Office of Technology Commercialization

DE-LC-000L129: FY 26 TCF Base CLIMR Commercialization Enabling Lab Call Q&A

March 11, 2026

Updated April 8, 2026 for Mod1, changes highlighted in yellow

Meeting Purpose

- The purpose of today's meeting is to:
  - Provide background on the TCF Base Program
  - Provide an overview of the lab call
  - Highlight specific areas in the lab call that are unique for FY26 (some are highlighted in blue throughout slides)
  - Q&A

Housekeeping

- All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the entire lab call and adhere to the stated submission requirements.
- 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 OTC at TCF@hq.doe.gov.**
- Please save questions for the end of the presentation.
- All questions and answers will go into the formal Q&A log and will be publicly posted to Exchange.
- Slides will be posted to Exchange.

Office of Technology Commercialization

Background

Background

The Department of Energy Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) was established by Congress through the Energy Policy Act of 2005[1] and reauthorized by the Energy Act of 2020[2] to "promote promising energy technologies for commercial purposes."

Within DOE, the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) is charged with leading programs related to technology commercialization, including TCF.

DOE is required to provide **0.9%** of applied energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application budget each fiscal year. Non-federal sources provide cost-share.

This lab call represents the combined effort of five DOE program offices and OTC.

- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
- Office of Electricity
- Office of Nuclear Energy
- Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office
- Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation

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.

CLIMR Commercialization Enabling

Core Laboratory Infrastructure for Market Readiness (CLIMR)

- For FY26 and FY27, DOE continues to implement and improve upon the previous year's approach for TCF, addressing persistent barriers to commercialization, bridging known gaps that deter the commercialization of laboratory technologies, and identifying where improvements are still needed.
- For FY26 and FY27, DOE will release two CLIMR lab calls. The first will be exclusively for the Commercialization Enabling Topic.
- The intent of the Commercialization Enabling Topic is to accelerate National Laboratory commercialization activities by streamlining and enhancing the programs, tools, systems, and approaches that enable commercialization. Investments made through the TCF will fill in missing infrastructure pieces and strengthen existing components by addressing core commercialization challenges, barriers, and gaps, as well as their root causes (inside and outside of the labs).

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FY26 CLIMR: Commercialization Enabling Lab Call

Key Dates

KEY DATES	
Lab call release date	Wed. February 18, 2026
PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND DECISION DATES	
Submission deadline for concept papers	Wed. April 1, 2026, 3 p.m. ET
Encourage/Discourage decisions on concept papers back to Labs	Fri. May 8, 2026
Submission deadline for full applications	Tues. June 16, 2026, 3 p.m. ET
Replies to reviewer comments	Start: Thurs. July 16, 2026, 3 p.m. ET Due: Tues. July 21, 2026, 3 p.m. ET
Expected date for selection notifications	Q4 FY26

General Information

Means of submission for applications	Exchange (DE-LC-000L129) DOE will not review or consider proposals submitted through other means.
Estimated total DOE funding available	We expect at least $15M to be available to fund projects solicited in this lab call. DOE may issue one, multiple, or no awards.
Estimated budget per project	$250K to $5M federal funds requested per proposal.
Estimated number of projects: **Estimated project duration**	4–10 1–3 years
Eligible entities	All U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories, Plants, and Sites
Submission of Multiple Proposals	Though there is no limit on the number of concept papers submitted, each National Laboratory may submit **no more than two full project applications that include only single-lab participation, whereas each National Laboratory can submit an unlimited number of full project applications that include more than one lab partner**.
Questions	TCF@hq.doe.gov

Partnerships

DOE strongly encourages proposals that bring together multiple National Labs to meet the strategic goals of this lab call, leveraging multiple lab capabilities and scaling commercialization programs throughout the National Lab complex.

To the extent possible and appropriate, DOE also seeks projects that involve industry engagement or partners to enhance the market pull aspects for commercialization. Industry 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. Non-DOE Federal laboratories and entities may partner with a DOE lab; however, they are not eligible to receive TCF funding or contribute cost-share.

