors. Covetic steel is one approach that can achieve this.
- Ultraconductors for Motor Windings – Covetic copper and copper/nano-tube alloys for high-conductivity windings are two approaches to increase the conductivity of copper and both reduce the size and increase the efficiency of the electric motor.
- Novel High-Power Density Non-Heavy Rare-Earth Motor Topologies for High Speed Traction Motors – High speed (>20,000rpm) electric motor operation creates material and structural challenges, and reducing motor size creates thermal challenges. Achieving EDT Consortium goals and targets requires

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novel electric motor architecture innovations (e.g., new magnets and magnetic materials) and improved motor thermal management approaches.

**AOI 2 Specific Requirements**

Applications must describe how the proposed technologies will address the following:

- Motor operating temperatures;
- Motor operating speed; and
- effects and impacts of increasing power density to meet the goal.

VTO highly discourages applications that focus solely on model validation of motor and/or materials performance.

**AOI 2 Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, VTO requires the following deliverables for awards under this AOI:

- Data and information necessary to validate and confirm proposed design and material innovations over the state of the art, including test data, modeling results, analysis, charts, plots, etc;
- Hardware and/or material samples (at least 4 each) for confirmatory testing and validation at least 90 days prior to project end date;
- An annual report and presentation at the VTO Annual Merit Review (AMR) and Peer Evaluation Meeting; and
- Attendance at EDT Consortium meetings.

**AOI 3: Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research**

Connected and automated vehicle technologies have the potential to significantly improve transportation system safety and energy efficiency. For example, advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), such as adaptive cruise control, collision avoidance, automatic braking, and lane departure warning, may lead to a substantial reduction in vehicle crashes. Higher levels of automation that enable the vehicle (rather than the human driver) to manage accelerating, braking, and steering control could eventually eliminate the cause of most traffic accidents.

The impact of these technologies on vehicle- and system-level energy consumption and traffic flow is uncertain, however. When multiple vehicles with commercially-available automated cruise control systems interact, sensing limitations may lead to more frequent and intense accelerations and decelerations, resulting in traffic “shock waves,” increased roadway congestion, and more fuel use. Higher levels of

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automation also could increase travel demand and, therefore, energy consumption. Furthermore, connected and automated vehicle systems may require considerable power to support sensing and computational loads, eliminating energy efficiency gains that could otherwise be achieved. Connected vehicle/traveler solutions, combined with improved sensing/perception technologies and novel control algorithms, may mitigate these impacts and provide opportunities to significantly reduce vehicle energy consumption and improve traffic network flow.

This AOI seeks to (1) develop and validate novel approaches to improve traffic network system-level efficiency through cost-effective connected and automated vehicle and transportation solutions, and (2) remove technical barriers to the implementation of such systems. By advancing the state-of-the-art for efficient connected and automated transportation systems, successful projects will accelerate the energy and safety benefits of these new systems and reduce the time, cost, and energy required for mobility.

Technologies to be considered under this topic area include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Infrastructure-based solutions for connectivity to enable system-level controls for a transportation network, including automated intersection optimization, vehicle/traveler routing guidance, and technologies to optimize traffic flow, speed, and throughput;
- Algorithms, controls, and systems to improve the efficiency of individual vehicles in a traffic network, or multiple vehicles in communication with one another; and
- Devices and technologies to improve sensing, perception, and control and enable more efficient automated vehicle and transportation systems.

### **AOI 3 General Requirements**

Applications must do the following:

- Clearly describe the technology to be developed and technical barriers to be overcome for successful implementation;
- Quantify the expected energy, mobility, and/or safety benefits that would result from the deployment of the technology to be developed, supported by analysis, modeling, or simulation results;
- Include three project phases for technology development, implementation, and validation;
- Include analysis demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of the of the proposed technology;
- Include development of a test plan and a clear description of the proposed testing to be performed in the validation phase, as well as description of data

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that will result from test plan execution (test plans for concepts that require large-scale deployment to achieve their expected benefits may incorporate other validation methods, including hardware-in-the-loop simulation, small-scale demonstration, or other means to operate the solution in the same manner as it would function in a transportation system);

- Describe how data generated by the project will quantify the energy and mobility gains that result from the proposed technology, and how the project team will share this data with DOE and its national laboratories, including the SMART Mobility National Lab Consortium (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/energy-efficient-mobility-systems>); and
- Be consistent with, and not duplicate, previous and current Federal activities related to vehicle connectivity and automation, specifically by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), including the principles summarized in *Automated Vehicles 3.0* (<https://www.transportation.gov/av/3>).

### **AOI 3 Teaming Arrangements**

Teams are encouraged to include research partners from universities or national laboratories as appropriate.

### **AOI 3 Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, VTO will require recipients to provide all testing and validation data produced in the project validation phase to DOE's SMART Mobility National Laboratory Consortium. Data that project teams do not wish to be made public will be protected through a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the relevant laboratories in the Consortium.

### **AOI 4: Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines**

EERE's Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines (Co-Optima) Initiative aims to simultaneously transform both transportation fuels and vehicles in order to maximize performance and energy efficiency, minimize environmental impact, and accelerate widespread adoption of innovative combustion strategies. Fuel and engine co-optimization provides an opportunity to achieve significantly higher efficiencies than possible with current fuels and engines. More information is available here: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/fuel-effects-advanced-combustion>.

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Realizing the ability to predictively simulate the combustion of real fuels in complex engine geometries with a comprehensive computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model can greatly accelerate co-optimization efforts. However, current simulation inaccuracies have created a lack of confidence in modeling predictions as engine operating parameters change, and current models require substantial tuning and calibration, which is time consuming, costly, and ultimately reduces the effectiveness of the model to apply to many situations. Long simulation times are another barrier to realizing the benefits of simulation on engine design.

Comprehensive combustion models integrate many submodels that describe the pertinent physical and chemical phenomena that occur in engines, such as turbulence, two-phase flow, heat transfer, chemical reaction, and particulate formation. Future exascale computing (capable of  $10^{18}$  floating point operations per second) has the potential to substantially improve engine simulation speed and predictive capability, but the underlying algorithms used to solve combustion models require significant improvement in order to take advantage of the increased computing power. Furthermore, without predictive accuracy, increasing the speed and efficiency of simulations will have limited impact.

This AOI seeks to improve submodels and enhance not only the accuracy and predictive capability of multi-mode engine simulations, but also the algorithms to expedite simulation times. Submodels of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Direct injection sprays;
- Chemical kinetics and emissions formation;
- Heat transfer;
- Turbulent flame development and propagation; and
- High-energy ignition.

Projects must confirm accuracy improvements with experimental validation and uncertainty quantification. Proposed improvements to sub-models and algorithms should be applicable to widely-available CFD codes used to simulate engines. Additionally, applications with highly-scalable code that can leverage future exascale systems are desired.

#### **AOI 4 General Requirements**

Applications must include the following:

- Clear identification of the submodel(s) being proposed for improvement and why it is important for increasing predictive capability;
- Detailed technical explanation of the origins of inaccuracies and uncertainties in the current, state-of-the-art model and/or simulation tools;

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- Plan for improving the accuracy of current models; and
- Definition of benchmark experiments needed for model validation.

**AOI 4 Teaming Arrangements**

This topic is restricted to universities, colleges, and non-profit research institutions that operate as divisions under institutions of higher learning. Teams are encouraged to include national laboratories with high-performance computing capabilities.

**AOI 5: New Material and Engine Technologies for High-Efficiency Powertrains**

Developing the next generation of high-efficiency, very-low-emission internal combustion engines requires a combination of new combustion strategies, advanced materials, and new materials processing techniques to further increase engine efficiency and reduce weight. The expected national economic, environmental, and energy security benefits of these next-generation engines and materials would be significant since the majority of vehicles sold over the next several decades will still include an engine.

This AOI seeks innovative engine designs that use advanced materials and manufacturing approaches to significantly improve the fuel economy of Class 1-6 vehicles (mid-size passenger cars, crossover vehicles, pickup trucks, and medium-duty trucks in Classes 3-6). New, innovative materials and manufacturing approaches have the potential to enable fundamental improvements in overall engine performance and efficiency, including, but not limited to, lightweighting of the engine. Combining advanced materials and combustion strategies can expand operational parameters to further increase engine efficiency while addressing technical roadblocks such as high pressure rise rates, increased peak pressures and temperatures, thermal management, and NVH (Noise, Vibration, and Harshness). The powertrain mass in Class 1-6 vehicles can represent up to 30% of total vehicle weight, and when mass compounding is included, powertrain mass reductions can result in significant fuel economy benefits. Applicants must validate fuel economy improvement, engine weight reduction, and pathway to emissions compliance to meet minimum performance targets (see table below) using full engine dynamometer testing, actual component weight measurements, and vehicle-level modeling.

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**Minimum Performance Targets (Relative to 2015 baseline vehicle)**

Vehicle Size Class	Weight Reduction	Vehicle Fuel Economy Improvement	Emissions Compliance	Test Cycle
Class 1-2 (Midsize Cars and Crossovers)	15%	23%	Tier 3/LEV III	FTP 75
Class 3-6 (Midsize Trucks)	15%	10%	CI Engines: <a href="https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P10009ZZ.pdf">https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P10009ZZ.pdf</a> SI Engines: <a href="https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P1000A01.pdf">https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P1000A01.pdf</a>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-duty Engines and Vehicles Phase 2 (40, 49 CFR)

**AOI 5 General Requirements**

Applications must include the following:

- A description of the applicant's 2015 or newer baseline vehicle, including specifications for weight, fuel economy, passenger and cargo capacity, towing capabilities, and powertrain weight and performance details (displacement, thermal efficiency, horsepower, torque);
- A detailed approach as to how the team will achieve its goals (combustion strategies, powertrain architecture changes, and material changes);
- A description of the advanced materials (such as composites, enhanced alloys, super alloys, and coatings) and manufacturing approaches (such as hollow castings or additive manufacturing) planned to maximize benefits;
- Analysis, modeling, or simulation results that support the developed engine;
- Plans to design, build, and validate the engine in a laboratory setting;
- Plans detailing approach to engine weight by 15%;
- A plan to validate the performance of the developed engine on an engine dynamometer;
- A plan to show the ability to meet emissions standards;
- Estimated vehicle-level weight reductions, including component-level estimates; and
- A plan for evaluating vehicle-level fuel economy improvements combining dynamometer results with vehicle-level models, such as Autonomie (<https://www.autonomie.net>).

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Proposed work should consist of two phases:

- Phase 1: Technology research and development, not to exceed two budget periods. This phase will culminate in a Go/No-Go milestone to provide proof-of-concept and model showing efficiency improvements in a simulated vehicle.
- Phase 2: Technology Validation and Demonstration of at least one budget period, but not to exceed two budget periods. This phase will include technology integration into a full-scale multi-cylinder engine and engine dynamometer tests.

### **AOI 5 Specific Requirements**

Each application must identify a specific powertrain application (mid-size passenger car, crossover vehicle, or medium-duty truck (Class 3-6)).

- Mid-size passenger cars and crossover vehicle applications must include a plan to do the following:
  - Identify and address any technological, manufacturing, or economic gaps that hinder progress from technology validation to high volume commercial viability;
  - Evaluate vehicle level fuel economy improvements relative to baseline vehicle; and
  - Identify and quantify mass compounding opportunities and include engineering justification analysis or assumptions used. Please note the following:
    - Powertrain weight reduction must be measured relative to the baseline assembly;
    - Applicants may use mass reductions for secondary mass compounding (up to .04kg/kg of primary mass reduction) in vehicle-level fuel economy models, as long as they show that the vehicle capacity and utility will not be negatively impacted;
    - When using mass compounding, applicants must show the envisioned approach to secondary mass reductions, including baseline component weight, revised component weights, and capacities; and
    - Applicants may assume estimated fuel economy benefits from light-weighting to be 7% fuel economy benefit per 10% reduction in total vehicle weight.
- Medium-duty trucks (Classes 3-6) must include a plan to do the following:
  - Demonstrate the ability to meet baseline performance;

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- Identify and address any technological, manufacturing, or economic gaps that hinder progress from technology validation to high-volume commercial viability;
- Identify and quantify mass reduction opportunities resulting from powertrain changes and provide the engineering justification analysis or assumptions used;
- Evaluate changes in vehicle utility including cargo and towing capacities; and
- Evaluate vehicle-level fuel economy improvements relative to baseline vehicle according to EPA/NHTSA Phase 2 drive cycle applicable to the proposed vehicle type.

### **AOI 5 Teaming Arrangements**

- The prime applicant for each team must be a vehicle or engine manufacturer that has produced at least 20,000 vehicles or a Tier I supplier that has provided major componentry for at least 20,000 engines.
- VTO also encourages teams that include research partners such as universities, National Laboratories, or engineering companies to encourage different perspectives for increasing engine efficiency and weight reduction.

### **AOI 5 Special Deliverables**

In addition to the deliverables required in the Federal Assistance Reporting Requirements Checklist, VTO requires the following deliverables for awards made under this AOI:

- Details of vehicle-level fuel economy calculations, modeling approaches, and assumptions used to meet project objectives; and
- Presentation at the VTO Annual Merit Review (AMR) and Peer Evaluation Meeting.

VTO highly discourages the following:

- Applications that do not include **both** Advanced Combustion and Application of Advanced Materials/Materials processing; and
- Applications that lack full scale multi-cylinder engine build and dynamometer tests.

### **AOI 6: Technology Integration**

The following subtopics align with the VTO technology portfolio and provide feedback on roadblocks to real-world technology use and data to inform research planning.

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**AOI 6a: Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness**

Recent hurricanes and other tragedies have demonstrated how alternative fuel vehicles can provide critical/reliable transportation services when conventional fuel availability is interrupted or in short supply. This AOI focuses on disaster preparedness, recovery planning, and resiliency through fuel diversity, and specifically the use of alternative fuels for emergency response fleets that provide critical transportation, clean-up, utility restoration, and recovery operation services. VTO seeks projects that focus on resiliency infrastructure planning, innovative system designs, emergency procedures, training, and best practices for insuring that alternative fuel supplies are reliable and resilient.

