U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF Technology Transitions

DE-LC-000L126 FY25 Fall Energy I-Corps Lab Call

Informational Webinar

March 25, 2025 12 p.m. ET

Housekeeping

- All applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire lab call and adhere to the stated submission requirements.
- This presentation summarizes the contents of the 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 Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) at energyicorps@hq.doe.gov.
- Everyone has been placed on mute.
- Please provide your questions through the chat feature. All questions will go into the formal Q&A log and will be answered and publicly posted to Exchange.
- The Informational Webinar slides will be posted to Exchange

Webinar Purpose

The purpose of today's webinar is to:

1. Provide an **overview of the lab call**

Agenda

1. Background
2. Lab Call at a Glance
3. Topic 1: Pipeline Development
4. Topic 2: EIC Cohort Training (Cohort 21)
5. Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps
6. Topic 1 Funding
7. Topic 2 Funding
8. Eligibility
9. Exchange Submission Instructions

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

BACKGROUND

Background

- Established in 2015, derived from the NSF I-Corps™ program
- DOE's OTT is the program administrator

Goals for Energy I-Corps

- Increase the number of DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site-developed **technologies** that are transferred into **commercial development** or **industry agreements**
- Train DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site researchers to **better understand** the **commercialization process** and **private sector needs**
- Promote DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites to **value commercialization and entrepreneurial activities**

FY25 Program Portfolio

Topic 1: EIC Pipeline Development

Program to fund projects and programming that have the potential to ***directly*** increase participation in EIC Training Cohorts (Topic 2) in subsequent EIC lab calls.

- **Up to $100k** per project for single lab applicants
- **Up to $200k** per project with at least three DOE National Laboratories or DOE plants or sites applying together

Participation in Topic 1 is not required to participate in Topic 2

Topic 2: EIC Training Cohort

2-month training program to investigate the market potential and accelerate the commercialization of DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology

$100k per team

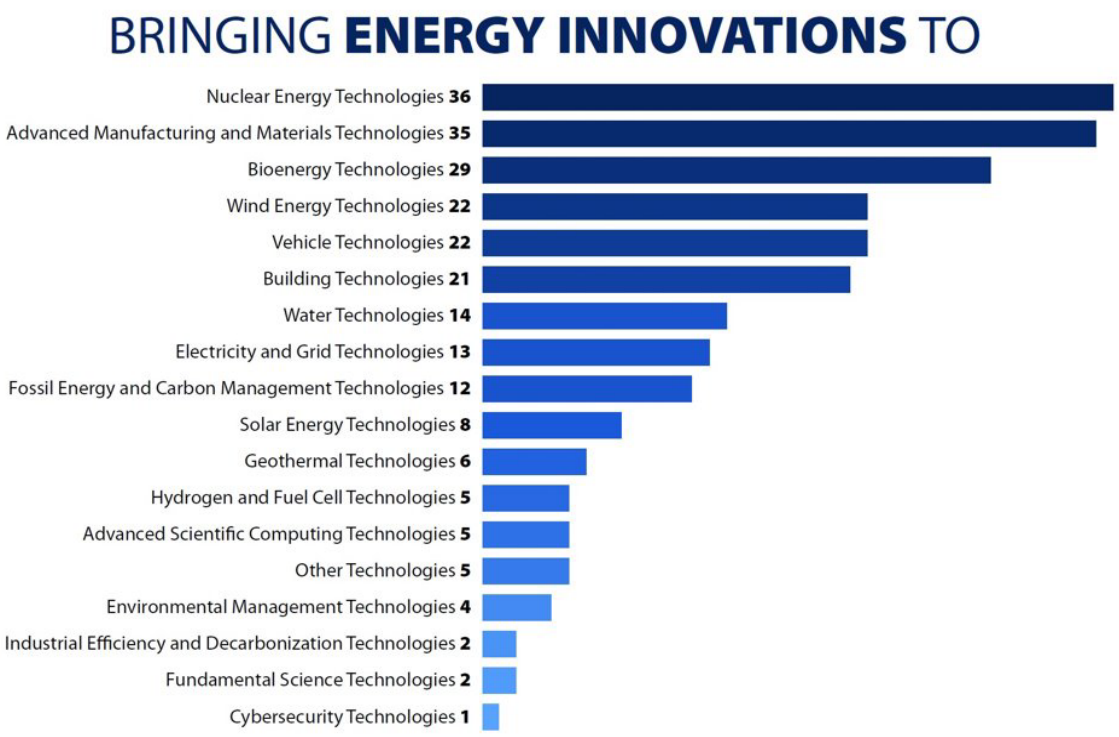
Technology must be from a DOE Laboratory or DOE plant or site AND have gone through either Topic 2 or the NSF national I-Corps™

