Topic Area 6 Q&A

Q: I'm particularly interested in developing nondestructive techniques to detect the stress corrosion cracking of canister wells in situ, but we can also do it for repair materials after there is damage and there was repair process. For instance, cold spray repair is that of interest. Is the repair of part of particular interest or is just general monitoring of stress corrosion cracking of interest?

A: The short answer is there is interest in that area. The long answer is that a lot of work has been done in this area. Particularly there is work done on finding cracks and how to evaluate cracks. The corrosion initiation part of it has been a key area because these are stainless steels and then you have surface pitting and then how the pitting transforms into a crack. Those are important issues for us, but detection of those are also equally important. Look into what's been done so when you come through with a proposal you have something new to offer.

Q: At some point the PI and team members were supposed to be anonymous. Are they this time?

A: This is a rule that used to allow us to do a semi blind review process. We don't do that anymore so you can name team members, name institutions, name labs or capabilities that you have in your application both at the pre application and full application stage.

Q: My understanding is that when you have a team that includes participation from a national lab, that's looked favorably upon and if you have a team that does not have membership from a national lab that's perhaps viewed as having a disadvantage. Is my perception, right?

A: The short answer is that we encourage faculty to put together the right team for the scope that they're writing, regardless of if it is with national lab partners, if it has an industry partner or something else. What we'd like for you to do from a teaming standpoint is find either the right institutions or the right individuals to provide unique experience or provide unique capability to the project. Those individuals or capabilities may be found at the national labs, but it's not required.

Q: Which type of stainless steel is important to study SCC and repair welding? Is it 304 or 316 or both?

A: It doesn't matter, 316 and 304 are both good. If you go look at some of the existing projects, mostly they are 304. Many of the things we want to do with these containers are already in place and so we are studying them, they're not creating a new material canister at this point, so it's mostly 304.

Q: In the gap report by Teague that was posted for fuel storage, there were different priority numbers. Can you explain what the different priority numbers mean?

A: All of these priorities are of interest to our gap, which means more uncertainty associated with that particular item is what we usually tend to assign higher priorities.