

Topic Area 4 Office Hours Q&A

Q: since there are fewer topics and there are fewer different areas. Is there any idea as to how many proposals would be funded under topic area four?

A: The federal budget process is still ongoing. There's no real understanding of what the overall funding portfolio for the NEUP program is going to be. The intention is that multiple awards would be made in each of these areas, funding permitting. The intention anytime we release the topic areas that we would fund at least one in each area and likely multiple.

Q: From the FOA itself, it looks like there are interests in developing specific technologies or maybe gearing the research towards particular types of technologies, whereas your presentation kind of showed interest in general fundamental research.

I just wanted to confirm that if we were proposing, for example, a new method that would generally apply to studying fundamental chemistry for example, is it important that we also have kind of a specific type of reactor or fuel cycle in mind for that?

A: We do need new tools to understand what's going on in the molten salts better. One tool that's being worked on right now at Oak Ridge is a probe for the activity of the free chloride ion. It's a PCL potentiometric probe to measure the chloroacidity or chlorobasicity of the salt.

Other ways to measure that for modeling or even spectroscopic would be useful. That is one of the key parameters that captures the degree to which complexations are occurring in the salts.

The probes to look at that or to do it in a fluoride salt would be useful as well.