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

To facilitate multi-lab or external partnerships, Appendix B includes all National Lab Technology Transfer Office (TTO) points of contact (POCs) for TCF.

See page 9 of the lab call.

Teaming Partner List

To facilitate partnerships, DOE is compiling a Teaming Partner List (TPL) on Exchange. 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 interested partners who provide their organization's information. Updates to the TPL will be available on the Exchange website as requesting parties are approved.

See page 10 of the lab call.

Cost-Share

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, nonprofit organizations and foundations, or private funders.

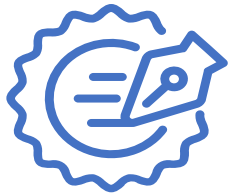
As an example, a proposal with 20% cost-share commits to a nonfederal cost-share of 20% of the total budget; if the total project budget is $1M, the cost-share from the nonfederal partner is $200K and the federal funds requested is $800K. For additional information on cost-share see Appendix A of the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

Subtopic	Cost-share	Description
a	50% or more	Proposals commit to meet at least 50% cost-share of total project costs.
b	Less than 50%	Proposals seek less than 50% cost-share of total project costs.

See page 11 of the lab call.

CLIMR Lab Call: Commercialization Enabling Topic

CLIMR = Core Laboratory Infrastructure for Market Readiness



AOI 1

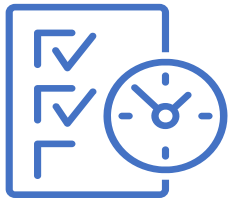
IP Advancement

To build, augment, and coordinate market and commercialization analysis capabilities and outputs within or across the National Labs, and to streamline the process for curating relevant IP, data, software, AI, machine learning to support developing technologies.

AOI 2

Public/Private Partnerships

To create or expand business incubation programming that will result in the creation of teams that will move National Lab-developed technologies to market. As well as new methods to decrease barriers for external parties to work with National Labs, increase the number of partners, and accelerate and deepen connectivity with commercial stakeholders.



AOI 3

Process Improvement

To address the barriers to implementing effective and efficient National Lab processes and/or tools used to advance promising lab-developed energy technologies toward commercialization.

See pages 11–15 of the lab call.

Concept Papers

Applicants are required to submit the concept paper in Exchange no later than April 1, 2026, at 3 p.m. ET. A template for concept papers is available on Exchange.

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 eligible submit a full application.

Proposals selected for funding under Commercialization Enabling AOI 3: Process Improvement must receive contracting officer approval prior to receiving funds and commencing work.

See page 19 of the lab call.

Full Applications

Only labs that receive an 'encourage' determination on the concept paper phase will be eligible to submit a full application. Applicants are required to submit the full application materials in Exchange no later than June 16, 2026, at 3 p.m. ET.

Full applications contain (1) Technical Volume (12 pages), (2) Budget Spreadsheet, and (3) Summary Slide. Templates for the Technical Volume and Budget Spreadsheet are on Exchange.

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. The low budget should be at least 20% less than the optimal funding, and the high budget should be at least 20% more than the optimal funding requested.

There will be a replies to reviewer comments stage from July 16 at 3 p.m. ET until July 21 at 3 p.m. ET.

See page 20 of the lab call.

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 (35%):** 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**	

- **Criterion 3: Collaboration and Capability of the Applicant and Project Team (25%):** Is the team well-qualified and positioned to successfully complete this project?

Collaboration	**Capable**	**Participation**
Team Quality	**Past Performance**	**Access**

See pages 26–28 of the lab call.

Appendix D: Exchange Instructions

OTC is using the Exchange system to formally announce the FY26 CLIMR Lab Call and receive submissions for both the concept paper and full applications. All required submission documents are listed within the lab call document and should be uploaded into Exchange. However, the Exchange system has additional fields that must be completed as part of the submission process. Many of the fields are NOT applicable to your submission.

Please follow the instructions in Appendix D of the lab call for completing a concept paper or full application submission on the Exchange System.

See pages 39–40 of the lab call.

Questions?

Specific questions about this lab call outside of this Q&A 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.

OTC will post all questions and answers on Exchange.

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

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