Topic 3: Post EIC

Program to fund DOE researchers in their next step toward technology commercialization

Up to $100k per team

Program Impact since 2015



Overall Program Stats (All 3 Topics)

$18M+
contributed by 25 technical offices or agencies

$197M+
Follow-on Funding Generated by Teams

25
New Businesses Formed

85+
Licenses Executed

100%
National Lab, Plant, & Site participation

665+
Researchers Trained

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

LAB CALL AT A GLANCE

Key Dates

Event or Deadline	Date
Lab Call Issue Date	Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Informational Webinar	Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (ET)
Application Submission Deadline (All 3 Topics)	Friday, April 11, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)
Expected Date for Selection Notifications	Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Note that all EIC Topics have the same submission deadline

General Information

Means of submission for Application	Topic 1: EERE Exchange (DE-LC-000L126) Topic 2: Microsoft Forms (link on page 20 of lab call, EERE Exchange, & HERE) Topic 3: EERE Exchange (DE-LC-000L126)
Total Amount to be provided	OTT expects to award up to $500k across the three topics combined, depending on appropriations. However, additional funding may be available based on proposals' alignment with partner Program Office goals. DOE may issue one, multiple, or no awards.
Cost Share Requirement	None
Submission of Multiple Proposals	For all three topics, there is no limit on the number of applications each DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant and site can submit.
Questions	All questions and answers will be recorded in a Q&A log and posted on Exchange. RE: EIC Lab Call Solicitation (all topics): energyicorps@hq.doe.gov RE: EERE Exchange Technical Support: eere-epichelpdesk@ee.doe.gov

Budget per Topic

Topic	Available Budget
Topic 1: EIC Pipeline Development	Up to $100k per project with one DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site. Up to $200,000 per project with at least three DOE National Laboratories or DOE plants or sites applying together
Topic 2: EIC Training Cohort	$100k per team
Topic 3: Post EIC	Up to $100k per project

Cost share is not required for any of the three topics. However, DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites may supplement team budgets with internal funding resources if desired. All funding will be provided to the national laboratory, plant or site as a bill code.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Available Funding

- OTT expects to award up to $500K across Topics 1 and 3 in this instance of the EIC lab call, subject to appropriations. Topic 3 applications will be assessed, and reviewed by individual non-OTT DOE program offices and partner agencies for their selections and funding. Topic 2 applications will continue to be assessed and reviewed by individual DOE program offices and partner agencies for their selections and funding, beyond OTT's budget.
- For all topics under this lab call, it is important to include information for "how" the proposed project supports DOE program office and partner agency technology research areas.
- See **Appendix A** of the lab call for list of DOE program office and partner agencies who will review applications.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

TOPIC 1: PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT

Topic 1: Pipeline Development

- Topic 1 seeks proposals from DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites for projects and programming that have the potential to **directly increase applications in future Topic 2** - EIC Training Cohorts.
- Successful projects will be able to demonstrate how the funded activity leads to increased EIC Topic 2 - Training Cohort applications.
- Individual projects under Topic 1 will be considered up to a total $100K per laboratory, plant or site
- Up to $200,000 per project with at least three DOE National Laboratories or DOE plants or sites applying together
- **DOE strongly encourages efforts that bring together multiple labs to meet the goal of this topic in the most effective manner possible.**

Key Dates for Topic 1: Pipeline Development

Event	Date
Submission deadline	Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 PM (ET)
Expected date for selection notifications	Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Funding transfer complete	Funding will be transferred after successful negotiations between OTT and DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site are completed. *OTT is targeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

Details for Topic 1 begin on page 9 of the lab call.

