



Office of Technology Transitions



DE-LC-000L110 FY24 Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Base CLIMR Lab Call

Informational Webinar

November 15, 2023, 2 p.m. ET

Housekeeping

- All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the entire lab call and adhere to the stated submission requirements.
- This presentation summarizes the contents of lab call. If there are any inconsistencies between the lab call and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the lab call is the controlling document and applicants should rely on the lab call language and **seek clarification from OTT at TCF@hq.doe.gov.**
- Everyone has been placed on mute.
- **Please provide your questions through the Q&A feature.** We will endeavor to answer questions at the end of webinar. All questions will go into the formal Q&A log and will be answered and publicly posted to Exchange.
- The Informational Webinar will be recorded and sent to all National Lab TTO POCs listed in Appendix C of the lab call.

Agenda

- Webinar Purpose
- Key Dates
- General Information
- Budget per Project
- Estimated Funding for this Solicitation
- Background
- Eligibility
- Cost-Share
- Topics
- Partnering
- Teaming Partner List
- Community Benefits Plan
- Concept Paper Stage
- Full Application Stage
- Selections and Notification
- Questions

Webinar Purpose

- The purpose of today's webinar is to:
 - **Provide an overview of the lab call**
 - Highlight specific areas in the lab call that are **unique for FY24**

Key Dates

KEY DATES	
Lab call release date	November 14, 2023
Informational webinar for lab call overview	November 15, 2023, 2 p.m. (ET)
PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND DECISION DATES	
Submission deadline for concept papers	January 16, 2024, 3 p.m. (ET)
Encourage/Discourage decisions on concept papers back to Labs	February 16, 2024
Submission deadline for full applications	March 14, 2024, 3 p.m. (ET)
Expected date for selection notifications	Q3 FY24

General Information

Means of Submission for Applications	Exchange (DE-LC-000L110) DOE will not review or consider proposals submitted through other means.
Total Amount to be Provided	DOE estimates to make available approximately \$37.7 – \$44.7 million of Federal funding for award under this Solicitation, subject to the availability of appropriated FY24 funds. DOE may issue one, multiple, or no awards.
Estimated Number of Projects:	25–50
Estimated Project Duration:	1–3 years
Eligible Entities	All U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories, Plants, and Sites
Cost Share	This lab call is subject to Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 regarding cost share. DOE prefers all funded projects to meet 50% of the total project cost-share fund requirement; however, DOE acknowledges that some potentially high-impact proposed projects may not be able to meet this requirement. In this case, labs may apply with less than 50% cost share. The scoring criteria reflect that providing cost share will increase the likelihood of selection.
Submission of Multiple Proposals	Though there is no limit on the number of concept papers submitted, each National Laboratory ORTA TTO may submit no more than two full project applications that include only single-lab participation under Topics 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, whereas each National Laboratory ORTA TTO can submit an unlimited number of full project applications that include more than one lab partner. There are no limits on the number of full applications each National Laboratory ORTA TTO can submit under Topic 4.
Questions	TCF lab call solicitation: TCF@hq.doe.gov Using the online application portal: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

Budget per Project

For the Commercialization Enabling Topics (Topics 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6), there is not a budget limitation and all technology offices involved in this lab call are contributing funds.

For Topic 4, proposals should not request funding that is greater than the available program office(s) budget. Additionally, select program offices have included a funding limit within the Topic 4 Areas of Interest (AOI), see Section I.D.iv.

Estimated Funding for this Solicitation

Based on FY23, approximately **\$37.7 – \$47.7M** in annual funding is expected to be available to fund all projects solicited in this lab call pending FY24 appropriations, program direction, and go/no-go decision points.