Example activities of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Development of state/regional infrastructure resiliency plans that involve alternative fuel vehicles for critical transportation and recovery services;
- Development/implementation of data technologies that allow fleets and fuel providers to communicate alternative fuel station availability and status during emergencies;
- Development of alternative fuel infrastructure coordination plans to facilitate shared use of back-up fueling/vehicle charging facilities during outages and emergencies (this could include training and conducting emergency drills/exercises for relevant fleets and organizations); and
- Upgrade of existing alternative fueling station infrastructure to increase reliability and resiliency (e.g., hardening to improve weather resistance, integrating back-up generators powered by alternative fuels).

**AOI 6a General Requirements**

Applications must do the following:

- Identify technologies, approaches, or activities that will enhance/ensure alternative fuel infrastructure resiliency; and
- Allow replicability. Projects must be structured to produce results and insights that are replicable in other areas across the country. Applicants will produce a final technical report that documents project information, analyses, and insights that support project replicability. Reports, analyses, and other deliverables that are developed under this award must be publicly releasable.

**AOI 6a Teaming Arrangements**

Project teams that include the following partners are highly encouraged:

- Clean Cities coalitions (<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>);
- State/local governments, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations;

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- State Energy Officials;
- Utility companies and alternative fuel providers;
- Emergency preparedness and disaster recovery teams;
- Fleets and end-user groups with emergency response experience; and
- Relevant industry trade associations.

VTO highly discourages applications that do the following:

- Promote a specific brand, product, or invention;
- Include novelty vehicles, restricted use low-speed vehicles, and recreational or sport vehicles;
- Subsidize vehicle cost as a primary project purpose; and
- Include converting or re-powering vehicles to operate on alternative fuels as a project cost.

**AOI 6b: New Mobility Services in Rural America**

The advent of new mobility services is broadening the transportation choices available to consumers in metropolitan areas across the United States. Car sharing, ride sharing, and transit are a few examples of the affordable mobility choices that travelers can access when and where they are needed. These new mobility services have not yet found their way to rural communities, however. One of the challenges is that, according to a 2016 U.S. Census report, rural areas cover 97% of U.S. land area but contain less than 20% of the population, about 60 million people.

This AOI seeks projects to demonstrate technology approaches that can provide affordable access to rural populations, such as ride sharing, car sharing, transit, and first mile/last mile traveled for people or goods movement. Project funds may cover infrastructure costs, incremental vehicle costs, data collection and/or outreach and education costs, or any combination of these.

**AOI 6b General Requirements**

Applications must do the following:

- Identify the rural area and the mobility services to be studied;
- Describe current mobility/cost/energy inefficiencies in and around the rural area;
- Identify all mobility data streams to be generated and/or obtained; and
- Identify if the project will address the movement of goods, people or both.

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### **AOI 6b Specific Requirements**

Projects must demonstrate at least one but no more than five vehicles and must include data collection. Applicants must show project potential for broad future impact beyond federal funding. Projects must provide replicable examples to inform new mobility planning efforts in other communities.

Projects must obtain data and quantify the energy efficiency and mobility gains that result from the use of data, technologies, or applications to improve the affordability, convenience, and/or accessibility of mobility in a rural area.

VTO strongly encourages applicants to provide data that is generated under this award to DOE and the national laboratories that comprise DOE's SMART Mobility Laboratory Consortium (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/energy-efficient-mobility-systems>). Applications should clearly identify the level of data sharing planned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to focus project activities on US counties that are at least 50% rural as defined in the United States Census Bureau County Classification Lookup Table located here:

<https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/urban-rural.html>

### **AOI 6b Teaming Arrangements**

VTO highly encourages project teams that include Clean Cities coalitions (<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>).

In addition, VTO encourages project teams with partners, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Shared mobility partners, transportation network companies, taxi companies, transit agencies;
- Metropolitan planning organizations; and
- Local governments.

VTO highly discourages applications that do the following:

- Promote a specific brand;
- Include the conversions or re-powers of vehicles as a project cost; and
- Include novelty vehicles and other off-road recreational or sport vehicles.

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### **AOI 6c: Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets**

Small, targeted proof-of-concept demonstrations of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and fueling infrastructure can give fleets the experience needed to make technology adoption decisions, helping them understand cost, operational issues, and performance attributes before making a significant investment. These projects also allow the sharing of data, best practices, and lessons learned with other fleets in their areas. Small fleet demonstrations in communities with little or no alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicle experience also provide an efficient way to increase adoption in new geographic regions. With a network of key stakeholders and history of experience using alternative fuels, Clean Cities coalitions are uniquely positioned to support small proof-of-concept demonstrations in new communities and with new fleets, sharing best practices and lessons learned to help ensure success.

This AOI seeks to demonstrate small-scale, alternative fuel or advanced technology fleet projects (five or less vehicles and infrastructure) in communities, fleets, or geographic areas that have no or little experience with these technologies. Project funds can support incremental vehicle costs as well as infrastructure, data collection, and fleet information exchange, with an emphasis on lessons learned and best practices. Applicants can choose the alternative fuel or advanced technology that best suits local needs; applications should specify the geographic region impacted, the technologies and fuels addressed in the project, the rationale for their selection, and why and how the project will lead to broader technology adoption in that area.

#### **AOI 6c General Requirements**

Applications must include the following:

- Demonstration of commercially-available, on-road alternative fuel and/or advanced technology light-, medium-, or heavy-duty vehicles; applications must identify the number of vehicles the project will demonstrate.
- The type of alternative fuel to be used, as well as infrastructure plans for refueling or recharging of up to five vehicles (only designated alternative fuels are eligible; see Energy Policy Act definition: <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels>); fueling infrastructure may include new dispensing facilities, additional equipment or upgrades, and improvements to existing alternative fuel fueling sites.
- At least one identified project site; if fueling infrastructure is included, an identified fuel retailer. Applicants that cannot identify a fuel retailer at the time of application submittal should identify the methodology and approach they will use to select the project site(s).

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- Data collection and fleet analysis; applications must include a plan that describes data usage and terms and conditions, privacy and security provisions, and a public dissemination/data sharing strategy.
- An outreach plan to communicate project results, including lessons learned, best practices, and case studies, to educate fleets in the same geographic area.
- A description of and plan for how the project partnerships and activities will continue upon proof-of-concept project completion.

#### **AOI 6c Specific Requirements**

- Eligible vehicles include only new, (original equipment manufacturer, or OEM) factory-produced alternative fuel vehicles or converted vehicles that have been up-fitted by OEM-authorized/warranted Qualified Vehicle Modifiers.
- All vehicles, including conversion systems, must be certified/approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the California Air Resources Board and meet applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; vehicles converted using EPA's "Outside of Useful Life" criteria are not allowed.
- **Federal** funding is limited to the incremental purchase cost of up to five new OEM AFVs or the conversion of up to five new conventional vehicles to run on alternative fuels. **Vehicles must be used 100% for the project scope in order to be considered allowable project costs and recognized as cost share.** Applicants must calculate incremental cost based on the difference between the AFV cost and the cost of a comparable conventional model, verified by manufacturer estimate, after all other applicable manufacturer and local/state rebates, tax credits, and cash equivalent incentives are applied. For AFV conversions, the incremental cost must be based on the cost of the new fuel system and installation, after all other applicable manufacturer and local/state rebates and cash equivalent incentives are applied.
- Pre-commercial vehicles and light-duty gasoline hybrid electric vehicles are not eligible.

#### **AOI 6c Teaming Arrangements**

- Applicant teams **must** include one or more DOE-designated Clean Cities coalitions as recipients and/or team member(s) (<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>) and a public or private vehicle fleet for the demonstration.
- VTO encourages teams that include OEMs or other vehicle and/or infrastructure equipment providers, fuel suppliers, and experienced data collection partners (e.g., universities or other academic/research organizations).

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### **AOI 6c Special Deliverables**

Recipients must provide all sharable data to a designated DOE national laboratory.

VTO highly discourages the following:

- Applications in geographic areas where alternative fuel technology is prevalent or applications involving fleets that already have experience or are using the fuel being proposed; and
- Applications for projects that do not include sharing project data.

### **AOI 6d: EV Data Collection**

Between 2011 and 2013, VTO worked with charging networks, vehicle manufacturers, and the Idaho National Laboratory on a competitively-awarded, cost-shared, large-scale plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) demonstration and data collection project. The unprecedented amount of data on PEVs and charging infrastructure, collected over a 3-year period, captured use profiles for 125 million miles of driving and 6 million charging events. This data and the corresponding information products that resulted have proved invaluable to the research community, industry, and state and local planners alike, providing key insights about real-world PEV and charging infrastructure use that have informed both research and future deployment planning. That comprehensive dataset is now more than five years old, however. The fast pace of technology advancement since that time presents a new opportunity and need for up-to-date, publicly-available national data to understand end user charging and driving patterns as well as vehicle and infrastructure performance to inform research planning.

This AOI seeks to collect, validate, analyze, and make summary results publicly available, with assistance from national laboratories, an updated national dataset that includes a variety of vehicle and charging equipment types, climate conditions, and end-user segments that will be of high value to government at all levels, the research community, local planners, industry, and others. Applicants must take into account that the Department of Energy will not accept Personally Identifiable Information (PII). VTO anticipates making operational data publically available through technical reports, conference presentations, and other established data sharing mechanisms; VTO will not make publicly available any data identifying specific vehicles, operators, or owners.

### **AOI 6d General Requirements**

Applications must include the following:

- A description of how the project team will collect raw data, as well as a plan that describes the methods for collecting new, original, electronic operational

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data from PEVs and charging infrastructure in normal, every-day use by private and commercial owners/operators. The plan should describe types of data to be collected, the reasons for choosing those types of data, and how the data will be stored, secured, analyzed, visualized, and shared.

- A plan to maximize vehicle data collection from different PEV types (e.g., battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles) and ranges in a variety of use cases (e.g., passenger cars for personal and/or shared use, commercial delivery trucks, transit buses, etc.), geographic areas, and climates to provide a national assessment of PEV use over a period of time that includes variation in the four seasons.
- A plan to maximize data collection from charging infrastructure that includes AC level 2 and DC fast charging infrastructure in different types of locations, such as corridors, workplace charging facilities, multi-unit dwellings, curbside, fleets, transit, ports, airports, and other charging hubs and destinations.
- An analysis plan to identify trends in vehicle user charging and driving behaviors with currently-available PEVs.

#### **AOI 6d Specific Requirements**

**IMPORTANT: Applicants must take into account that DOE will not accept data that contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII). See Section VIII.O, Personally Identifiable Information (PII), for a description of what constitutes PII. All required data submitted to DOE under AOI 6d must be free of PII. Applicants must describe their approach to providing data without compromising this requirement.**

Data to be collected should include as much of the following as possible, but is not limited to, the following:

- Trip-level, longitudinal vehicle data, over a period of approximately 18-24 months, including the odometer, EV mode odometer (for PHEVs), battery state of charge, vehicle GPS location, ambient temperature, charging energy consumed, and charging rate.
- Vehicle descriptions (e.g., make, model, year).
- Information about vehicle owner/lessee (e.g., entity type [private, commercial], availability and type of charging equipment at residence or base of operations, terms of ownership [lease, purchased new, purchased used], number of non-plug-in vehicles in household, use of vehicle to provide ride-sharing services, etc.). This should also include household demographic data such as location, number of people and drivers, household income and other relevant data. The portions of this data set that are PII will not be shared with the Department of Energy and its National Laboratories and will be used solely by the applicant for project execution.

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- Event-level, longitudinal charging station data, including plug-in session start and end times, power transfer start and end times, charging energy consumed, and 5-min rolling average power.

VTO also encourages applicants to collect the following, more detailed data:

- Time-history vehicle data, including second-by-second vehicle speed, accelerator pedal position, energy consumption, climate control usage, driving mode selection (e.g., eco mode, sport mode), battery state of charge, current, voltage, and temperature; and
- Charging station pricing information, as well as information about PEV owners' home electricity rate structure (e.g., time-of-use rate vs. non-time-of-use rate).

#### **AOI 6d Teaming Arrangements**

Applicant teams must include at least one entity with substantial experience in data collection; administering terms and conditions; data storage; and data security, privacy, and distribution, preferably with automotive and/or electric vehicle infrastructure experience.

VTO also highly encourages teams that include the following:

- Local clean Cities coalitions  
(<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>);
- Research partners from industry, nonprofits, or academia;
- OEMs, charging equipment providers, and electricity providers; and
- Government agencies, regional planners, and states.

#### **AOI 6d Special Deliverables**

VTO will require recipients to provide all raw project data collected to designated DOE national laboratories.

#### **AOI 6e: Open Topic**

This AOI provides Clean Cities coalitions the opportunity to explore novel solutions to transportation and energy challenges that have not been addressed by other AOIs in this FOA, including challenges unique to their geographic areas and solutions with potential for replication in other areas across the country.

Specifically, this AOI seeks new and innovative approaches from Clean Cities coalitions and partners to improve domestic energy security through fuel diversity, increase transportation efficiency, and improve transportation affordability by accelerating or enabling widespread access to affordable alternative fuels (electricity, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, E85 flex fuel [51% to 83% ethanol

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blended with gasoline], and B20 or higher blends of biodiesel), highly efficient vehicles, and energy efficient mobility systems. Projects of interest include specialized applications or end-user groups that may currently be underserved by these new fuels or technologies, as well as projects that address difficult technology integration challenges and barriers unique to the geographic areas that Clean Cities coalitions serve. In addition, projects that focus on affordable, energy efficient mobility are also of interest. For example, over the last twenty years, the energy use per passenger-mile of transit buses has increased while it has decreased for passenger cars. Projects that apply modeling and validation of innovative approaches to increasing transit energy efficiency, such as shorter routes with smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles, are of particular interest.

#### **AOI 6e General Requirements**

Applications must do the following:

- Identify specific technologies, approaches, or activities that align with AOI objectives described above.
- Define project team roles and responsibilities as well as funding for specific tasks that Clean Cities coalitions and partners will undertake.
- Address replicability through a project structure that produces results and insights useful to others across the country; project teams must provide for public release a final technical report that documents project information, analyses, and insights.

#### **AOI 6e Teaming Arrangements**

The prime applicant for this area of interest **must** be an active/designated Clean Cities coalition (<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>).