Topic 1: Pipeline Development

Eligibility

Only DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites are eligible to apply for Topic 1 under this lab call. Technology transfer offices can request FY25 funding and/or propose an adjustment or scope change for using un-costed Topic 1 funds from prior fiscal years. Any proposed adjustment, scope change or new funding request should address the goal to directly increase participation in future Topic 2 - EIC Training Cohorts.

Reporting expectations

- Quarterly project & budget updates in Program Information Collection System (PICS) system & quarterly meetings

Program Deliverables

- Negotiated deliverables
- A concise final report at the end of the proposed project.

Period of Performance

Proposed projects should seek to support EIC goals efficiently and effectively in FY26. However, applications with projects that expand beyond the end of FY26 will be considered.

Submission and Review Information

All submissions must conform to the following slide's form and content requirements, and must be submitted via Exchange.

Topic 1: Pipeline Development

Application Documents

Topic 1 Application Documents listed on **page 12** of the lab call

Document	Format	Description
Detailed narrative	• 3-page max • 8.5”x 11” pages with 1-inch margin • 11-point font • PDF file	Applicants are required to: ☐ Describe the proposed project including the leading and target participants, resources needed, anticipated level of impact, and overall plan to execute the project. ☐ Explicitly state how the proposed project will directly increase future participation in EIC Training Cohorts (Topic 2) from your lab, plant, or site. ☐ Proposals that request adjustment or scope change of uncosted Satellite, Site Lab, Asynchronous EIC, or Pipeline Development funding must explicitly state how the rescoped funds will directly increase participation in Topic 2. ☐ List the barrier(s) to participating in EIC training cohorts (time, effort, etc.) unique to your lab, plant, or site that is addressed by your proposed project. ☐ Identify any hurdles that may arise when implementing your proposed project and your plans to overcome such hurdles. ☐ If your lab, plant, or site has received Topic 1 funding in the past, describe the past performance, accomplishments, and how this project builds on or improves the previous project. ☐ Explain how the proposal has the potential to continue to be impactful without long-term, continued, direct funding from OTT. ☐ Include a timeline for the proposed project. ☐ What is your requested funding amount? ☐ **Describe a plan for implementing the idea with a requested amount of funding, but also include what could be accomplished with 50% of the requested amount.**

Topic 1: Pipeline Development
Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Impact (80%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Potential to Increase EIC Training Cohort Participation	**Long-Term Viability**	**Access to Resources**

Criterion 2: Quality of Proposed Project (20%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Well-Defined Goals	**Challenges Mitigated**	**Reasonable Assumptions & Timeline**	**Reasonable Budget**

These criteria are described in detail starting at the bottom of **page 12** of the lab call

Topic 1: Pipeline Development

Questions?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

TOPIC 2: EIC COHORT TRAINING (COHORT 21)

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21)

This topic seeks team applications to participate in EIC Training Cohort 21. Selected teams of researchers and industry mentors will participate in an intensive curriculum-based program to understand market awareness and learn about market pathways for their technology. Over the course of 2 months, selected teams attend training sessions, participate in weekly webinars, and learn from one-on-ones with instructors to systematically identify the most appropriate market application and commercialization pathway for their technology. Participation requires a considerable amount of time spent outside of the classroom conducting 75 stakeholder discovery interviews.

Each selected team will be provided $100K to support their participation in EIC Training Cohort 21. Historically, DOE program offices have primarily funded Topic 2 teams

Appendix A of the lab call lists DOE program office and partner agencies that will review relevant applications.

Appendix D of the lab call includes a print-out version of the Topic 2 application as a reference.

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21)

Eligibility

Only DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites are eligible to apply for EIC Training Cohort 21. Teams from any technology area will be considered. Technologies submitted for consideration may be at any adoption readiness level (ARL) but should be at a stage in development that allows the team to identify potential partners within a target market.

To ensure fairness and maximum reach, DOE is restricting applications to DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site researchers who have not already gone through the EIC program.

Researchers who have already gone through any previous Cohort of EIC Topic 2 successfully are NOT eligible to participate.

Teams do not need to have previously participated in entrepreneurial training programs or activities, including EIC Topic 1, to apply for this topic.

U.S. citizenship is NOT a requirement for participation in EIC Training Cohort 21. However, selected non-U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to be able to attend all closing week activities.