Program	Estimated Funding Range (Millions)
Office of Electricity (OE)	\$1.9 – \$2.3
Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)	\$0.4 – \$0.5
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE)	\$15.8 – \$19.3
Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO)	\$1.1 – \$1.3
Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)	\$2.1 – \$2.6
Building Technologies Office (BTO)	\$1.3 – \$1.6
Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO)	\$0.8 – \$0.9
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO)	\$1.2 – \$1.5
Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office (IEDO)	\$1.5 – \$1.9
Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)	\$2.0 – \$2.5
Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO)	\$3.2 – \$3.9
Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)	\$1.3 – \$1.5
Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO)	\$0.9 – \$1.2
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)	\$11.4 – \$12.6
Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)	\$7.7 – \$9.4

At the time of this solicitation release, Congress has not yet passed a full FY24 DOE budget. The estimated budget is based on FY23. The total funding amount available for FY24 will be adjusted accordingly once an official FY24 DOE budget is passed.



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Background

Background

The Department of Energy Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) was established by Congress through the Energy Policy Act of 2005¹ and reauthorized by the recent Energy Act of 2020² to “promote promising energy technologies for commercial purposes.”

Within DOE, the Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) is charged with leading policy and programs related to technology commercialization, including TCF.

This lab call represents the combined effort of fourteen distinct DOE Technology Offices and OTT.

- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
- Office of Electricity
- Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
- Office of Nuclear Energy
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office
 - Bioenergy Technologies Office
 - Buildings Technologies Office
 - Geothermal Technologies Office
 - Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office
 - Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office
 - Solar Energy Technologies Office
 - Vehicle Technologies Office
 - Water Power Technologies Office
 - Wind Energy Technologies Office.

1. Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109–58, 109th Cong. (August 8, 2005), *Improved technology transfer of energy technologies*, 42 U.S. Code § 16391 (a).
2. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260, 116th Cong. (December 27, 2020), 134 Stat. 2597, Sec. 9003. <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ260/PLAW-116publ260.pdf>.

What is the TCF?

The TCF is a nearly \$45 million funding opportunity that leverages funding in the applied energy programs to mature promising energy technologies with the potential for high impact across DOE's research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) continuum.

The TCF uses 0.9 percent of the funding for the Department's applied energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application budget for each fiscal year from the:

- Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
- Office of Electricity
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
- Office of Nuclear Energy.



What will be discussed today

Core Laboratory Infrastructure for Market Readiness (CLIMR)

- DOE continues to implement the revised approach with TCF for Base Annual Appropriations. Persistent barriers and known gaps that deter the commercialization of laboratory technologies continue to exist and improvements are still needed.
- The intent of the commercialization enabling topics (Topics 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6) is to fill in missing infrastructure pieces and strengthen those already there by addressing core commercialization challenges, barriers, and gaps, as well as their root causes (inside and outside of the labs).
- Additionally, the lab call will seek proposals from National Labs to advance the commercialization of individual energy-related National Lab-developed technologies (Topic 4).



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Eligibility

Eligibility

Only DOE National Laboratories and DOE Plants and Sites are eligible for funding from this lab call.

All applications must be submitted to DOE from each lab's respective Office of Research and Technology Application (ORTA) Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs).

- **Applications received from offices other than a lab's ORTA will be rejected.**
- All other National Laboratory offices and programs must coordinate with their respective Technology Transfer Offices to submit applications.
- **Labs are highly encouraged partner on proposals.**
- Labs are eligible for multiple awards.



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Cost-Share

Cost-Share

This lab call is subject to Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 regarding cost-share, which requires 50% cost-share for demonstration and commercial application projects. Cost-share, sometimes referred to as “match” and “nonfederal share,” is the portion of the costs of a federally assisted project or program not borne by the Federal government.

As an example, a proposal with 20% cost-share commits to a nonfederal cost-share of 20% of the total budget; if the total project budget is \$1M, the cost-share from the nonfederal partner is \$200K and the federal funds requested is \$800K. For additional information on cost-share see Appendix A of the Lab Call.