VTO highly encourages project teams that include the following partners:

- Consortia comprised of multiple Clean Cities coalitions (<https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/>);
- Local/regional/state governments, metropolitan planning organizations;
- Transit agencies;
- Transportation network providers
- Vehicle, fuel, and infrastructure providers;
- Utility companies; and
- Fleets and end-user groups with related field experience.

VTO highly discourages applications that do the following:

- Promote a specific brand, product, or invention;
- Include novelty vehicles, restricted use low-speed vehicles, and recreational or sport vehicles;

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- Subsidize fuel cost; and
- Include converting or re-powering vehicles to operate on alternative fuels as a project cost.

## C. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered (See Section III.D of the FOA):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in Section I.A and I.B of the FOA; and
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).

And in addition:

**For AOI 3:** Applications that only perform modeling and simulation of a connected and automated system solution without physical implementation and validation.

**For AOI 5:**

- Applications that do not include **both** advanced combustion and application of advanced materials/materials processing; and
- Applications that lack full scale multi-cylinder engine build and dynamometer tests.

**For AOI 6c:**

- Applications that demonstrate technology that is not commercially available as of the time of FOA publication;
- Applications that demonstrate technologies that are not certified for emissions by EPA and/or CARB, depending on which are relevant for the geographic area;
- Applications for demonstration of technologies that are not approved by the Federal Highway Administration for safety; and
- Applications that include more than 5 vehicles or expand an existing fleet of the same type of alternative fuel or advanced technology vehicle.

**For AOI 6d:**

- Applications that do not cover an area large or diverse enough to be considered representative of a wide distribution across the United States and/or do not cover the specified time period or all four seasons of the year;

- Applications that do not have a robust plan for planning, maintaining, securing, administering agreements for terms and conditions, data privacy and transferring large amounts of data; and
- Applications that utilize data that is not sharable or data that has been previously shared.

## **D. Authorizing Statutes**

The programmatic authorizing statute is Public Law 102-486, Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 1992, amended by Public Law 109-58, EPACT 2005, Title IX, Subtitle A, Section 911.

Awards made under this announcement will fall under the purview of 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910.

## **II. Award Information**

### **A. Award Overview**

#### **i. Estimated Funding**

EERE expects to make a total of approximately \$59,000,000 of federal funding available for new awards under this FOA, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. EERE anticipates making approximately 40-68 awards under this FOA. EERE may issue one, multiple, or no awards under each area of interest. Individual awards may vary between \$350,000 and \$7,500,000.

The anticipated total federal funding and the approximate maximum and minimum federal Share for any one individual award made under this announcement are set forth in the table below. EERE may issue awards in one, multiple, or none of the following areas of interest:

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AOI Number	Area of Interest	Anticipated Minimum Award Size for Any One Individual Award (Fed Share)	Anticipated Maximum Award Size for Any One Individual Award (Fed Share)	Approximate Total Federal Funding Available for All Awards
1a	Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries	\$1M	\$1M	\$8.5M
1b	Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development	\$1M	\$1M	\$2M
1c	Solid State Battery Modeling Development	\$1M	\$1M	\$2M
2	Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X	\$500K	\$700K	\$3.5M
3	Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research	\$1.75M	\$3.5M	\$7M
4	Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines	\$875K	\$1.75M	\$3.5M
5	New Material and Engine Technologies for High Efficiency Powertrains	\$3.75M	\$7.5M	\$15M
6a	Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness	\$750K	\$1.5M	\$1.5M
6b	New Mobility Services in Rural America	\$500K	\$1M	\$3M
6c	Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets	\$350K	\$780K	\$7M

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6d	EV Data Collection	\$2M	\$4M	\$4M
6e	Open Topic	\$330K	\$670K	\$2M

## ii. Period of Performance

EERE anticipates making awards up to 36 months in length, comprised of one or more 12-month budget periods except for AOI 2, which will use 15-month budget periods. Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed. Project continuation will be contingent upon satisfactory performance and Go/No-Go decision review. At the Go/No-Go decision points, EERE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, meeting milestone objectives, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the program goals and objectives. As a result of this evaluation, EERE will make a determination to continue to fund the project, recommend re-direction of work under the project, place a hold on federal funding for the project or discontinue funding the project.

AOI Number	Area of Interest	Anticipated Number of Awards	Anticipated Period of Performance
1a	Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries	8-9	36 months
1b	Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development	2	36 months
1c	Solid State Battery Modeling Development	2	36 months
2	Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X	5-7	30 months
3	Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research	2-4	36 months
4	Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines	2-4	36 months

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5	New Material and Engine Technologies for High Efficiency Powertrains	2-4	36-48 months
6a	Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness	1-2	36 months
6b	New Mobility Services in Rural America	3-6	36 months
6c	Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets	9-20	36 months
6d	EV Data Collection	1-2	24-36 months
6e	Open Topic	3-6	36 months

### iii. New Applications Only

EERE will accept only new applications under this FOA. EERE will not consider applications for renewals of existing EERE-funded awards through this FOA.

## B. EERE Funding Agreements

Through Cooperative Agreements and other similar agreements, EERE provides financial and other support to projects that have the potential to realize the FOA objectives. EERE does not use such agreements to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government.

### i. Cooperative Agreements

EERE generally uses Cooperative Agreements to provide financial and other support to prime recipients.

Through Cooperative Agreements, EERE provides financial or other support to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute. Under Cooperative Agreements, the Government and prime recipients share responsibility for the direction of projects.

EERE has substantial involvement in all projects funded via Cooperative Agreement. See Section VI.B.ix of the FOA for more information on what substantial involvement may involve.

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## ii. Funding Agreements with Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDCs)

In most cases, FFRDC are funded independently of the remainder of the Project Team. The FFRDC then executes an agreement with any non-FFRDC Project Team members to arrange work structure, project execution, and any other matters. Regardless of these arrangements, the entity that applied as the prime recipient for the project will remain the prime recipient for the project.

## III. Eligibility Information

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

### A. Eligible Applicants

#### i. Restricted Eligibility

The National Energy Technology Laboratory is ineligible to participate as a prime applicant or as a team member/sub-recipient on any application because of its role in developing the requirements for this announcement.

**Entities applying as the prime applicant under AOI 4 entitled, "Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines," are restricted to universities, colleges, and non-profit research institutions which operate as divisions under colleges or universities.** All other entities that submit an application as a prime applicant to this AOI will be considered non-responsive and the application will not be reviewed. The restricted eligibility does not apply to entities applying as a subrecipient.

**Entities applying as the prime applicant under AOI 5 entitled, "New Materials and Technologies for High Efficiency Powertrains," are restricted to OEMs that produce at least 20,000 vehicles annually and Tier One suppliers that produce at least 20,000 engines annually.** All other entities that submit an application as a prime applicant to this AOI will be considered non-responsive and the application will not be reviewed. The restricted eligibility does not apply to entities applying as a subrecipient.

**Entities applying as the prime applicant under AOI 6e entitled, "Technology Integration – Open Topic," are restricted to DOE-designated Clean Cities**

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Coalitions. All other entities that submit an application as a prime applicant to this AOI will be considered non-responsive and the application will not be reviewed. The restricted eligibility does not apply to entities applying as a subrecipient.

## ii. Individuals

U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents are eligible to apply for funding as a prime recipient or subrecipient.

## iii. Domestic Entities

For-profit entities, educational institutions, and nonprofits that are incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular State or territory of the United States and have a physical location for business operations in the United States are eligible to apply for funding as a prime recipient or subrecipient. Nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are not eligible to apply for funding.

State, local, and tribal government entities are eligible to apply for funding as a prime recipient or subrecipient.

DOE/NNSA FFRDCs are eligible as follows:

AOI Number	Area of Interest	DOE/NNSA FFRDC allowed as Recipient	DOE/NNSA FFRDC allowed as Subrecipient
1a	Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries	No	No
1b	Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development	No	No
1c	Solid State Battery Modeling Development	No	No
2	Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X	No	No
3	Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research	No	Yes
4	Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines	No	Yes

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5	New Material and Engine Technologies for High Efficiency Powertrains	No	Yes
6a	Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness	No	Yes
6b	New Mobility Services in Rural America	No	Yes
6c	Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets	No	Yes
6d	EV Data Collection	No	No
6e	Open Topic	No	Yes

For AOIs 4 and 5, DOE/NNSA FFRDCs/National Laboratories are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient but their scope of work may not exceed 25% of the total project cost.

For all AOIs where an FFRDC is eligible to apply as a subrecipient, the FFRDC's scope of work may not exceed that of the prime recipient as measured by total project cost.

For all AOIs other than 1a,1b,1c, 2, and 6d, Non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient, but are not eligible to apply as a prime recipient.

Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient, but are not eligible to apply as a prime recipient.

#### iv. Foreign Entities

Other than as provided in the "Individuals" or "Domestic Entities" sections above, all prime recipients receiving funding under this FOA 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. If a foreign entity applies for funding as a prime recipient, it must designate in the Full Application a subsidiary or affiliate incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a State or territory of the United States to be the prime recipient. The Full Application must state the nature of the corporate relationship between the foreign entity and domestic subsidiary or affiliate.

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A foreign entity may receive funding as a subrecipient.

**v. Incorporated Consortia**

Incorporated consortia, which may include domestic and/or foreign entities, are eligible to apply for funding as a prime recipient or subrecipient. For consortia incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a State or territory of the United States, please refer to “Domestic Entities” above. For consortia incorporated in foreign countries, please refer to the requirements in “Foreign Entities” above.

Each incorporated consortium must have an internal governance structure and a written set of internal rules. Upon request, the consortium must provide a written description of its internal governance structure and its internal rules to the EERE Contracting Officer.

**vi. Unincorporated Consortia**

Unincorporated Consortia, which may include domestic and foreign entities, must designate one member of the consortium to serve as the prime recipient/consortium representative. The prime recipient/consortium representative must be incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a State or territory of the United States. The eligibility of the consortium will be determined by the eligibility of the prime recipient/consortium representative under Section III.A of the FOA.

Upon request, unincorporated consortia must provide the EERE Contracting Officer with a collaboration agreement, commonly referred to as the articles of collaboration, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of each consortium member. This agreement binds the individual consortium members together and should discuss, among other things, the consortium’s:

- Management structure;
- Method of making payments to consortium members;
- Means of ensuring and overseeing members’ efforts on the project;
- Provisions for members’ cost sharing contributions; and
- Provisions for ownership and rights in intellectual property developed previously or under the agreement.

## B. Cost Sharing

The cost share must be at the required percentages identified in the table below and is calculated based on the total allowable costs (i.e., the sum of the Government share, including FFRDC costs if applicable, and the recipient share of allowable costs equals the total allowable cost of the project) and must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law. (See 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 910.130 for the applicable cost sharing requirements.)

- **Cost Sharing Generally**

The cost share must be at least 20% of the total allowable costs for research and development projects (i.e., the sum of the Government share, including FFRDC costs if applicable, and the recipient share of allowable costs equals the total allowable cost of the project) and must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law. (See 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 910.130 for the applicable cost sharing requirements.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Section 108, “Short-Term Cost-Share Pilot Program” of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (RIA), Pub. L. 115-246, amended EPACT 2005 section 988 to include a 2-year pilot program exempting Institutions of Higher Education and Non-Profit Organizations from the minimum 20 percent cost share requirement for research and development activities. Nevertheless, RIA did not change the cost share requirements set forth in 2 CFR 910.130 of DOE’s financial assistance regulation and the requirements of that regulation remain in effect. Until the regulation is amended to align with RIA or a cost share reduction or elimination is issued, DOE programs and Contracting Officers must adhere to the cost share requirements as set forth in 2 CFR 910.130. Independent of the EPACT 2005 section 988 and 2 CFR 910.130 requirements and the Pilot Program notwithstanding, DOE may require cost share of any activity as a matter of programmatic discretion.

AOI Number	Area of Interest	Cost Share
1a	Development of Materials to Enable Solid State Batteries	20%
1b	Solid State Battery Diagnostic Tool Development	20%
1c	Solid State Battery Modeling Development	20%

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2	Electric Motor Research Increasing Power Density 8X		20%
3	Energy Efficient Mobility Systems Research		20%
4	Predictive Modeling Capabilities for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Multi-mode (SI/CI) Engines		20%
5	New Material and Engine Technologies for High Efficiency Powertrains	Phase 1: Technology Research and Development:	20%
		Phase 2: Vehicle Integration and Demonstration:	50%
6a	Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) and Infrastructure for Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness		50%
6b	New Mobility Services in Rural America		50%
6c	Alternative Fuel (e.g. natural gas) Proof-of-Concept in New Communities and Fleets		50%
6d	EV Data Collection		0%
6e	Open Topic		50%

To assist applicants in calculating proper cost share amounts, EERE has included a cost share information sheet and sample cost share calculation as Appendices A and B to this FOA.

#### **i. Legal Responsibility**

Although the cost share requirement applies to the project as a whole, including work performed by members of the project team other than the prime recipient, the prime recipient is legally responsible for paying the entire cost share. If the funding agreement is terminated prior to the end of the project period, the prime recipient is required to contribute at least the cost share percentage of total expenditures incurred through the date of termination.

The prime 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.

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**ii. 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 project as a whole is met.

**iii. Cost Share Types and Allowability**

Every cost share contribution must be allowable under the applicable federal cost principles, as described in Section IV.I.i of the FOA. In addition, cost share must be verifiable upon submission of the Full Application.

Project teams may provide cost share in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Cost share may be provided by the prime 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.

Cash contributions include, but are not limited to: personnel costs, fringe costs, supply and equipment costs, indirect costs and other direct costs.

In-kind contributions are those where a value of the contribution can be readily determined, verified and justified but where no actual cash is transacted in securing the good or service comprising the contribution. Allowable in-kind contributions include, but are not limited to: the donation of volunteer time or the donation of space or use of equipment.

Project teams may use funding or property received from state or local governments to meet the cost share requirement, so long as the funding was not provided to the state or local government by the federal government.

The prime recipient may not use the following sources to meet its cost share obligations including, but not limited to:

- 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); or
- Expenditures that were reimbursed under a separate federal program.