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21) Structure

EIC Training Cohort 21 consists of three key elements, summarized below:

1. **Implementation Team:** The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) EIC Program Management Team is responsible for developing and delivering the training, as well as providing program guidance to participating laboratories, plants, and sites.
2. **Participating Labs, plants, and sites Tech Transfer Offices (TTOs):** TTOs recruit, assemble, and send teams to the program for in-person and virtual training. TTOs also support teams both during and after the program. Support might include assistance in identifying entrepreneurial leads (ELs) and industry mentors (IMs) (see item 3 -Teams, below) during the application period, as well as technology transfer, technology deployment, or business development support for potential market pathways identified by the team during training. Each TTO will also assist with metrics collection (for program assessment and improvement) during and after their team's participation in the program and contact teams as requested by the Implementation Team.
3. **Teams:** Applicants apply to EIC as a team, composed of a Principal Investigator (PI) with a commercially relevant technology, an Entrepreneurial Lead (EL), and an Industry Mentor (IM). Over the course of the training, teams identify potential market pathways for their selected technology, as well as identify opportunities where further development could lead to commercial value. The time commitment to this program is significant for both the PI and the EL, and teams should do their best to organize their workload during the training period accordingly. A lab, plant, or site can have optional support from additional team members, but the additional team members cannot be compensated with the EIC Topic 2 funding.

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21)

PI: The PI is the technical lead and project manager based at the DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site, responsible for overall team management. The PI should have a laboratory, plant or site technology or other form of IP identified, that the team believes has a potential market application. The PI is required to attend the entire opening and closing week. During the core training period, approximately 20 hours per week of the PI's time should be committed to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). Prior experience is not required. However, the PI should be committed to pursuing potential market pathways.

EL: The EL must be employed by or have a contractual relationship with a DOE National Lab, DOE plant, or site. The EL is required to attend the entire opening and closing weeks. During the core training period, the EL is expected to commit approximately 30 hours per week of their time to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). The EL is expected to lead the team in coordinating stakeholder interviews, delivering team presentations, and developing the business model canvas. Prior entrepreneurial experience is not required.

IM: Ideally, the IM is an experienced industry representative or entrepreneur, from outside the laboratory, plant or site, with substantial expertise in a relevant sector. The IM is responsible for providing mentorship to the EL and PI for the duration of the EIC. IMs are not required to but are highly encouraged to attend opening week and closing week sessions. The IM is expected to commit approximately 6 hours per week of their time during the core training period and to meet with the team on a weekly basis. To ensure unbiased mentorship, the IM should be a volunteer and not have a direct interest in the team's technology or IP. The IM's participation and lack of conflict of interest should be cleared with the lab, plant or site's POC and Tech Transfer or Business Development Office.

Topic 2: EIC Cohort Training (C21)

Note the possibility of virtual Opening/Closing weeks

Period of Performance – End of August 2025 – Early November 2025

Key Dates for EIC Cohort 21

Event	Date
Submission deadline	Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m. (ET)
Expected date for team selection notifications	Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Funding transfer complete	Thursday, July 31, 2025
Spring 2025 program dates ****PI and EL are required to attend all program events including opening and closing weeks**	Orientation webinars – August 21 & 28, 2025 Opening week** – September 2-5, 2025 Curriculum webinars – September 11, 18, 25 Curriculum webinars - October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Closing week** November 3-7, 2025

**Opening and Closing Weeks may occur as in-person or virtual sessions based on guidance from DOE. In the event that opening week & closing week sessions are held virtually, the date of the sessions may change from the above table. If held in person, opening week is tentatively planned for Broomfield, CO and closing week is tentatively planned for Washington, D.C.

Topic 2: EIC Cohort Training (C21)

Submission Information

To be considered for EIC Training Cohort 21, applicants must complete and submit the single document (Microsoft Form) in Table 6 (**page 20**) of the Lab Call. All submissions must be submitted via Microsoft Forms. DOE will not review or consider submissions that are received through means other than Microsoft Forms, submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete.

Form Link: https://forms.office.com/g/SL4qKLhnmq

For Topic 2 applicants, **no documents or submissions are required to be uploaded through Exchange**.