DOE prefers all funded projects to meet the 50% cost-share requirement; however, DOE acknowledges that some potentially high-impact proposed projects may not be able to do so. As a result of this, DOE has approved a cost-share waiver so that National Labs may apply with less than 50% cost-share following the requirements by topic below. The scoring criteria reflect that providing cost-share will increase the likelihood of selection.

- Each proposal that applies to a subtopic (a) commits to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement. Each proposal that applies to a subtopic 1.b, 2.b, 3.b, 5.b, and 6.b may propose to meet less than the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Proposals that apply to subtopic 4.b must meet 20% of the total project cost-share funds. Proposals that apply to subtopic 4.c must meet 10% of the total project cost-share funds. The criteria for subtopics 4.b and 4.c are listed in the cost-share section (I.C.iii.) of the lab call.

See page 9 of the solicitation.

Cost-Share

- DOE will evaluate the level of external industry engagement and collaboration as evidence by cost-share to ensure maximum impact of the selected projects. The selection official may determine that a subtopic (b) proposal would be selected except that the proposal does not provide adequate cost-share given the commercial nature of the project activities.
- In addition, the selection official may establish a negotiation strategy that involves increasing cost-share for subtopic (b) applicants that lack adequate cost-share given the commercial nature of the project activities. In such cases, applicants would be provided the opportunity to increase their cost-share to the default level, and project selection would be contingent on the lab(s) committing to 50% cost-share for the project. If the lab(s) decline, DOE will not fund the project. This does not apply to subtopics 4.b and 4.c.
- For Topics 1.a, 2.a, 3.a, 4.a, 5.a, and 6.a, the nonfederal cost-share must be at least 50% of total project costs.
- For topics 1.b, 2.b, 3.b, 5.b, and 6.b, DOE may negotiate the cost-share amount, which may be any percentage at or under 50%.
- For topics 4.b, and 4.c where multiple partners are involved in a project, if any partner is involved that does not qualify for the lower than 50% cost-share limits, then the entire proposal's required cost share defaults to the required 50% cost-share (subtopic 4.a).
- Cost-share amounts agreed upon at the time of awarding must remain at least the established amount for all subtopics by the end of the award. When there is more than one budget period, DOE requires that the nonfederal cost-share minimum required percentage is met by the end of the budget periods preceding the last budget period. DOE recommends having a consistent cost-share percentage over the life of the project or having higher cost-share percentage at the beginning of the project and lower percentage at the end. The final cost-share requirements for each project will be set at the time of award and can only be adjusted following modification process which requires DOE approval.



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Topics



Topic Areas



TOPIC 1

Market Needs Assessment

To integrate market pull into new R&D development, thinking, and program strategy, forming a conduit of market insight and awareness to inform DOE and lab policies and programs that accelerate commercialization



TOPIC 2

Curation of Intellectual Property (IP)

To improve how labs ready the IP needed to connect promising energy technologies for commercialization with private sector partners



TOPIC 3

Matchmaking

To build partner teams to commercialize promising, curated energy technology IP and lead new technologies to market



TOPIC 4

Technology-Specific Partnership Projects

Advance the commercialization of individual or cross-cut technologies developed using DOE funding by national laboratories and facilities that are at a stage that will attract private sector interest



TOPIC 5

Enhancing Laboratory Processes

To provide a more united, consistent, approach to lab processes across the DOE complex



TOPIC 6

Increasing Partnerships with External Commercialization Parties

To improve how labs attract, recruit, and retain external partners to further develop and commercialize technologies

Topic 1: Market Needs Assessment

This topic seeks proposals to build, augment, and coordinate market and commercialization analytical capabilities across the National Lab complex to ensure maximum success in pursuing DOE's mission as it relates to bringing new technologies to market.

Proposals should focus on approaches to develop, maintain, and leverage a robust analytical capability that both harmonizes existing market analysis expertise across the DOE complex and supports capacity-building across the lab complex. This capability would support increased and faster commercialization of technologies out of DOE labs as well as enable successful outcomes for current DOE priorities.