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Project teams may not use the same cash or in-kind contributions to meet cost share requirements for more than one project or program.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the prime 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 Contracting Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to 2 CFR 200.306 as amended by 2 CFR 910.130 for additional cost sharing requirements.

#### **iv. Cost Share Contributions by FFRDCs**

Because FFRDCs are funded by the federal government, costs incurred by FFRDCs generally may not be used to meet the cost share requirement. FFRDCs may contribute cost share only if the contributions are paid directly from the contractor's Management Fee or another non-federal source.

#### **v. Cost Share Verification**

Applicants are required to provide written assurance of their proposed cost share contributions in their Full Applications.

Upon selection for award negotiations, applicants are required to provide additional information and documentation regarding their cost share contributions. Please refer to Appendix A of the FOA.

#### **vi. Cost Share Payment**

EERE requires prime recipients to contribute the cost share amount incrementally over the life of the award. Specifically, the prime recipient's cost share for each billing period must always reflect the overall cost share ratio negotiated by the parties (i.e., the total amount of cost sharing on each invoice when considered cumulatively with previous invoices must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated). As FFRDC funding will be provided directly to the FFRDC(s) by DOE, prime recipients will be required to provide project cost share at a percentage commensurate with the FFRDC costs, on a budget period basis, resulting in a higher interim invoicing cost share ratio than the total award ratio.

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In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the EERE Contracting Officer may approve a request by the prime recipient to meet its cost share requirements on a less frequent basis, such as monthly or quarterly. Regardless of the interval requested, the prime recipient must be up-to-date on cost share at each interval. Such requests must be sent to the Contracting 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 prime recipient has complied with its cost share obligations to date. The Contracting Officer must approve all such requests before they go into effect.

## C. Compliance Criteria

**Concept Papers and Full Applications must meet all compliance criteria listed below or they will be considered noncompliant. EERE will not review or consider noncompliant submissions,** including Concept Papers and Full Applications that were: submitted through means other than EERE Exchange; submitted after the applicable deadline; and/or submitted incomplete. EERE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

### i. Compliance Criteria

#### 1. Concept Papers

Concept Papers are deemed compliant if:

- The Concept Paper complies with the content and form requirements in Section IV.C of the FOA; and
- The applicant successfully uploaded all required documents and clicked the "Submit" button in EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in this FOA.

#### 2. Full Applications

Full Applications are deemed compliant if:

- The applicant submitted a compliant Concept Paper;
- The applicant complied with the required teaming arrangements (if applicable);

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- The Full Application complies with the content and form requirements in Section IV.D of the FOA; and
- The applicant successfully uploaded all required documents and clicked the “Submit” button in EERE Exchange by the deadline stated in the FOA.

## **D. Responsiveness Criteria**

All “Applications Specifically Not of Interest,” as described in Section I.C of the FOA, are deemed nonresponsive and are not reviewed or considered for a technical merit review of the Full Application.

## **E. Other Eligibility Requirements**

### **i. Requirements for DOE/NNSA and non-DOE/NNSA Federally Funded Research and Development Centers Included as a Subrecipient**

DOE/NNSA and non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs may be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity’s application subject to the following guidelines:

#### **1. Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs**

The federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with its authority under its award.

#### **2. Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs**

The cognizant Contracting Officer for the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The following wording is acceptable for this authorization:

“Authorization is granted for the Laboratory to participate in the proposed project. The work proposed for the laboratory is consistent with or complementary to the missions of the laboratory, and will not adversely impact execution of the DOE assigned programs at the laboratory.”

#### **3. Value/Funding**

The value of and funding for the FFRDC portion of the work will not normally be included in the award to a successful applicant. Usually, DOE will fund a DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractor through the DOE field work

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proposal (WP) system and non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC through an interagency agreement with the sponsoring agency.

**4. Cost Share**

Although the FFRDC portion of the work is usually excluded from the award to a successful applicant, the applicant's cost share requirement will be based on the total cost of the project, including the applicant's, the subrecipient, and the FFRDC's portions of the project.

**5. Responsibility**

The prime recipient will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues including, but not limited to disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the prime recipient and the FFRDC contractor.

**F. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Full Applications Eligible for Review**

An entity may submit more than one Full Concept Paper and one Full Application to this FOA, provided that each concept paper/application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project, and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Full Application. All concept papers and applications must be for a stand-alone project that is not dependent or contingent upon another application submitted to this or any other FOA.

**G. Questions Regarding Eligibility**

EERE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this FOA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.

**IV. Application and Submission Information**

**A. Application Process**

The application process will include two phases: a Concept Paper phase and a Full Application phase. **Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application.** At each phase, EERE performs an initial eligibility review of the applicant submissions to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements of Section III of the FOA. EERE will not review or consider submissions that do not meet the eligibility requirements of

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Section III. All submissions must conform to the following form and content requirements, including maximum page lengths (described below) and must be submitted via EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>, unless specifically stated otherwise. **EERE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions.** EERE will not extend deadlines for applicants who fail to submit required information and documents due to server/connection congestion.

A Control Number will be issued when an applicant begins the EERE Exchange application process. This control number must be included with all application documents, as described below.

The Concept Paper and Full Application must conform to the following requirements:

- Each must be submitted in Adobe PDF format unless stated otherwise.
- Each must be written in English;
- All pages must be formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with margins not less than one inch on every side. Use Times New Roman 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 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 must be included in the footer of every page; and
- 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. If applicants exceed the maximum page lengths indicated below, EERE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.

Applicants are responsible for meeting each submission deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers and Full Applications at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline.** Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least 1 hour to submit a Concept Paper and Full Application. Once the Concept Paper and Full Application is submitted in EERE Exchange, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable

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deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit the Concept Paper and Full Application before the applicable deadline.

EERE urges applicants to carefully review their Concept Papers and Full Applications and to allow sufficient time for the submission of required information and documents. All Full Applications that pass the initial eligibility review will undergo comprehensive technical merit review according to the criteria identified in Section V.A.i – Section V.A.v of the FOA.

#### **i. Additional Information on EERE Exchange**

EERE Exchange is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this FOA. 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 FOA 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](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)). The EERE Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

### **B. Application Forms**

The application forms and instructions are available on EERE Exchange. To access these materials, go to <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov> and select the appropriate funding opportunity number.

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the EERE Exchange website is 10MB. Files in excess of 10MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 10MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the FOA, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Project\_Part\_1**

**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_Project\_Part\_2**

### **C. Content and Form of the Concept Paper**

To be eligible to submit a Full Application, applicants must submit a Concept Paper by the specified due date and time.

## i. Concept Paper Content Requirements

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Concept Papers (see Section III of the FOA).

Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology. Unrelated concepts and technologies should not be consolidated into a single Concept Paper.

The Concept Paper must conform to the following content requirements:

Section	Page Limit	Description
<b>Cover Page</b>	1 page maximum	The cover page should include the project title, the specific FOA Area of Interest being addressed (if applicable), both the technical and business points of contact, names of all team member organizations, and any statements regarding confidentiality.
<b>Technical Description and Impacts</b>	3 pages maximum	Applicants are required to describe succinctly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposed technology, including its basic operating principles and how it is unique and innovative;</li><li>• The proposed technology's target level of performance (applicants should provide technical data or other support to show how the proposed target could be met);</li><li>• The current state-of-the-art in the relevant field and application, including key shortcomings, limitations, and challenges;</li><li>• How the proposed technology will overcome the shortcomings, limitations, and challenges in the relevant field and application;</li><li>• The potential impact that the proposed project would have on the relevant field and application;</li><li>• The key technical risks/issues associated with the proposed technology development plan; and</li><li>• The impact that EERE funding would have on the proposed project.</li><li>• Whether the Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Team have the skill and expertise needed to successfully execute the project plan;</li><li>• Whether the applicant has prior experience which demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity;</li><li>• Whether the applicant has adequate access to equipment and facilities necessary to accomplish the effort.</li></ul>

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		Within the stated page limits, applicants may provide graphs, charts, or other data to supplement their Technology Description.
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EERE makes an independent assessment of each Concept Paper based on the criteria in Section V.A.i and V.A.ii of the FOA. EERE will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Full Applications. Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Full Application. An applicant who receives a “discouraged” notification may still submit a Full Application. EERE will review all eligible Full Applications. However, by discouraging the submission of a Full Application, EERE intends to convey its lack of programmatic interest in the proposed project in an effort to save the applicant the time and expense of preparing an application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.

EERE may include general comments provided from reviewers on an applicant’s Concept Paper in the encourage/discourage notification.

While the content and form of the Concept Paper does not require proposing a cost share amount during this concept paper submission phase, the EERE Exchange system will require entering a proposed cost share as a step in the submission process. Any proposed cost share at the Concept Paper stage of the application process can be updated or amended at the time of full application submission.

## D. Content and Form of the Full Application

Applicants must submit a Full Application by the specified due date and time to be considered for funding under this FOA. applicants must complete the following application forms found on the EERE Exchange website at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>, in accordance with the instructions.

Applicants will have approximately 30 days from receipt of the Concept Paper Encourage/Discourage notification to prepare and submit a Full Application. Regardless of the date the applicant receives the Encourage/Discourage notification, the submission deadline for the Full Application remains the date and time stated on the FOA cover page.

All Full Application documents must be marked with the Control Number issued to the applicant. Applicants will receive a control number upon clicking the

“Create Concept Paper” button in EERE Exchange. **The applicant is no longer required to follow any specific file naming convention other than to insure the file format and extension of the uploaded file is consistent with the requirements below. The EERE Exchange system will automatically rename the file once it has been successfully uploaded.**

#### i. Full Application Content Requirements

EERE will not review or consider ineligible Full Applications (see Section III of the FOA).

Each Full Application shall be limited to a single concept or technology. Unrelated concepts and technologies shall not be consolidated in a single Full Application.

Full Applications must conform to the following requirements:

Components	Required/ Optional	Required Format	Page Limit	Required Template
Technical Volume (See Chart in Section IV.D.ii)	Required	Adobe PDF	30	No
Statement of Project Objectives	Required	MS Word	10	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=00dbefe8-7820-4732-a869-59efdc4fe005">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=00dbefe8-7820-4732-a869-59efdc4fe005</a>
SF-424 Applicant	Required	Adobe PDF	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=8eb4b3c1-0be1-45b6-b436-57e16e48c302">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=8eb4b3c1-0be1-45b6-b436-57e16e48c302</a>
Budget Justification (EERE 335) (See instructions below)	Required	MS Excel	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=d5f23989-1cb0-4fa3-a7d7-e86646f80d5d">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=d5f23989-1cb0-4fa3-a7d7-e86646f80d5d</a>
Summary/Abstract for Public Release	Required	Adobe PDF	1	No
Summary Slide	Required	MS Powerpoint	1	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=451ee201-601c-4036-9967-94626f0d55f7">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=451ee201-601c-4036-9967-94626f0d55f7</a>

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Subrecipient Budget Justification, if applicable (See instructions below)	Optional	MS Excel	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=d5f23989-1cb0-4fa3-a7d7-e86646f80d5d">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=d5f23989-1cb0-4fa3-a7d7-e86646f80d5d</a>
DOE Work Proposal for FFRDC, if applicable (see <a href="#">DOE O 412.1A, Attachment 3</a> )	Optional	Adobe PDF	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=c4003bb5-42c6-4764-99a0-74a5097a8903">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=c4003bb5-42c6-4764-99a0-74a5097a8903</a>
Authorization from cognizant Contracting Officer for FFRDC, if applicable	Optional	Adobe PDF	N/A	No
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required	Adobe PDF	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=9d506baf-1fe6-45ac-b6e3-e0b9becadc8c">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=9d506baf-1fe6-45ac-b6e3-e0b9becadc8c</a>
Location(s) of Work	Required	MS Excel	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=ecdffb331-1532-476a-8d8e-a0a03b0f4c99">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=ecdffb331-1532-476a-8d8e-a0a03b0f4c99</a>
Performance of Work in the United States waiver requests, if applicable	Optional	Adobe PDF	N/A	No
Cost Share Commitment Letters, if applicable	Optional	Adobe PDF	N/A	No
U.S. Manufacturing Plan	Required	Adobe PDF	N/A	No
Environmental Questionnaire	Required	Adobe PDF	N/A	<a href="https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=a0ed444e-6489-4854-93d0-54b87c448f8e">https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=a0ed444e-6489-4854-93d0-54b87c448f8e</a>

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**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_TechnicalVolume\_Part\_1**  
**ControlNumber\_LeadOrganization\_TechnicalVolume\_Part\_2**

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**EERE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 10MB.**

EERE provides detailed guidance on the content and form of each component below.

**ii. Technical Volume**

The Technical Volume must be submitted in Adobe PDF format. The Technical Volume must conform to the following content and form requirements, including maximum page lengths. If applicants exceed the maximum page lengths indicated below, EERE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages. This volume must address the Merit Review Criteria as discussed in Section V.A.iii – Section V.A.v of the FOA.

Applicants must provide sufficient citations and references to the primary research literature to justify the claims and approaches made in the Technical Volume. However, EERE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources (e.g., Internet websites).

The Technical Volume to the Full Application may not be more than 30 pages, including the cover page, table of contents, and all citations, charts, graphs, maps, photos, or other graphics, and must include all of the information in the table below. The page limitation does not include the Statement of Project Objectives, which is a separate document and not included as part of the Technical Volume. The applicant should consider the weighting of each of the evaluation criteria (see Section V.A.iii – Section V.A.v of the FOA) when preparing the Technical Volume.

The Technical Volume should clearly describe and expand upon information provided in the Concept Paper. The Technical Volume must conform to the following content requirements:

SECTION/PAGE LIMIT	DESCRIPTION
<b>Cover Page</b> (1 Page)	The cover page should include the project title, the specific FOA Area of Interest being addressed (if applicable), both the technical and business points of contact, names of all team member organizations, and any statements regarding confidentiality.