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21)
Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Impact (60%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Commercial Potential	**Challenges Mitigated**	**Fit with DOE Program Offices**
Learning Impact	**Reasonable Budget Plan**	

Criterion 2: Project Team (40%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Collaboration & Capability	**Availability**

These criteria are described in detail on **page 21** of the lab call

Topic 2: Cohort Training (C21)

Questions?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

TOPIC 3: POST EIC

Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps

Topic Description

Topic 3 is an opportunity to continue advancing EIC Topic 2 technologies toward commercialization. Funding is intended to cover costs of the next actionable step in technology commercialization and facilitate the teams in reaching their next source of more substantive support to continue their commercialization journey. Applicants should identify a clear, discrete next step in commercialization and the amount of funding needed to reach that next step. Applications should represent projects that are ambitious but achievable. Projects will be considered up to $100K in funding (subject to annual appropriations). Applications will also be shared with relevant program offices for their funding consideration.

Key Dates for Topic 3: Post EIC

Event	Date
Submission deadline	Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 PM (ET)
Expected date for selection notifications	Wednesday, June 4, 2025
Funding transfer complete	Funding will be transferred after successful negotiations between DOE HQ and DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site are completed. *OTT is targeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps

Eligibility

The technology must 1) be from a DOE Laboratory or DOE plant or site AND 2) have gone through either EIC Training Cohort (Topic 2) or the NSF national I-Corps™ (inclusive of technical pivots). EIC Training Cohort and NSF national I-Corps™ graduates as well as non-graduates can apply to this topic. However, non-graduates are limited to individuals who are employed by or have a contractual relationship with a DOE National Lab, DOE plant or site (e.g. TTO personnel).

Reporting expectations

- Regular project & budget updates in PICS software - cadence depends on period of performance

Program Deliverables

- Negotiated deliverables
- A final report at the end of the proposed project.

Period of Performance

Proposed projects should seek to support EIC goals efficiently in FY26. However, applications with projects that expand beyond the end of FY26 will be considered.

Submission and Review Information

All submissions must conform to the following slide's form and content requirements, and must be submitted via Exchange.

Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps Application Documents

Topic 3 Application Documents start on **page 24** of the lab call

Document	Format	Description
Cover Page	• 1 page max • 8.5”x 11” pages with 1-inch margin • 11-point font • PDF file	Applicants are required to include: • Name of project and technology. • Name(s) of individual or team members involved. • EIC Training Cohort number that team members previously participated in or year that the team participated in the NSF I-Corps™ program. • A maximum 200-word summary of the project suitable for public release if the project is funded.

Detailed Narrative	• 3-page max
	• 8.5”x 11” pages with 1-inch margin
	• 11-point font
	• PDF file
		• Applicants are required to:
		• Describe the proposed project: the clear, discrete next step to commercialize your technology, and explain how receiving this funding will help you achieve this step.
		• Describe an overview of the technology (including the status of its commercialization), the leading participants for the proposed project and their roles, resources needed, and overall plan to execute the project.
		• Explain how the successful implementation of the proposed project will unlock the potential for much larger public or private funding sources to continue the commercialization process.
		• State any roadblocks that may arise when implementing your proposal and your plans to overcome such barriers.
		• Answer the following questions:
		  ◦ What is the best possible outcome for this project?
		  ◦ What are the project team’s goals after this project is complete?
		  ◦ How should project success be measured?
		  ◦ What are the conditions that would make this project not worth continuing?
		• Explain the steps and timeframe needed for full technology commercialization after this proposed project, assuming the proposal is funded.
		• Briefly indicate specific experiences or outcomes from EIC Topic 2 participation that influenced this proposal.
		• Describe steps taken to commercialize the technology since participation in Topic 2. If none, state so and why not.
		• Provide the current ARL of the technology. Additional resources on ARL can be found at the following link: https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/adoption-readiness-levels-arl-complement-trl
		• Include a timeline for the proposed project.
		• What is your requested funding amount?
		• Describe a plan for implementing the proposal with a requested amount of funding, but also include what could be accomplished with 50% of the requested amount.

Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps
Application Documents

Document	Format	Description
1-page Technology "pitch" / summary sheet (Please do not include any proprietary info rmation on this document, as it is intended to be used as a resource to share with external parties)	• 1-page max • 8.5"x 11" pages with 1-inch margin • 11-point font • PDF file	• Technology name and summary • Specific problem or opportunity and how your technology solves this problem • ARL & TRL of your technology currently: Assess your ARL with DOE's Commercialization Adoption Readiness Assessment Tool: https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/adoption-readiness-levels-arl-complement-trl • Target Audience: Identify the potential stakeholders and end-users who could benefit from the project. • Value Proposition: Articulate the unique value proposition of the project, explaining why stakeholders would have interest. • Contact Information: Include contact details for the project team or lead, allowing stakeholders to reach out for more information or collaboration opportunities. • Include reliable data, verifiable facts, key metrics, and statistics as relevant • Visual Elements: Incorporate visually appealing elements such as graphs, charts, or diagrams to enhance understanding and engagement. Include at least one image of your technology.
Copy of NSF I-Corps™ final project report and outcomes report (Only required for NSF I-Corps™ technology)	• PDF File	• If the applicant is applying with DOE technology that went through an NSF national I-Corps™ training instead of an EIC Topic 2 cohort, submit a copy of the NSF I-Corps™ final project report and project outcomes report that was submitted when successfully completing the full NSF I-Corps™ program.

Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps
Selection Criteria

Criterion 1: Impact (80%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Potential of Project Success	**Long-Term Viability**	**Commercial Potential**	**Access**

Criterion 2: Quality of Proposed Project (20%) This criterion considers the following factors:

Well-Defined Goals	**Challenges Mitigated**	**Reasonable Assumptions & Timeline**	**Reasonable Budget**

These criteria are described in detail beginning on **page 26** of the lab call

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

APPENDICES

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Program Office and Partner Agencies

Lists DOE program office and partner agencies that may be used as reference when completing applications for all lab call topics.

Appendices B & C: Topics 1 & 3 Statement of Work and Spend Plan Template

For topics 1 & 3, selected applicants will go through a negotiations process which will require the development and approval of a statement of work and spend plan. Templates of these documents are included in Appendices C and D and can be used as a resource when completing application documents. **They are not required as part of the application.**

Appendix D: Topic 2 Application Print-Out:

Appendix D is a print-out of the Topic 2 Application for the purpose of showing TTOs and Team Members the information that will be required when completing the Topic 2 application here. Applications should not be completed on paper – it should be submitted via the MS Forms listed on EERE Exchange and in the lab call.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
Technology Transitions

TOPICS 1 & 3
EXCHANGE INSTRUCTIONS

Topics 1 & 3 Exchange Instructions

Reminder: Many of the fields requested in Exchange are NOT applicable to your Topic 1 & Topic 3 submission. An instruction document has been uploaded to Exchange on how to complete these fields.

Project General Information:

Control Number: This number is automatically generated by EERE Exchange System

Submission Initiated By: Please enter Name and Email when prompted

Organization: Please enter name of DOE National Laboratory, or DOE plant or site

Title: Please enter title of Topic 1 or Topic 3 project

Topic: Please enter either “Topic 1: EIC Pipeline Development” or “Topic 3: Post EIC” as applicable

Project Start Date: Please enter the anticipated start date of the project

Project End Date: Please enter the anticipated end date of the project

UEI Number: Please list “N/A”

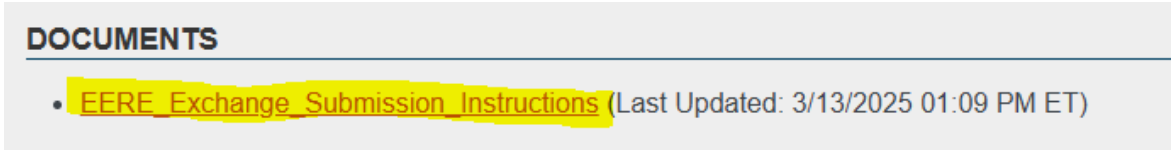
Partner Laboratories: Please list “N/A”

Is this a continuation of an existing project? Please list “No”

Project Overview (Multi-Year): Please list “N/A”

Project Objectives (Multi-Year): Please list “N/A”

Please see full details for the remaining fields within the instructions document on Exchange, under the documents section.



Questions?

Specific questions about this lab call should be submitted via email to energyicorps@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 EERE Exchange.

Questions about Exchange: eere-epichelpdesk@ee.doe.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF Technology Transitions