Proposals could look to the recently released [Pathways to Commercial Liftoff](#) as an example of the type of work that could be coordinated and conducted via this mechanism.

- Subtopic 1.a: Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Subtopic 1.b: Proposals meet less than 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.

See page 13 of the solicitation.

Topic 2: Curation of Intellectual Property

This topic seeks to innovate how National Labs connect lab IP with private sector partners. Proposals shall consider leveraging the [Adoption Readiness Level \(ARLs\) framework](#) to evaluate technology risks, ecosystem economics, and private sector uptake potential.

Proposed projects could build on and expand successful, existing activities and programs already underway by labs' TTOs, such as [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's exploratory license](#) option. Proposals in this topic area are sought for programs and activities above and beyond existing lab efforts and/or to expand successful programs across the entire National Laboratory complex.

If building on and expanding existing programs, any proposal covering this topic will need to provide an overview on how the proposed program differs from existing activities and/or how it will be expanded across labs. Additionally, proposed programs should help address root causes (inside and outside of the labs) of existing National Lab technology commercialization challenges and barriers, such as (but not limited to) complex technology access and/or barriers in finding partners.

- Subtopic 2.a: Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Subtopic 2.b: Proposals meet less than 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.

See page 15 of the solicitation.

Topic 3: Matchmaking

This topic will seek proposals to create or expand business incubation programming that will result in the creation of teams that will move National Lab-developed technologies to market. Programming could include recruitment of talent outside of the National Lab, matchmaking programs to connect entrepreneurs with lab staff and resources, and additional support that will yield commercialization of promising, Lab-developed technology.

However, matching and building the team alone is not sufficient. Proposals should also address the additional needed programming and services such as business plan support, funding, business expertise and mentoring, investor and corporate connections, etc., that teams need as they bring their new product to market. DOE strongly encourages applicants to partner with external organizations on proposals for this topic.

Areas of interest for this topic include but are not limited to the following:

- AOI 3.1: Supplemental funding for maturation and commercialization of National Lab-developed technology that leverages the Lab Embedded Entrepreneurship Program (LEEP).
- AOI 3.2: Entrepreneurial matchmaking.
- AOI 3.3: Incubators, accelerators, and other entrepreneurial support programs.
- AOI 3.4: Other ideas.
- Subtopic 3.a: Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Subtopic 3.b: Proposals meet less than 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.

See page 17 of the solicitation.

Topic 4: Technology Specific Partnerships

This topic will seek proposals from National Labs to advance the commercialization of individual energy-related National Lab-developed technologies. Projects funded under this topic will need to incorporate lab-developed technology, including software and data, that are at a stage that will generate private sector interest and should be at a higher TRL.

Applications must demonstrate clear evidence of commercial potential that combines technology progress with market pull or interest. Ideal applications will include technologies with identified utility and potential impact to industry, market viability, and a clear commercialization path forward. Key milestones for applications under this topic must be commercialization focused, not technology focused, and demonstrate a clear understanding of barriers to commercial adoption (e.g., market entry barriers, regulatory barriers, supply chain barriers) and how they can be overcome.

See page 19 of the solicitation.

Topic 4 continued

Proposals should apply to one of the following subtopics, unless otherwise stated in each AOI.

- **Subtopic 4.a:** Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- **Subtopic 4.b:** Proposals commit to cost-share at least 20% of total project cost. To be eligible for this subtopic, labs must be partnered with a small business(es) as defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- **Subtopic 4.c:** Proposals commit to cost-share at least 10% of total project cost. To be eligible for this subtopic, labs must be partnered with domestic institutions of higher education; domestic nonprofit entities; U.S. state, local, or tribal government entities; or small businesses that are also certified as veteran-owned; women-owned; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT)-owned; or otherwise disadvantaged businesses by the U.S. Small Business Administration; members of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce; or verified Veteran-Owned by the Veterans Administration.