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<p><b>Project Overview</b> (Approximately 10% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Project Overview should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> The applicant should discuss the background of their organization, including the history, successes, and current research and development status (i.e., the technical baseline) relevant to the technical topic being addressed in the Full Application.</li> <li>• <b>Project Goal:</b> The applicant should explicitly identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal.</li> <li>• <b>DOE Impact:</b> The applicant should discuss the impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact</b> (Approximately 30% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Technical Description should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Relevance and Outcomes:</b> The applicant should provide a detailed description of the technology, including the scientific and other principles and objectives that will be pursued during the project. This section should describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the FOA, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets or other relevant performance targets. The applicant should clearly specify the expected outcomes of the project.</li> <li>• <b>Feasibility:</b> The applicant should demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed technology and capability of achieving the anticipated performance targets, including a description of previous work done and prior results.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation and Impacts:</b> The applicant should describe the current state of the art in the applicable field, the specific innovation of the proposed technology, the advantages of proposed technology over current and emerging technologies, and the overall impact on advancing the state of the art/technical baseline if the project is successful.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workplan and Market Transformation Plan</b> (Approximately 40% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Workplan should include a summary of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, (WBS), Milestones, Go/No-Go Decision Points, and Project Schedule. A detailed SOPO is separately requested. The Workplan should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Objectives:</b> The applicant should provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Technical Scope Summary:</b> The applicant should provide a summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the objective(s). The overall work scope is to be divided by performance periods that are separated by discrete, approximately annual decision points (see below for more information on Go/No-Go decision points). The</li> </ul>

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	<p>applicant should describe the specific expected end result of each performance period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>WBS and Task Description Summary:</b> The Workplan should describe the work to be accomplished and how the applicant will achieve the milestones, will accomplish the final project goal(s), and will produce all deliverables. The Workplan is to be structured with a hierarchy of performance period (approximately annual), task and subtasks, which is typical of a WBS for any project. The Workplan shall contain a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project. The description shall be a full explanation and disclosure of the project being proposed (i.e., a statement such as “we will then complete a proprietary process” is unacceptable). It is the applicant’s responsibility to prepare an adequately detailed task plan to describe the proposed project and the plan for addressing the objectives of this FOA. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. The SOPO will contain a more limited description of the WBS and tasks.</li><li>• <b>Milestone Summary:</b> The applicant should provide a summary of appropriate milestones throughout the project to demonstrate success. A milestone may be either a progress measure (which can be activity based) or a SMART technical milestone. SMART milestones should be <b>Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely</b>, and must demonstrate a technical achievement rather than simply completing a task. Unless otherwise specified in the FOA, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one milestone per quarter for the duration of the project with at least one SMART technical milestone per year (depending on the project, more milestones may be necessary to comprehensively demonstrate progress). The applicant should also provide the means by which the milestone will be verified. The summary provided should be consistent with the Milestone Summary Table in the SOPO.</li><li>• <b>Go/No-Go Decision Points:</b> The applicant should provide a summary of project-wide Go/No-Go decision points at appropriate points in the Workplan. A Go/No-Go decision point 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 actually beginning the execution of future phases. Unless otherwise specified in the FOA, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one project-wide Go/No-Go decision point for each budget period (12 to 18-month period) of the project. The</li></ul>
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	<p>Applicant should also provide the specific technical criteria to be used to make the Go/No-Go decision. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. Go/No-Go decision points are considered “SMART” and can fulfill the requirement for an annual SMART milestone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End of Project Goal: The applicant should provide a summary of the end of project goal(s). Unless otherwise specified in the FOA, the minimum requirement is that each project must have one SMART end of project goal. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO.</li><li>• Project Schedule (Gantt Chart or similar): The applicant should provide a schedule for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, milestones, and Go/No-Go decision points.</li><li>• Project Management: The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan, including the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The overall approach to and organization for managing the work</li><li>○ The roles of each Project Team member</li><li>○ Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among Project Team members</li><li>○ The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices</li><li>○ The approach to project risk management</li><li>○ A description of how project changes will be handled</li><li>○ If applicable, the approach to Quality Assurance/Control</li><li>○ How communications will be maintained among Project Team members</li></ul></li><li>• Technology Transfer Plan: The applicant should provide a technology transfer plan, including the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Identification of target market, competitors, and distribution channels for proposed technology along with known or perceived barriers to market penetration, including a mitigation plan</li><li>○ Identification of a product development and/or service plan, commercialization timeline, financing, product marketing, legal/regulatory considerations including intellectual property, infrastructure requirements, data dissemination, U.S. manufacturing plan and product distribution.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Technical Qualifications and Resources</b> (Approximately	The Technical Qualifications and Resources should contain the following information:

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20% of the Technical Volume)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the Project Team’s unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key subrecipients.</li><li>• Describe the Project Team’s existing equipment and facilities that will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed project; include a justification of any new equipment or facilities requested as part of the project.</li><li>• This section should also include relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives.</li><li>• Describe the time commitment of the key team members to support the project.</li><li>• Attach <u>one-page</u> resumes for key participating team members as an appendix. Resumes do not count towards the page limit. Multi-page resumes are discouraged.</li></ul> <p>Describe the technical services to be provided by DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, if applicable. For multi-organizational or multi-investigator projects, describe succinctly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The roles and the work to be performed by each PI and Key Participant;</li><li>• Business agreements between the applicant and each PI and Key Participant;</li><li>• How the various efforts will be integrated and managed;</li><li>• Process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction;</li><li>• Publication arrangements;</li><li>• Intellectual Property issues; and</li><li>• Communication plans</li></ul>
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### iii. Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO)

Applicants are required to complete a SOPO. A SOPO template is available on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/>. The SOPO, including the Milestone Table, must not exceed 10 pages when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12 point.

### iv. SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance

Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances in Field 21 can be found at <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>, under Certifications and Assurances. Note: The dates and dollar amounts on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase or other subset of the project period.

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**v. Budget Justification Workbook**

- Applicants are required to complete the Budget Justification Workbook. This form is available on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.
- Prime Recipients must complete each tab of the Budget Justification Workbook for the project as a whole, including all work to be performed by the prime recipient and its subrecipients and contractors.
- Applicants should include costs associated with required annual audits and incurred cost proposals in their proposed budget documents. The “Instructions and Summary” included with the Budget Justification Workbook will auto-populate as the applicant enters information into the Workbook.
- Applicants must carefully read the “Instructions and Summary” tab provided within the Budget Justification Workbook.

**vi. Summary/Abstract for Public Release**

Applicants are required to submit a one-page summary/abstract of their project. The project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as DOE may make it available to the public after selections are made. The project summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12 point

**vii. Summary Slide**

Applicants are required to provide a single PowerPoint slide summarizing the proposed project. The slide must be submitted in Microsoft PowerPoint format using the supplied template. This slide is used during the evaluation process

The Summary Slide template requires the following information:

- Proposed objectives;
- A description of the technology’s impact and key takeaways;
- Key deliverables and anticipated accomplishments;

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- Project title, prime recipient, Principal Investigator, and Key Participant information; and
- Requested EERE funds and proposed applicant cost share(s) for the prime applicant and subrecipients

**viii. Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable)**

Applicants must provide a separate budget for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$250,000 or 25% of the total work effort (whichever is less). The budget justification must include the same justification information described in the “Budget Justification” section above.

**ix. Budget for DOE/NNSA FFRDC (if applicable)**

If a DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractor is to perform a portion of the work, the applicant must provide a DOE WP in accordance with the requirements in DOE Order 412.1A, Work Authorization System, Attachment 3, available at: <https://www.directives.doe.gov/directives-documents/400-series/0412.1-BOrder-a-admchg1/@@images/file>. Save the WP in a single PDF file.

**x. Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA or DOE/NNSA FFRDCs (if applicable)**

The federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with the contractor’s authority under its award

**xi. SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required)**

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

Prime recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” (see EERE Exchange for the document or <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>) 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;

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- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

**xii. Location(s) of Work**

The applicant must complete the supplied template by listing the City and State for each location where project work will be performed by the prime recipient or subrecipient(s).

**xiii. Waiver Request: Performance of Work in the United States (if applicable)****Performance of Work in the United States**

As set forth in Section IV.I.iii, all work under EERE funding agreements must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment, so a waiver is not required for foreign purchases of these items. However, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States.

Appendix C lists the necessary information that must be included in a request to waive the Performance of Work in the United States requirement.

Save the Waiver(s) in a single PDF file.

**xiv. Cost Share Commitment Letters**

You must have a letter from each third party contributing cost share (i.e., a party other than the organization submitting the application) stating that the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount of cost share. Identify the following information for each third party contributing cost share: (1) the name of the organization; (2) the proposed dollar amount to be provided; (3) the amount as a percentage of the total project cost; and (4) the proposed type of cost share – cash, services, or property.

Please combine each individual Cost Share Commitment Letter into a single PDF file.

**xv. U.S. Manufacturing Commitments**

Each applicant is required to submit a U.S. Manufacturing Plan as part of its application. The U.S. Manufacturing Plan represents the applicant's measurable commitment to support U.S. manufacturing as a result of its award.

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Each U.S. Manufacturing Plan must include a commitment that any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States, unless the applicant can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible to do so (referred to hereinafter as “the U.S. Competitiveness Provision”). The applicant further agrees to make the U.S. Competitiveness Provision binding on any subawardee and any assignee or licensee or any entity otherwise acquiring rights to any subject invention, including subsequent assignees or licensees. A subject invention is any invention conceived of or first actually reduced to practice under an award.

Due to the lower technology readiness levels of this FOA, DOE does not expect the U.S. Manufacturing Plans to be tied to a specific product or technology. However, in lieu of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, an applicant may propose a U.S. Manufacturing Plan with more specific commitments that would be beneficial to the U.S. economy and competitiveness. For example, an applicant may commit specific products to be manufactured in the U.S., commit to a specific investment in a new or existing U.S. manufacturing facility, keep certain activities based in the U.S. or support a certain number of jobs in the U.S. related to the technology. An applicant which is likely to license the technology to others, especially universities for which licensing may be the exclusive means of commercialization the technology, the U.S. Manufacturing Plan may indicate the applicant's plan and commitment to use a specific licensing strategy that would likely support U.S. manufacturing.

If DOE determines, at its sole discretion, that the more specific commitments would provide a sufficient benefit to the U.S. economy and industrial competitiveness, the specific commitments will be part of the terms and conditions of the award. For all other awards, the U.S. Competitiveness Provision shall be incorporated as part of the terms and conditions of the award as the U.S. Manufacturing Plan for that award.

The U.S. Competitiveness Provision is also a requirement for the Class Patent Waiver that applies to domestic large business under this FOA (see Section VIII.K. Title to Subject Inventions).

Save the U.S. Manufacturing Plan in a single PDF file.

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**xvi. Environmental Questionnaire**

You must complete the Environmental Questionnaire using the supplied template.

**E. Post Selection Information Requests**

If selected for award, EERE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information regarding the following (non-exhaustive list):

- Indirect cost information;
- Other budget information;
- Updated Commitment Letters from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Share, if applicable;
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5);
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable;
- Foreign National Involvement;
- Updated Environmental Questionnaire; and
- Data Management Plan.

Applicants will be required to submit a Data Management Plan during award negotiations. The Data Management Plan is a document that outlines the proposed plan for data sharing or preservation. Information regarding the content of the Data Management Plan is shown in Appendix D and will also be provided in the Federal Assistance Requirements Reporting Checklist upon receipt of award.

**F. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR §25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR §25.110(d)) is required to: (1) Be registered in the (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov> before submitting its application; (2) provide a valid Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in its application; 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.

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DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE is ready to make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

## **G. Submission Dates and Times**

Concept Papers and Full Applications must be submitted in EERE Exchange no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the dates provided on the cover page of this FOA.

## **H. Intergovernmental Review**

This FOA is not subject to Executive Order 12372 – Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

## **I. Funding Restrictions**

### **i. Allowable Costs**

All expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles.

Refer to the following applicable federal cost principles for more information:

- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for For-Profit entities; and
- 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

### **ii. Pre-Award Costs**

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 Contracting Officer assigned to the award.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and Analysis. Pre-award costs can only be incurred if such costs would be reimbursable under the agreement if incurred after award.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the Selectee's risk; EERE 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.

**1. Pre-Award Costs Related to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements**

EERE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA 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 EERE completing the NEPA review process.

EERE does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse costs where the prime recipient incurred the costs prior to receiving written authorization from the Contracting Officer. If the applicant elects to undertake activities that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Contracting Officer, the applicant is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share. Likewise, if a project is selected for negotiation of award, and the prime recipient elects to undertake activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the Contracting Officer in advance of EERE completing a NEPA review, the prime recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding 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 Contracting Officer override these NEPA requirements to obtain the written authorization from the Contracting Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives.

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### iii. Performance of Work in the United States

#### 1. Requirement

All work performed under EERE awards must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment; however, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States. The prime recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

#### 2. Failure to Comply

If the prime recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, EERE may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the United States and such costs may not be recognized as allowable recipient cost share. The prime 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 prime recipient, subrecipients, contractors or other project partners.

#### 3. Waiver

There may be limited circumstances where it is in the interest of the Project to perform a portion of the work outside the United States. To seek a waiver of the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, the applicant must submit a written waiver request to EERE. Appendix C lists the necessary information that must be included in a request to waive the Performance of Work in the United States requirement.

The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of EERE that a waiver would further the purposes of the FOA and is in the economic interests of the United States. EERE may require additional information before considering a waiver request. Save the waiver request(s) in a single PDF file. The applicant does not have the right to appeal EERE's decision concerning a waiver request.

### iv. Construction

Recipients are required to obtain written authorization from the Contracting Officer before incurring any major construction costs.

**v. Foreign Travel**

Foreign travel costs may be necessary to conduct the research and may be allowable (case-by-case basis) only with the written prior approval of the Contracting Officer assigned to the award.

If international travel is proposed for your project, please note that your organization must comply with the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974 (49 USC 40118), commonly referred to as the “Fly America Act,” and implementing regulations at 41 CFR 301-10.131 through 301-10.143. The law and regulations require air transport of people or property to, from, between, or within a country other than the United States, the cost of which is supported under this award, to be performed by or under a cost-sharing arrangement with a U.S. flag carrier, if service is available.

**vi. Equipment and Supplies**

To the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available under this FOA should be American-made. This requirement does not apply to used or leased equipment.

Property disposition will be required at the end of a project if the current fair market value of property exceeds \$5,000

For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth at 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-Federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316.