Topic 4 continued

Areas of Interest:

- AOI 4.01: Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)
- AOI 4.02: Office of Electricity (OE)
- AOI 4.03: Office of Fossil Energy Carbon Management (FECM)
- AOI 4.04: Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
- AOI 4.05: EERE Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Technologies Office (AMMTO)
- AOI 4.06: EERE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)
- AOI 4.07: EERE Buildings Technologies Office (BTO)

Continued on next slide

Topic 4 continued

Areas of Interest:

- AOI 4.08: EERE Geothermal Technology Office (GTO)
- AOI 4.09: EERE Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Office (HFTO)
- AOI 4.10: EERE Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office (IEDO)
- AOI 4.11: EERE Solar Energy Technology Office (SETO)
- AOI 4.12: EERE Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO)
- AOI 4.13: EERE Water Power Technology Office (WPTO)
- AOI 4.14: EERE Wind Energy Technology Office (WETO)

Topic 5: Enhancing Laboratory Processes

This topic will seek proposals from National Labs to streamline National Lab processes to move lab-developed, promising energy-related technologies toward commercial purposes, as well as to enable faster and simpler commercialization processes. Process improvements could focus on improvements to internal Lab contracting mechanisms, licensing of IP, and other ideas to streamline processes and catalyze synergies. Applicants could consider and incorporate cybersecurity in these processes as well.

DOE envisions that these improvements could connect and flow into the new or enhanced programming described in Topics 1 through 3 as well as Topic 6. DOE encourages the National Labs to work together to streamline cross-program, cross-lab connecting processes, and make them similar across Labs, when possible, to provide a more united and consistent approach to engaging external partners. DOE strongly encourages applicants to partner with external organizations on proposals for this topic.

Applications under this topic should seek input from their respective field office(s) and/or other interested DOE organization(s) and office(s), when applicable, regarding their proposal and potential impacts if the offices and/or organizations have oversight or ownership responsibility over those processes or procedures being addressed by their proposal.

- Subtopic 5.a: Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Subtopic 5.b: Proposals meet less than 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.

See page 70 of the solicitation.

Topic 6: Increasing Partnerships with External Commercialization Parties

Increasing partnerships with external commercialization parties is critical for effective technology transition out of National Labs. Activities focused on partnering with external parties and their related programs and efforts, such as but not limited to industry day events, industry advising on National Lab projects, and industry-led incubation or acceleration programs vary at each lab. Due to this variation across the Labs, it can be challenging for external partners to engage with National Labs.

This topic seeks to make it easier for the private sector to work with National Labs. Goals of this topic area are to decrease barriers to working with the labs, increase the number and diversity of private sector partners, and accelerate and deepen connectivity with external commercialization parties. These activities are meant to improve how Labs attract, recruit, and retain external partners to further develop and commercialize technologies. DOE envisions that these activities could connect and flow into the new or enhanced programming described in Topics 1 through 3 as well as Topic 5. DOE strongly encourages applicants to partner with external organizations on proposals for this topic.

- Subtopic 6.a: Proposals commit to meet the 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.
- Subtopic 6.b: Proposals meet less than 50% of total project cost-share funds requirement.

See page 71 of the solicitation.



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Partnering

Partnering

DOE highly encourages labs to partner with **external organizations and private companies**, as such partners may have deep knowledge and experience performing many of the activities described in the topics, some may have already built needed components under many of the topic areas, and some may help advance DOE's Community Benefits Plan goals.

All partnerships between the labs and outside partners **must comply with individual lab requirements under their management and operating (M&O) contracts.**

Partners must agree to engage in activities that focus on commercializing or deploying technologies in the marketplace and are highly encouraged to provide cost-share.

- **Partners can be any nonfederal entity**, including private companies, state or local governments (or entities created by a state or local government), colleges, universities, tribal entities, or nonprofit organizations.
- Because only National Laboratory TTO staff are eligible to apply and are responsible for coordinating interlab, across labs, and with external partners, a list of lab TTO points of contact are provided in Appendix C of the solicitation.

See page 9 of the solicitation.



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Teaming Partner List

Teaming Partner List

To the extent possible and appropriate, DOE also seeks projects that involve industry engagement or industry partners to enhance the market pull aspects for commercialization.

To expedite external partnerships in support of this lab call, DOE is compiling a Teaming Partner List (TPL) to facilitate the formation of new project teams. The TPL allows organizations that may wish to participate on an application to express their interest to explore potential partnerships with National Labs.

The TPL will be regularly updated to reflect new teaming partners who provide their organization's information. Updates to the TPL will be available on the Exchange website as requesting parties are approved.

Submission Instructions: Any organization that would like to be included on this list should find the Teaming Partner List for this solicitation (**TPL-0000027**) on [Exchange](#) and submit the following information:

- Organization Name
- Organization Type
- Website
- Contact Name
- Contact Address
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone
- Area of Expertise
- Brief Description of Capabilities
- Applicable Topic and Subtopic.

See page 12 of the solicitation.



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Community Benefits Plan

Community Benefits Plan (CBP)

DOE is committed to investing in the research, development, and commercialization of innovations from DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites, that deliver benefits to the American public and lead to technologies and products that foster sustainable, resilient, and equitable access to clean energy. Further, DOE is committed to supporting the development of more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible workplaces to help maintain the nation's leadership in science and technology.

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, projects funded under this lab call are expected to (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement, (2) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); (3) support [Justice40](#) priorities; and (4) invest in America's workforce.

To ensure these objectives are met, applications for Topic 4 must include a Community Benefits Plan (CBP) that addresses the four objectives stated above, and applications for Topics 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 must incorporate a CBP addressing the applicable objectives for the proposed project. Applicants are encouraged to develop a creative and thorough CBP.

The CBP will be 15% of the scoring criteria of the full application. See Section II.A.iii, Section II.B.ii, and Appendix B in the lab call for more information on the CBP.

See page 11 of the solicitation.



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Concept Paper Stage

Concept Papers

To be eligible to submit a full application, applicants must submit a concept paper. Lab ORTA TTOs are required to submit the concept paper in Exchange no later than 3 p.m. ET on January 16, 2024.

DOE will review the concept paper, and applicants will receive an official determination, encourage or discourage. The intent is to help the National Labs focus their efforts on the concepts with the highest potential under this lab call. Only labs that receive an encourage determination on the concept paper phase will be allowed to submit a full application.

See page 75 of the solicitation.

Concept Papers

Concept papers are required to include:

Section	Page Limit	Description
Cover Page	1 page maximum	The cover page is required to include the template table provided in Appendix D of the lab call.
Project Description	3 pages maximum	<p>Applicants are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the project in enough detail that it may be evaluated for its innovation, impact, and relevance to the topic objectives.• Topic 4 applications must also state the project's starting and ending Adoption Readiness Levels (ARLs) and TRLs. Please note the TRL requirements in each of the program office AOI descriptions, when listed.• Describe relevant background information that helps demonstrate the need for this project, including the problem statement or major challenges and barriers being overcome through the project and the approach to solving the problem.• Develop a commercialization plan that outlines the approach towards maximizing impact of DOE funding on the relevant field and application.• Describe how the proposed project, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives stated in the lab call.• 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.
Addendum	2 pages maximum	<p>Applicants are required to describe succinctly the qualifications, experience, and capabilities of the proposed project team, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the project team has the skill and expertise needed to successfully execute the project plan.• Whether the applicant has prior experience that demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity.• Whether the applicant has worked together with their teaming partners on prior projects or programs.• Whether the applicant has adequate access to equipment and facilities necessary to accomplish the effort and/or clearly explain how they intend to obtain access to the necessary equipment and facilities.• Applicants may provide graphs, charts, or other data to supplement their project description. These details will be counted toward the maximum page requirement.