**vii. 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”

(<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>) 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;

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

#### **viii. Risk Assessment**

Prior to making a federal award, the DOE is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as SAM Exclusions and “Do Not Pay.”

In addition, DOE evaluates the risk(s) posed by applicants before they receive federal awards. This evaluation may consider: results of the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility; the quality of the application; financial stability; quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part; history of performance; reports and findings from audits; and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-federal entities.

In addition to this review, DOE must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR 180, and must require non-federal entities 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.

#### **ix. Invoice Review and Approval**

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

- Summary of costs by cost categories;
- Timesheets or personnel hours report;
- Invoices/receipts for all travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs;
- UCC filing proof for equipment acquired with project funds by for-profit recipients and subrecipients;
- Explanation of cost share for invoicing period;
- Analogous information for some subrecipients;
- Other items as required by DOE.

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## V. Application Review Information

### A. Technical Review Criteria

#### i. Concept Papers (For AOIs 1-5)

Concept Papers will be evaluated against the criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)**

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Extent to which the concept paper describes the proposed technology, how the technology is unique and innovative, and how the technology will overcome barriers to advance the current state-of-the-art or baseline technology;
- Extent to which the concept paper identifies risks, technical barriers, challenges, and possible mitigation strategies, and demonstrates the impact that the proposed project would have on the relevant field and application;
- Extent to which the proposed project team has the qualifications, relevant experience, capabilities, equipment, and facilities to successfully complete the proposed project;
- Extent to which the proposed project, if successfully accomplished, would meet the objectives as stated in the FOA.

#### ii. Concept Papers (For AOIs 6a-6e)

Concept Papers are evaluated based on consideration of the following factors. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)**

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The proposed project is responsive to the objectives as stated in the FOA/AOI.
- The proposed project is clearly described, unique, and innovative.
- The proposed approach/project will significantly accelerate the widespread use of the identified technologies or fuels.
- The probability that the proposed project will accomplish its objectives.
- The proposed partnerships are appropriate.
- The applicant has the qualifications, experience, capabilities and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project.

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### iii. Full Applications (For AOIs 1-5)

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

#### **Criterion 1: Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (Weight 45%)**

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates knowledge of the current state-of-the-art (SOA) or baseline technology and how the proposed project will move the state-of-the-art;
- Extent to which the proposed project will likely achieve prescribed goals, targets, or requirements as described in the area of interest; and
- Extent to which the proposed project is technically sound, viable, and is supported by relevant data, calculations, technical assumptions, design rationale, alternatives, discussion of prior work, and references to literature.

#### **Criterion 2: Project Plan (Weight 40%)**

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Extent to which the approach comprehensively and logically addresses research, development, validation, technology integration, risks, and risk mitigation strategies as well as provides tasks and detailed task descriptions;
- Extent to which the project schedule includes all required tasks, reasonable task durations, logical predecessor and successor task ordering, and a defined critical path;
- Extent to which the baseline performance is defined, performance metrics quantify interim performance progress, appropriately scheduled SMART milestones demonstrate project advancement based upon significant project outcomes, and appropriately scheduled SMART Go/No Go Decision Points represent decisions regarding project continuation; and
- Extent to which the Technology Transfer Plan/Manufacturing Plan demonstrates knowledge of the target market(s), distribution channels, required licensing, and competitors as well as the risks and risk mitigation strategies associated with each.

#### **Criterion 3: Team and Resources (Weight 15%)**

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

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- Extent to which the qualifications, relevant experience, and time commitment of the individuals on the proposed project team are aligned and integrated for successful completion of the proposed project;
- Extent to which existing equipment and facilities, along with proposed acquisition of equipment, support successful completion of the proposed project; and
- Extent and appropriateness of resource commitment to the proposed project by project partners or other key participants validated by letters of commitment.

**iv. Full Applications (AOIs 6a-6c, 6e)**

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Criterion 1: Project Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%)**

- Extent to which the application characterizes the baseline transportation environment and the associated inefficiencies or issues that are planned to be addressed under the project.
- Extent to which the application demonstrates, using measurable parameters, supporting data, and analysis, that the project will significantly advance the proposed transportation goals in alignment with the area of interest objectives.
- Extent to which the proposed approach is clearly described, feasible, and aligned with the area of interest objectives.

**Criterion 2: Project Plan (30%)**

- Extent to which the project plan and schedule include all required tasks, reasonable task durations, logical predecessor and successor task ordering, and a defined critical path;
- Extent to which the baseline performance is defined, performance metrics quantify interim performance progress, appropriately scheduled SMART milestones demonstrate project advancement based upon significant project outcomes, and appropriately scheduled SMART Go/No Go Decision Points represent decisions regarding project continuation
- Reasonableness of the proposed plan for collecting, utilizing, analyzing, and publicly sharing project data.
- Extent to which the project or its components are constructed to enable continuation once Federal funds are exhausted and promote replication and/or expansion across other organizations and geographies.

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**Criterion 3: Project Team and Resources (30%)**

- Extent of team member qualifications, relevant expertise, resource commitment, and time commitment to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success.
- Reasonableness of the allocation of project resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed work.
- Extent and appropriateness of resource commitment to the proposed project by project partners or other key participants validated by letters of commitment.

**v. Full Applications (AOI 6d)**

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Criterion 1: Project Merit, Innovation, and Impact (40%)**

- Extent to which the proposed methods for collecting, transmitting, storing, validating and analyzing data are clearly described, feasible, and aligned with the area of interest objectives.
- Reasonableness of the approach to sharing the data and the extent to which summary reports and operational data sets will be made publicly available.
- Comprehensiveness of the proposed data set and its consistency with the requirements of the AOI.

**Criterion 2: Project Plan (30%)**

- Extent to which the project plan and schedule include all required tasks, reasonable task durations, logical predecessor and successor task ordering, and a defined critical path;
- Extent to which the baseline performance is defined, performance metrics quantify interim performance progress, appropriately scheduled SMART milestones demonstrate project advancement based upon significant project outcomes, and appropriately scheduled SMART Go/No Go Decision Points represent decisions regarding project continuation
- Extent to which the project plan effectively addresses the management of PII.

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**Criterion 3: Project Team and Resources (30%)**

- Extent of team member qualifications, relevant expertise, resource commitment, and time commitment to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success.
- Reasonableness of the allocation of project resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed work.
- Extent and appropriateness of resource commitment to the proposed project by project partners or other key participants validated by letters of commitment.

**B. Standards for Application Evaluation**

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this FOA, by the standards set forth in EERE's Notice of Objective Merit Review Procedure (76 Fed. Reg. 17846, March 31, 2011) and the guidance provided in the "DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance," effective April 14, 2017, which is available at:

<https://energy.gov/management/downloads/merit-review-guide-financial-assistance-and-unsolicited-proposals-current>.

**C. Other Selection Factors****i. Program Policy Factors**

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Full Applications to select for award negotiations:

- The proposed project exhibits technological diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the subject FOA;
- The proposed project, including proposed cost share, optimizes the use of available EERE funding to achieve programmatic objectives;
- The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to accelerate commercialization and overcome key market barriers;
- The proposed project is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States;
- The proposed project will accelerate transformational technological advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty; and
- The proposed project collectively represents diverse types and sizes of applicant organizations while not being detrimental to the overall objectives of the program;

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- The proposed project represents diverse technology concepts and applications, as well as technical approaches, while not being detrimental to the overall objectives of the program;
- The proposed project enables new and expanding market segments;
- The proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution (considering past awards and current applications).

## **D. Evaluation and Selection Process**

### **i. 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 FOA. Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors, in determining which applications to select.

### **ii. Pre-Selection Clarification**

EERE 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. These pre-selection clarifications will solely be for the purposes of clarifying the application, and will be limited to information already provided in the application documentation. 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 EERE's written clarification questions or video or conference calls with EERE representatives.

The information provided by applicants to EERE through pre-selection clarifications is incorporated in their applications and contributes to the merit review evaluation and EERE's selection decisions. If EERE 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.

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

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### **iii. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters**

DOE, prior to making a federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, 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 C.F.R. § 200.205.

### **iv. Selection**

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Federal Consensus Board's recommendations, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA.

## **E. Anticipated Notice of Selection and Award Negotiation Dates**

EERE anticipates notifying applicants selected for negotiation of award and making awards by the dates provided on the FOA cover page.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

#### i. Ineligible Submissions

Ineligible Concept Papers and Full Applications will not be further reviewed or considered for award. The Contracting Officer will send a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in EERE Exchange. The notification letter will state the basis upon which the Concept Paper or the Full Application is ineligible and not considered for further review.

#### ii. Concept Paper Notifications

EERE will notify applicants of its determination to encourage or discourage the submission of a Full Application

Applicants may submit a Full Application even if they receive a notification discouraging them from doing so. By discouraging the submission of a Full Application, EERE intends to convey its lack of programmatic interest in the proposed project. Such assessments do not necessarily reflect judgments on the merits of the proposed project. The purpose of the Concept Paper phase is to save applicants the considerable time and expense of preparing a Full Application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.

A notification encouraging the submission of a Full Application does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. Please refer to Section IV.I.ii of the FOA for guidance on pre-award costs.

#### iii. Full Application Notifications

EERE 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 EERE Exchange. The notification letter will inform the applicant whether or not its Full Application was selected for award negotiations. Alternatively, EERE may notify one or more applicants that a final selection determination on particular Full Applications will be made at a later date, subject to the availability of funds or other factors.

#### iv. Successful Applicants

Receipt of a notification letter selecting a Full Application for award negotiations does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of

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the project. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment by EERE to issue an award. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Contracting Officer executes the funding agreement, accessible by the prime recipient in FedConnect.

The award negotiation process will take approximately 60 days. Applicants must designate a primary and a backup point-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations. The applicant must be responsive during award negotiations (i.e., provide requested documentation) and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the applicant fails to do so or if award negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, EERE will cancel the award negotiations and rescind the Selection. EERE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please refer to Section IV.I.ii of the FOA for guidance on pre-award costs.

**v. Alternate Selection Determinations**

In some instances, an applicant may receive a notification that its application was not selected for award and EERE designated the application to be an alternate. As an alternate, EERE may consider the Full Application for federal funding in the future. A notification letter stating the Full Application is designated as an alternate does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. EERE may ultimately determine to select or not select the Full Application for award negotiations.

**vi. Unsuccessful Applicants**

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

## **B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

**i. Registration Requirements**

There are several one-time actions before submitting an application in response to this FOA, and it is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant's ability to apply to this FOA, or to meet the negotiation deadlines and receive an award if the application is selected. These requirements are as follows:

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**1. EERE Exchange**

Register and create an account on EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>.

This account will then allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants should also designate backup points of contact so they may be easily contacted if deemed necessary. **This step is required to apply to this FOA.**

The EERE Exchange registration does not have a delay; however, **the remaining registration requirements below could take several weeks to process and are necessary for a potential applicant to receive an award under this FOA.**

**2. DUNS Number**

Obtain a DUNS number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

**3. System for Award Management**

Register with the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an Marketing Partner ID (MPIN)IN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.

**4. FedConnect**

Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at [https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf).

**5. Grants.gov**

Register in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that Concept Papers, and Full Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

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## **6. Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents**

Submission of an application and supplemental information under this FOA through electronic systems used by the DOE, including EERE Exchange and FedConnect.net, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

### **ii. Award Administrative Requirements**

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

### **iii. Foreign National Access to DOE Sites**

All applicants selected for an award under this FOA may be required to provide information to the Department of Energy (DOE) in order to satisfy requirements for foreign nationals' access to DOE sites, information, technologies, equipment, programs, and personnel. A foreign national is any person who was born outside the jurisdiction of the United States, is a citizen of a foreign government, and has not been naturalized under U.S. law. If a selected applicant (including any of its subrecipients or subcontractors) anticipates involving foreign nationals in the performance of its award, the selected applicant may be required to provide to DOE with specific information about each foreign national to ensure compliance with the requirements for access approval. Access approval for foreign nationals from countries identified on the U.S. Department of State's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/list/c14151.htm> receive final approval authority from the Secretary of Energy before they can commence any work under the award.

### **iv. 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. Prime recipients must register with the new FFATA Subaward Reporting System database and report the required data on their first tier subrecipients. Prime recipients must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

### **v. 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>.

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## **vi. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

EERE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this FOA is subject to the NEPA (42 USC 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 <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all recipients selected for 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 records must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process (e.g., biological evaluations or environmental assessments), the costs to prepare the necessary records may be included as part of the project costs.

Applicants selected for award negotiations will be required to enter their environmental questionnaire electronically at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/>.

## **vii. Applicant Representations and Certifications**

### **1. Lobbying Restrictions**

By accepting funds under this award, the prime 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.

### **2. Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Representations**

In submitting an application in response to this FOA, 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

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- 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 the following definitions apply:

A Corporation includes any 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]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

### 3. **Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations**

In submitting an application in response to this FOA 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 contractors 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:
  - (1) *“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.”*
  - (2) The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement

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(<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.

- (3) 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 United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular 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 in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States 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 Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

#### **viii. Statement of Federal Stewardship**

EERE will exercise normal federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under EERE 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.

#### **ix. Statement of Substantial Involvement**

EERE has substantial involvement in work performed under awards made as a result of this FOA. EERE does not limit its involvement to the administrative requirements of the award. Instead, EERE has substantial involvement in the direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project as a whole. Substantial involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. EERE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.

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2. EERE may intervene in the conduct or performance of work under this award for programmatic reasons. Intervention includes the interruption or modification of the conduct or performance of project activities.
3. EERE may redirect or discontinue funding the project based on the outcome of EERE's evaluation of the project at that the Go/No Go decision point(s).
4. EERE participates in major project decision-making processes.

**x. Subject Invention Utilization Reporting**

In order to ensure that prime recipients and subrecipients holding title to subject inventions are taking the appropriate steps to commercialize subject inventions, EERE may require that each prime recipient holding title to a subject invention submit annual reports for 10 years from the date the subject invention was disclosed to EERE on the utilization of the subject invention and efforts made by prime recipient or their licensees or assignees to stimulate such utilization. The reports must include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the prime recipient, and such other data and information as EERE may specify.