Concept Papers

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

1. Concept Paper Criterion: Overall Lab Call Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- The applicant clearly describes the project in enough detail that it may be evaluated for its innovation, impact, and relevance to the topic objectives.
- The applicant clearly describes relevant background information that helps demonstrate the need for this project, including the problem statement or major challenges and barriers being overcome through the project and the approach to solving the problem.
- The applicant has shown the impact that DOE TCF funding and the proposed project would have on the relevant field and application.
- The applicant clearly identifies the topic(s), subtopic(s), and AOI (if applicable) they are applying for and how they meet the required elements of the topic(s).
- The applicant has the qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project.
- The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the lab call.



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Full Application Stage

Full Applications

- Please read the lab call in its entirety for all full application requirements.
- Each full application shall be limited to a single concept. Unrelated concepts shall not be consolidated in a single full application.
- Applicants must receive an encourage determination on their concept paper to be eligible to submit a full application.
- Building on the feedback from the concept paper, labs are encouraged to further expand their concept into a full application. **Full applications are required to be eligible for award(s) under this solicitation.**
- Lab ORTA TTOs are required to submit the full application materials in Exchange no later than 3 p.m. ET on March 14, 2024.

See page 77 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements

Full Applications need to include:

- Technical Volume
- Budget Spreadsheet
- Statement of Work
- Community Benefits Plan
- Summary Slide

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements – Technical Volume

Technical Volumes should be no more than 15 single-spaced pages total. Unless specified otherwise, the following components contribute toward the 15-page limit and must be included. It is preferred that applicants use the headings corresponding to the bullets below.

1. Title Page
2. Executive Summary
3. Project Description
4. Potential Commercialization Advances
5. Work Plan
6. Impact Tracking
7. Team and Required Resources
8. Budget Discussion and Cost-Share
9. Appendix

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements – Budget Spreadsheet

For FY24, DOE is requiring that all applicants provide a low, optimal, and high budget level request with the associated tasks and scope outlined at each proposed budget level in order to expedite project awardee negotiations and allow program offices to select the funding level that best suits their available budget and technology goals.

The Budget Spreadsheet is a separate file which should be included in the application. There is a template that should be used for the budget spreadsheet, and it can be found on Exchange under this lab call, “Budget Spend Plan Reporting Template.” All sections should be filled out according to the instructions in the spreadsheet.

During the review and selection process, DOE reserves the right to determine an award with a modified project scope and budget.

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements – Statement of Work

The Statement of Work (SOW) is a separate file which should be included in the application. There is a template that should be used for the SOW, and it can be found on Exchange under this lab call, “SOW Template.” All sections should be filled out according to the instructions in the template.

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements – CBP

The Community Benefits Plan (CBP) is a separate file which should be included in the application. The CBP sets forth the applicant's approach to ensuring the federal investments advance the following four objectives: (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) DEIA; (3) Justice40; and (4) investing in America's workforce.

The applicant's CBP must include at least one SMART milestone per budget period to measure progress on the proposed actions. The CBP will be evaluated as part of the technical review process. If a project is selected, DOE will incorporate the CBP into the award and the recipient must implement its CBP when carrying out its project. DOE will evaluate the recipient's progress throughout the life of the award, including potentially as part of the Go/No-Go review process.

The CBP should be specific to the proposed project and not a restatement of an organization's policies. Applicants should describe the future implications or a milestone-based plan for identifying future implications of their project scope on CBP objectives. These impacts may be uncertain, occur over a long period of time, and/or have many factors within and outside the specific proposed research. Applicants are encouraged to describe the influencing factors and the most likely implications of the proposed project if it is successful. While some guidance and example activities are provided in Appendix B of the lab call, applicants are encouraged to leverage promising practices and develop a plan tailored to their project.

The CBP should be at least one page. This Plan must address the technical review criterion titled "Community Benefits Plan." See Section II.B.ii of the lab call for the merit review criterion.

Applicants must address all four CBP objectives for Topic 4 applications, and applicants for Topics 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 must incorporate a CBP addressing the applicable objectives for the proposed project.

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Requirements – Summary Slide

The summary slide is a separate file which should be included in the application. It must not exceed one PowerPoint slide and it must be suitable for dissemination to the public. This slide must not include any proprietary or business-sensitive information because DOE may make it available to the public if the project is selected for award. The summary slide requires the following information:

- Project title, prime recipient, PI, and key participant information.
- A project summary.
- A description of the project's impact.
- Proposed project goals.
- Any key graphics (illustrations, charts, and/or tables).
- The project's key idea/takeaway with respect to TCF goals (commercialization).
- Requested TCF funds, proposed applicant cost-share (if applicable), and total project budget.

Full details on the requirements of each section are found on pages 77–84 of the solicitation.

Full Application Scoring Criteria

- **Criterion 1: Innovation and Impact (40%):** How innovative and impactful is the project, assuming the stated outcomes can be achieved as written?

Innovative	Accelerates Speed of Commercialization	Impactful
Long-Term Viability	Scalable	Commercialization Outcomes
Cost-Share Commitment	Evidence of Commercial Potential	Differentiated

- **Criterion 2: Quality and Likelihood of Completion of Stated Goals (30%):** Are the stated goals of the project SMART, and are they likely to be accomplished within the scope of this project? Is there a likelihood of success for the proposed project?

Measurable	Risks Mitigated	Validated
Reasonable Assumptions	Reasonable Budget	

Continued on next slide

These criteria are described in detail on pages 86–91 of the solicitation.

Full Application Scoring Criteria

- **Criterion 3: Collaboration and Capability of the Applicant and Holistic Project Team (15%):** Is the team well-qualified and positioned to successfully complete this project?

Collaboration	Capable	Participation
Team Quality	Past Performance	Access

- **Criterion 4: Community Benefits Plan (15%):**

Community and Labor Engagement	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
Justice40 Priorities	Workforce Implications

These criteria are described in detail on pages 86–91 of the solicitation.



Office of Technology Transitions



Selections and Notification

Selections and Notification

- **Merit Review and Selection Process:** Selection of winning proposals will be determined based on available funding and input from DOE and external reviewers. In general, DOE will use data and other information contained in proposals for evaluation purposes only, unless such information is generally available to the public or is already the property of the government.
- DOE carefully considers all information obtained through the selection process. DOE may select or not select a proposal for negotiations. DOE may also postpone a final selection determination on one or more proposals until a later date, subject to availability of funds and other factors. OTT will notify applicants if they are, or are not, selected for award negotiation.
- **Selection Notification:** DOE anticipates completing the selection and negotiation process by Q4 FY24 (subject to change). DOE will notify the prime National Lab TTO and PI electronically of selection results. All of DOE's decisions are final when communicated to applicants.
- **Type of Award Instrument:** TCF awards will be documented and funded through OTT's work authorization and funds management processes within the Program Information Collection System (PICS). DOE facilities will be required to track federal funds in accordance with normal departmental processes. DOE facilities will also be required to track nonfederal funds in accordance with established DOE facility accounting processes.
- **DOE will direct transfer funding to the prime and partner Labs;** Lab-to-Lab transfers should not be needed. All partnerships between the Labs and outside partners must comply with individual Lab requirements under their M&O contracts.

Questions?

Specific questions about this lab call should be submitted via e-mail to TCF@hq.doe.gov.

To ensure fairness across all labs, individual DOE staff cannot answer questions while the lab call remains open.

OTT will post all questions and answers on Exchange.

Questions about Exchange: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FAQ.aspx>