**xi. Intellectual Property Provisions**

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at <http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

**xii. Reporting**

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement. This helpful EERE checklist can be accessed at <https://www.energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding-application-and-management-forms>. See Attachment 2 Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, after clicking on "Model Cooperative Agreement" under the Award Package section.

### **xiii. Go/No-Go Review**

Each project selected under this FOA will be subject to a periodic project evaluation referred to as a Go/No-Go Review. At the Go/No-Go decision points, EERE will evaluate project performance, project schedule adherence, meeting milestone objectives, compliance with reporting requirements, and overall contribution to the EERE 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; (4) recipient's submittal of required reports; (5) compliance with the terms and conditions of the award; (6) EERE's Go/No-Go decision; (7) the recipient's submission of a continuation application; and (8) written approval of the continuation application by the Contracting 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, EERE may take appropriate action, including but not limited to, redirecting, suspending or terminating the award.

### **xiv. 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 United States Government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States 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.

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#### xv. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements

Per 2 CFR 910.360 (Real Property and Equipment) when a piece of equipment is purchased by a for-profit recipient or subrecipient with federal funds, and when the federal share of the financial assistance agreement is more than \$1,000,000, the recipient or subrecipient must:

Properly record, and consent to the Department's ability to properly record if the recipient fails to do so, UCC financing statement(s) for all equipment in excess of \$5,000 purchased with project funds. These financing statement(s) must be approved in writing by the Contracting Officer prior to the recording, and they shall provide notice that the Recipient's title to all equipment (not real property) purchased with federal funds under the financial assistance agreement is conditional pursuant to the terms of this section, and that the Government retains an undivided reversionary interest in the equipment. The UCC financing statement(s) must be filed before the Contracting Officer may reimburse the recipient for the federal share of the equipment unless otherwise provided for in the relevant financial assistance agreement. The recipient shall further make any amendments to the financing statements or additional recordings, including appropriate continuation statements, as necessary or as the Contracting Officer may direct.

## VII. Questions/Agency Contacts

Upon the issuance of a FOA, EERE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process as described below.

Specifically, questions regarding the content of this FOA must be submitted to: [DE-FOA-0002014@netl.doe.gov](mailto:DE-FOA-0002014@netl.doe.gov). Questions must be submitted not later than 3 business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on EERE Exchange at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>. **Please note that you must first select this specific FOA Number in order to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA.** 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. All questions submitted must clearly identify the Area of Interest (AOI) to insure a timely and accurate response. Failure to identify the AOI, or not being as specific as possible with a question, may result in additional time to address the question or require further correspondence for further clarification regarding the submitted questions.

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

## VIII. Other Information

### A. FOA Modifications

Amendments to this FOA will be posted on the EERE Exchange website and the Grants.gov system. However, you will only receive an email when an amendment or a FOA is posted on these sites if you register for email notifications for this FOA in Grants.gov. **EERE recommends that you register as soon after the release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any amendments or other FOAs.**

### B. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate

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

### C. Commitment of Public Funds

The Contracting 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 Contracting Officer, either express or implied, is invalid.

### D. Treatment of Application Information

In general, EERE will only use data and other information contained in applications for evaluation purposes, unless such information is generally available to the public or is already the property of the Government.

Applicants should not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the FOA.

The use of protective markings such as “Do Not Publicly Release – Trade Secret” or “Do Not Publicly Release – Confidential Business Information” is encouraged. However, applicants should be aware that the use of protective markings is not dispositive as to whether information will be publicly released pursuant to the

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Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, et. seq., as amended by the OPEN Government Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-175. (See Section VIII.H. of this document, “Notice of Potential Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)” for additional information regarding the public release of information under FOIA.

Applicants are encouraged to employ protective markings in the following manner:

The cover sheet of the application must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential:

Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:

Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, and is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance or loan 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]

The header and footer of every page that contains trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged must be marked as follows: “May contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and exempt from public disclosure.”

In addition, each line or paragraph containing trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential must be enclosed in brackets.

## **E. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel**

In conducting the merit review evaluation and Peer Review, 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 EERE 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.

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## **F. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities**

Eligible activities under this FOA include those which 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.

## **G. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability**

EERE 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).

## **H. Notice of Potential Disclosure Under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

Under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552, et. seq., as amended by the OPEN Government Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-175, any information received from the applicant is considered to be an agency record, and as such, subject to public release under FOIA. The purpose of the FOIA is to afford the public the right to request and receive agency records unless those agency records are protected from disclosure under one or more of the nine FOIA exemptions. Decisions to disclose or withhold information received from the applicant are based upon the applicability of one or more of the nine FOIA exemptions, not on the existence or nonexistence of protective markings or designations. Only the agency's designated FOIA Officer may determine if information received from the applicant may be withheld pursuant to one of the nine FOIA exemptions. All FOIA requests received by DOE are processed in accordance with 10 C.F.R. Part 1004.

## **I. 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 termination of award negotiations;
- The modification, suspension, and/or termination 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

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- Civil and/or criminal penalties.

## **J. Retention of Submissions**

EERE expects to retain copies of all Concept Papers, Full Applications, and other submissions. No submissions will be returned. By applying to EERE for funding, applicants consent to EERE's retention of their submissions.

## **K. Title to Subject Inventions**

Ownership of subject inventions is governed pursuant to the authorities listed below:

- Domestic Small Businesses, Educational Institutions, and Nonprofits: Under the Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. § 200 et seq.), domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits may elect to retain title to their subject inventions.
- All other parties: The federal Non-Nuclear Energy Act of 1974, 42. U.S.C. 5908, provides that the Government obtains title to new inventions unless a waiver is granted (see below).
- Class Patent Waiver: DOE has issued a class waiver that applies to this FOA. Under this class waiver, domestic large businesses may elect title to their subject inventions similar to the right provided to the domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits by law. In order to avail itself of the class waiver, a domestic large business must agree that any products embodying or produced through the use of a subject invention first created or reduced to practice under this program will be substantially manufactured in the United States, unless DOE agrees that the commitments proposed in the U.S. Manufacturing Plan are sufficient.
- Advance and Identified Waivers: Applicants may request a patent waiver that will cover subject inventions that may be invented under the award, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if an advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver for identified inventions, i.e., individual subject inventions that are disclosed to EERE within the timeframes set forth in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784.

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- Each applicant is required to submit a U.S. Manufacturing Plan as part of its application. DOE has determined that exceptional circumstances exist that warrants the modification of the standard patent rights clause for small businesses and non-profit awardees under Bayh-Dole to the extent necessary to implement and enforce the U.S. Manufacturing Plan. If selected, the U.S. Manufacturing Plan shall be incorporated into the award terms and conditions for domestic small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Any Bayh-Dole entity (domestic small business or nonprofit organization) affected by this determination has the right to appeal it.

## **L. Government Rights in Subject Inventions**

Where prime recipients and subrecipients retain title to subject inventions, the U.S. Government retains certain rights.

### **i. Government Use License**

The U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the United States any subject invention throughout the world. This license extends to contractors doing work on behalf of the Government.

### **ii. March-In Rights**

The U.S. Government retains march-in rights with respect to all subject inventions. Through “march-in rights,” the Government may require a prime recipient or subrecipient who has elected to retain title to a subject invention (or their assignees or exclusive licensees), to grant a license for use of the invention to a third party. In addition, the Government may grant licenses for use of the subject invention when a prime recipient, subrecipient, or their assignees and exclusive licensees refuse to do so.

DOE may exercise its march-in rights only if it determines that such action is necessary under any of the four following conditions:

- The owner or licensee has not taken or is not expected to take effective steps to achieve practical application of the invention within a reasonable time;
- The owner or licensee has not taken action to alleviate health or safety needs in a reasonably satisfied manner;
- The owner has not met public use requirements specified by federal statutes in a reasonably satisfied manner; or
- The U.S. Manufacturing requirement has not been met.

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Any determination that march-in rights are warranted must follow a fact-finding process in which the recipient has certain rights to present evidence and witnesses, confront witnesses and appear with counsel and appeal any adverse decision. To date, DOE has never exercised its march-in rights to any subject inventions.

## **M. Rights in Technical Data**

Data rights differ based on whether data is first produced under an award or instead was developed at private expense outside the award.

“Limited Rights Data”: The U.S. Government will not normally require delivery of confidential or trade secret-type technical data developed solely at private expense prior to issuance of an award, except as necessary to monitor technical progress and evaluate the potential of proposed technologies to reach specific technical and cost metrics.

Government Rights in Technical Data Produced Under Awards: The U.S. Government normally retains unlimited rights in technical data produced under Government financial assistance awards, including the right to distribute to the public. However, pursuant to special statutory authority, certain categories of data generated under EERE awards may be protected from public disclosure for up to five years after the data is generated (“Protected Data”). Data protection is available to all AOIs except AOIs 6a- 6e. For awards permitting Protected Data, the protected data must be marked as set forth in the awards intellectual property terms and conditions and a listing of unlimited rights data (i.e., non-protected data) must be inserted into the data clause in the award. In addition, invention disclosures may be protected from public disclosure for a reasonable time in order to allow for filing a patent application.

## **N. Copyright**

The prime recipient and subrecipients may assert copyright in copyrightable works, such as software, first produced under the award without EERE approval. When copyright is asserted, the Government retains a paid-up nonexclusive, irrevocable worldwide license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and to perform publicly and display publicly the copyrighted work. This license extends to contractors and others doing work on behalf of the Government.

## **O. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)**

All information provided by the applicant must to the greatest extent possible exclude PII. The term “PII” refers to information which can be used to

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distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records. alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name. (See OMB Memorandum M-07-16 dated May 22, 2007, found at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2007/m07-16.pdf>

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 the 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

## **P. Annual Independent Audits**

If a for-profit entity is a prime recipient and has expended \$750,000 or more of DOE wards during the entity's fiscal year, an annual compliance audit performed by an independent auditor is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 C.F.R. § 910.501 and Subpart F.

If an educational institution, non-profit organization, or state/local government is a prime recipient or subrecipient and has expended \$750,000 or more of federal awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year, then a Single or Program-Specific Audit is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.501 and Subpart F.

Applicants and subrecipients (if applicable) should propose sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated with the audit. EERE will share in the cost of the audit at its applicable cost share ratio.

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# Appendix A – Cost Share Information

## Cost Sharing or Cost Matching

The terms “cost sharing” and “cost matching” are often used synonymously. Even the DOE Financial Assistance Regulations, 2 CFR 200.306, use both of the terms in the titles specific to regulations applicable to cost sharing. EERE almost always uses the term “cost sharing,” as it conveys the concept that non-federal share is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. An exception is the State Energy Program Regulation, 10 CFR 420.12, State Matching Contribution. Here “cost matching” for the non-federal share is calculated as a percentage of the federal funds only, rather than the Total Project Cost.

## How Cost Sharing Is Calculated

As stated above, cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs. The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with \$1,000,000 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%

## What Qualifies For Cost Sharing

While it is not possible to explain what specifically qualifies for cost sharing in one or even a couple of sentences, in general, if a cost is allowable under the cost principles applicable to the organization incurring the cost and is eligible for reimbursement under an EERE grant or cooperative agreement, then it is allowable as cost share. Conversely, if the cost is not allowable under the cost principles and not eligible for reimbursement, then it is not allowable as cost share. In addition, costs may not be counted as cost share if they are paid by the federal Government under another award unless authorized by federal statute to be used for cost sharing.

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The rules associated with what is allowable as cost share are specific to the type of organization that is receiving funds under the grant or cooperative agreement, though are generally the same for all types of entities. The specific rules applicable to:

- FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities, (48 CFR Part 31); and
- 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

In addition to the regulations referenced above, other factors may also come into play such as timing of donations and length of the project period. For example, the value of ten years of donated maintenance on a project that has a project period of five years would not be fully allowable as cost share. Only the value for the five years of donated maintenance that corresponds to the project period is allowable and may be counted as cost share.

Additionally, EERE generally does not allow pre-award costs for either cost share or reimbursement when these costs precede the signing of the appropriation bill that funds the award. In the case of a competitive award, EERE generally does not allow pre-award costs prior to the signing of the Selection Statement by the EERE Selection Official.

### **General Cost Sharing Rules on a DOE Award**

1. Cash Cost Share - encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s), for costs incurred and paid for during the project. This includes when an organization pays for personnel, supplies, equipment for their own company with organizational resources. If the item or service is reimbursed for, it is cash cost share. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project.
2. In Kind Cost Share - encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s) that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent donated items or services. In Kind cost share items include volunteer personnel hours, donated existing equipment, donated existing supplies. The cash value and calculations thereof for all In Kind cost share items must be justified and explained in the Cost Share section of the project Budget Justification. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project. If questions exist, consult your DOE contact before filling out the In Kind cost share section of the Budget Justification.
3. Funds from other federal sources MAY NOT be counted as cost share. This prohibition includes FFRDC subrecipients. Non-federal sources include any source not originally derived from federal funds. Cost sharing commitment letters from subrecipients must be provided with the original application.
4. Fee or profit, including foregone fee or profit, are not allowable as project costs (including cost share) under any resulting award. The project may only incur those costs

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that are allowable and allocable to the project (including cost share) as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.

## **DOE Financial Assistance Rules 2 CFR Part 200 as amended by 2 CFR Part 910**

As stated above, the rules associated with what is allowable cost share are generally the same for all types of organizations. Following are the rules found to be common, but again, the specifics are contained in the regulations and cost principles specific to the type of entity:

(A) Acceptable contributions. All contributions, including cash contributions and third party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the prime recipient's cost sharing if such contributions meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) They are verifiable from the recipient's records.
- (2) They are not included as contributions for any other federally-assisted project or program.
- (3) They are necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives.
- (4) They are allowable under the cost principles applicable to the type of entity incurring the cost as follows:
  - a. For-profit organizations. Allowability of costs incurred by for-profit organizations and those nonprofit organizations listed in Attachment C to OMB Circular A-122 is determined in accordance with the for-profit cost principles in 48 CFR Part 31 in the FAR, except that patent prosecution costs are not allowable unless specifically authorized in the award document. (v) Commercial Organizations. FAR Subpart 31.2—Contracts with Commercial Organizations; and
  - b. Other types of organizations. For all other non-federal entities, allowability of costs is determined in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E.
- (5) They are not paid by the federal government under another award unless authorized by federal statute to be used for cost sharing or matching.
- (6) They are provided for in the approved budget.

(B) Valuing and documenting contributions



- (1) Valuing recipient's property or services of recipient's employees. Values are established in accordance with the applicable cost principles, which mean that amounts chargeable to the project are determined on the basis of costs incurred. For real property or equipment used on the project, the cost principles authorize depreciation or use charges. The full value of the item may be applied when the item will be consumed in the performance of the award or fully depreciated by the end of the award. In cases where the full value of a donated capital asset is to be applied as cost sharing or matching, that full value must be the lesser or the following:
  - a. The certified value of the remaining life of the property recorded in the recipient's accounting records at the time of donation; or
  - b. The current fair market value. If there is sufficient justification, the Contracting Officer may approve the use of the current fair market value of the donated property, even if it exceeds the certified value at the time of donation to the project. The Contracting Officer may accept the use of any reasonable basis for determining the fair market value of the property.
- (2) Valuing services of others' employees. If an employer other than the recipient furnishes the services of an employee, those services are valued at the employee's regular rate of pay, provided these services are for the same skill level for which the employee is normally paid.
- (3) Valuing volunteer services. Volunteer services furnished by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor may be counted as cost sharing or matching if the service is an integral and necessary part of an approved project or program. Rates for volunteer services must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the recipient's organization. In those markets in which the required skills are not found in the recipient organization, rates must be consistent with those paid for similar work in the labor market in which the recipient competes for the kind of services involved. In either case, paid fringe benefits that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable may be included in the valuation.
- (4) Valuing property donated by third parties.
  - a. Donated supplies may include such items as office supplies or laboratory supplies. Value assessed to donated supplies included in the cost sharing or matching share must be reasonable and must not exceed the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation.
  - b. Normally only depreciation or use charges for equipment and buildings may be applied. However, the fair rental charges for land and the full value of equipment or other capital assets may be allowed, when they will be consumed in the

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performance of the award or fully depreciated by the end of the award, provided that the Contracting Officer has approved the charges. When use charges are applied, values must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting policies of the recipient, with the following qualifications:

- i. The value of donated space must not exceed the fair rental value of comparable space as established by an independent appraisal of comparable space and facilities in a privately-owned building in the same locality.
- ii. The value of loaned equipment must not exceed its fair rental value.

(5) Documentation. The following requirements pertain to the recipient's supporting records for in-kind contributions from third parties:

- a. Volunteer services must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the recipient for its own employees.
- b. The basis for determining the valuation for personal services and property must be documented.

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## Appendix B – Sample Cost Share Calculation for Blended Cost Share Percentage

The following example shows the math for calculating required cost share for a project with \$2,000,000 in federal funds with four tasks requiring different non-federal cost share percentages:

Task	Proposed Federal Share	Federal Share %	Recipient Share %
Task 1 (R&D)	\$1,000,000	80%	20%
Task 2 (R&D)	\$500,000	80%	20%
Task 3 (Demonstration)	\$400,000	50%	50%
Task 4 (Outreach)	\$100,000	100%	0%

Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Task Cost

Each task must be calculated individually as follows:

### Task 1

\$1,000,000 divided by 80% = \$1,250,000 (Task 1 Cost)

Task 1 Cost minus federal share = Non-federal share

\$1,250,000 - \$1,000,000 = \$250,000 (Non-federal share)

### Task 2

\$500,000 divided 80% = \$625,000 (Task 2 Cost)

Task 2 Cost minus federal share = Non-federal share

\$625,000 - \$500,000 = \$125,000 (Non-federal share)

### Task 3

\$400,000 / 50% = \$800,000 (Task 3 Cost)

Task 3 Cost minus federal share = Non-federal share

\$800,000 - \$400,000 = \$400,000 (Non-federal share)

### Task 4

Federal share = \$100,000

Non-federal cost share is not mandated for outreach = \$0 (Non-federal share)

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The calculation may then be completed as follows:

Tasks	\$ Federal Share	% Federal Share	\$ Non-Federal Share	% Non-Federal Share	Total Project Cost
Task 1	\$1,000,000	80%	\$250,000	20%	\$1,250,000
Task 2	\$500,000	80%	\$125,000	20%	\$625,000
Task 3	\$400,000	50%	\$400,000	50%	\$800,000
Task 4	\$100,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$100,000
Totals	\$2,000,000		\$775,000		\$2,775,000

Blended Cost Share %

Non-federal share (\$775,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 27.9% (non-federal)

Federal share (\$2,000,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 72.1% (federal)

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## Appendix C – Waiver Request: Performance of Work in the United States

As set forth in Section IV.I.iii, all work under EERE funding agreements must be performed in the United States. This requirement does not apply to the purchase of supplies and equipment, so a waiver is not required for foreign purchases of these items. However, the prime recipient should make every effort to purchase supplies and equipment within the United States. There may be limited circumstances where it is in the interest of the project to perform a portion of the work outside the United States. To seek a waiver of the Performance of Work in the United States requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the Full 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 EERE that it would further the purposes of this FOA and is otherwise in the economic interests of the United States to perform work outside of the United States. A request to waive the *Performance of Work in the United States* requirement must include the following:

- The rationale for performing the work outside the U.S. (“foreign work”);
- A description of the work proposed to be performed outside the U.S.;
- An explanation as to how the foreign work is essential to the project;
- A description of the anticipated benefits to be realized by the proposed foreign work and the anticipated contributions to the U.S. economy;
  - The associated benefits to be realized and the contribution to the project from the foreign work;
  - How the foreign work will benefit U.S. research, development and manufacturing, including contributions to employment in the U.S. and growth in new markets and jobs in the U.S.;
  - How the foreign work will promote domestic American manufacturing of products and/or services;
- A description of the likelihood of Intellectual Property (IP) being created from the foreign work and the treatment of any such IP; and
- The total estimated cost (DOE and recipient cost share) of the proposed foreign work;
- The countries in which the foreign work is proposed to be performed; and
- The name of the entity that would perform the foreign work.

EERE may require additional information before considering the waiver request. The applicant does not have the right to appeal EERE’s decision concerning a waiver request.

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## Appendix D - Data Management Plan

A data management plan (“DMP”) explains how data generated in the course of the work performed under an EERE award will be shared and preserved or, when justified, explains why data sharing or preservation is not possible or scientifically appropriate.

### DMP Requirements

In order for a DMP to be considered acceptable, the DMP must address the following:

**At a minimum, the DMP must describe how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of the results from the proposed work, or how results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved.**

**The DMP must provide a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed work digitally accessible at the time of publication.** This includes data that are displayed in charts, figures, images, etc. In addition, the underlying digital research data used to generate the displayed data should be made as accessible as possible in accordance with the principles stated above. This requirement could be met by including the data as supplementary information to the published article, or through other means. The published article should indicate how these data can be accessed.

The DMP should consult and reference available information about data management resources to be used in the course of the proposed work. In particular, a DMP that explicitly or implicitly commits data management resources at a facility beyond what is conventionally made available to approved users should be accompanied by written approval from that facility. In determining the resources available for data management at DOE User Facilities, researchers should consult the published description of data management resources and practices at that facility and reference it in the DMP. Information about other DOE facilities can be found in the additional guidance from the sponsoring program.

The DMP must protect confidentiality, personal privacy, Personally Identifiable Information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness; and otherwise be consistent with all laws (i.e., export control laws), and DOE regulations, orders, and policies.

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## Data Determination for a DMP

The Principal Investigator should determine which data should be the subject of the DMP and, in the DMP, propose which data should be shared and/or preserved in accordance with the DMP Requirements noted above.

For data that will be generated through the course of the proposed work, the Principal Investigator should indicate what types of data should be protected from immediate public disclosure by DOE (referred to as “protected data”) and what types of data that DOE should be able to release immediately. Similarly, for data developed outside of the proposed work at private expense that will be used in the course of the proposed work, the Principal Investigator should indicate whether that type of data will be subject to public release or kept confidential (referred to as “limited rights data”). Any use of limited rights data or labeling of data as “protected data” must be consistent with the DMP Requirements noted above.

## Suggested Elements for a DMP

The following list of elements for a DMP provides suggestions regarding the data management planning process and the structure of the DMP:

**Data Types and Sources:** A brief, high-level description of the data to be generated or used through the course of the proposed work and which of these are considered digital research data necessary to validate the research findings or results.

**Content and Format:** A statement of plans for data and metadata content and format including, where applicable, a description of documentation plans, annotation of relevant software, and the rationale for the selection of appropriate standards. Existing, accepted community standards should be used where possible. Where community standards are missing or inadequate, the DMP could propose alternate strategies for facilitating sharing, and should advise the sponsoring program of any need to develop or generalize standards.

**Sharing and Preservation:** A description of the plans for data sharing and preservation. This should include, when appropriate: the anticipated means for sharing and the rationale for any restrictions on who may access the data and under what conditions; a timeline for sharing and preservation that addresses both the minimum length of time the data will be available and any anticipated delay to data access after research findings are published; any special requirements for data sharing, for example, proprietary software needed to access or interpret data, applicable policies, provisions, and licenses for re-use and re-distribution, and for the production of derivatives, including guidance for how data and data products should be cited; any resources and capabilities (equipment, connections, systems, software, expertise, etc.) requested in the research proposal that are needed to meet the stated goals for sharing and preservation (this could reference the relevant

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section of the associated research proposal and budget request); and whether/where the data will be preserved after direct project funding ends and any plans for the transfer of responsibilities for sharing and preservation.

**Protection:** A statement of plans, where appropriate and necessary, to protect confidentiality, personal privacy, Personally Identifiable Information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; and avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness.

**Rationale:** A discussion of the rationale or justification for the proposed data management plan including, for example, the potential impact of the data within the immediate field and in other fields, and any broader societal impact.

## Additional Guidance

In determining which data should be shared and preserved, researchers must consider the data needed to validate research findings as described in the Requirements, and are encouraged to consider the potential benefits of their data to their own fields of research, fields other than their own, and society at large.

DMPs should reflect relevant standards and community best practices and make use of community accepted repositories whenever practicable.

Costs associated with the scope of work and resources articulated in a DMP may be included in the proposed research budget as permitted by the applicable cost principles.

To improve the discoverability of and attribution for datasets created and used in the course of research, EERE encourages the citation of publicly available datasets within the reference section of publications, and the identification of datasets with persistent identifiers such as Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). In most cases, EERE can provide DOIs free of charge for data resulting from DOE-funded research through its Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) DataID Service.

EERE's Digital Data Management principles can be found at: [EERE Digital Data Management | Department of Energy](#)

## Definitions

**Data Preservation:** Data preservation means providing for the usability of data beyond the lifetime of the research activity that generated them.

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**Data Sharing:** Data sharing means making data available to people other than those who have generated them. Examples of data sharing range from bilateral communications with colleagues, to providing free, unrestricted access to anyone through, for example, a web-based platform.

**Digital Research Data:** The term digital data encompasses a wide variety of information stored in digital form including: experimental, observational, and simulation data; codes, software and algorithms; text; numeric information; images; video; audio; and associated metadata. It also encompasses information in a variety of different forms including raw, processed, and analyzed data, published and archived data.

**Research Data:** The recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings, but not any of the following: preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, or communications with colleagues. This 'recorded' material excludes physical objects (e.g., laboratory samples). Research data also do not include:

(A) Trade secrets, commercial information, materials necessary to be held confidential by a researcher until they are published, or similar information which is protected under law; and

(B) Personnel and medical information and similar information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, such as information that could be used to identify a particular person in a research study.”

**Validate:** In the context of DMPs, validate means to support, corroborate, verify, or otherwise determine the legitimacy of the research findings. Validation of research findings could be accomplished by reproducing the original experiment or analyses; comparing and contrasting the results against those of a new experiment or analyses; or by some other means.

## Appendix E – Glossary

**Applicant** – The lead organization submitting an application under the FOA.

**Continuation application** – 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 to EERE its continuation application, which includes the following information:

- i. A report on the Recipient’s progress towards meeting the objectives of the project, including any significant findings, conclusions, or developments, and an estimate of any unobligated balances remaining at the end of the budget period. If the remaining unobligated balance is estimated to exceed 20 percent of the funds available for the budget period, explain why the excess funds have not been obligated and how they will be used in the next budget period.
- ii. A detailed budget and supporting justification if there are changes to the negotiated budget, or a budget for the upcoming budget period was not approved at the time of award.
- iii. A description of any planned changes from the negotiated Statement of Project Objectives and/or Milestone Summary Table.

**Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)** – a contractual agreement between a national laboratory contractor and a private company or university to work together on research and development. For more information, see <https://www.energy.gov/gc/downloads/doe-cooperative-research-and-development-agreements>

**Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)** - FFRDCs are public-private partnerships which conduct research for the United States Government. A listing of FFRDCs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.

**Go/No-Go Decision Points**: – A decision point at the end of a budget period that defines the overall objectives, milestones and deliverables to be achieved by the recipient in that budget period. As of a result of EERE’s review, EERE may take one of the following actions: 1) authorize federal funding for the next budget period; 2) recommend redirection of work; 3) discontinue providing federal funding beyond the current budget period; or 4) place a hold on federal funding pending further supporting data.

**Project** – The entire scope of the cooperative agreement which is contained in the recipient’s Statement of Project Objectives.

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Recipient or “Prime Recipient”— A non-Federal entity that receives a Federal award directly from a Federal awarding agency to carry out an activity under a Federal program. The term recipient does not include subrecipients.

Subrecipient – A non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency. Also, a DOE/NNSA and non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC may be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity’s application. See section III.E.ii.

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## Appendix F – Definition of Technology Readiness Levels

TRL 1:	Basic principles observed and reported
TRL 2:	Technology concept and/or application formulated
TRL 3:	Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof of concept
TRL 4:	Component and/or breadboard validation in a laboratory environment
TRL 5:	Component and/or breadboard validation in a relevant environment
TRL 6:	System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment
TRL 7:	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment
TRL 8:	Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstrated
TRL 9:	Actual system proven through successful mission operations

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