

**Financial Assistance  
Notice of Funding Opportunity  
Part 2**



**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Idaho Operations Office  
Fiscal Year 2025 University Nuclear Research Infrastructure Revitalization  
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003314  
Application due: February 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

This is Part 2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The NOFO Part 2 is intended as a companion document to the NOFO Part 1. The NOFO Part 1 describes the specific DOE programmatic goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components that are specific to each funding opportunity.

Part 2 includes fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO. This document includes standard information for the application phase and describes expectations for award negotiations and post-award requirements for selected applications.

Applicants should review both the NOFO Part 1 and the NOFO Part 2 prior to applying.

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# I. Get Registered

There are several required one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these actions may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time to complete them. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. If you are already registered, make sure your registration is active and up to date. All registrations are free.

## SAM.gov Registration

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You must have an active account with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), the System for Award Management (SAM). This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

- **What is it?** SAM is a federal procurement database. All entities that want to do business with the federal government MUST be registered in SAM.
- Existing SAM registrations must be updated annually.
- **Duration** to complete: can take several weeks.
- **Registration Link:** <https://sam.gov/content/home>
  - **Note:** Subrecipients are not required to obtain an active SAM registration but must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier.
- **HELP:** <https://sam.gov/content/help> Applicants must allow several weeks for the SAM process to complete. All registrations rely on completion of the SAM registration. (START Early)

## Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

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- **What is it?** UEI is a non-proprietary identifier that has replaced the Federal Government use of Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number effective April 4, 2022.
- Applicants must obtain an UEI from the SAM to uniquely identify the entity. The UEI is available in the SAM entity registration record.
  - **Note:** Subawardees/subrecipients at all tiers must also obtain an UEI from the SAM and provide the UEI to the recipient before the subaward can be issued.
- **Duration** to complete: can take several weeks.
- **Registration Link:** <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>
- **HELP:** [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp)

## Grants.gov Registration

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You must have an active [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration to receive automatic updates when modifications to this NOFO are posted. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

- **What is it?** Website used to enable federal grant-making agencies to notify potential applicants of funding opportunities. Please note that letters of intent, concept papers, and applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov (see eXCHANGE information below).
- Step-by step instructions for applicants at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/how-to-apply-for-grants>
- **Duration** to complete: can take several days.
- **Registration Link:** <https://grants.gov>
- **HELP:** <https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/index.htm#t=GetStarted%2FGetStarted.htm>

## NEUP.gov

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Register and create an account at [www.NEUP.gov](http://www.NEUP.gov). Electronic applications and instructions are available at the NEUP.gov website. To access these materials: (1) go to [www.NEUP.gov](http://www.NEUP.gov); (2) select “Sign In” from the top right-hand corner of the screen; (3) enter your user credentials; (4) select “Applications” from the menu; and (5) click on “Create New Application” for the type of application you are creating.

If you have any questions about NEUP site registration, application processes, eligibility, or application document requirements contact the Innovative Nuclear Research (INR) Integration Office at 208-526-4854 or at [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov).

### **DISCLAIMER:**

Applicants are discouraged from submitting information considered proprietary unless it is deemed essential for proper evaluation of the application. If the application contains information that the applicant organization considers to be trade secrets, information that is commercial or financial, or information that is privileged or confidential, the pages containing that information should be identified as specified in the application instructions. When such information is included in the application, it is furnished to the federal government in confidence, with the understanding that the information will be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application.

The information contained in the application will be protected by DOE from unauthorized disclosure, consistent with the need for merit review of applications of financial assistance awards to assure the integrity of the competitive process and the accuracy and completeness of the information. If a federal financial assistance award is made as a result of or in connection with an application, the federal government has the right to use or disclose the information to the extent authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government’s right to use the information if it is obtained without restriction from another source.

## II. Eligibility

Please refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Eligibility](#) for the eligibility criteria specific to your application. This section includes additional information to help applicants understand the standard eligibility requirements across all DOE NOFOs.

### A. Cost Sharing

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This section contains additional information to help applicants understand federal cost sharing requirements. Please refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Eligibility—Cost Sharing](#) for the cost sharing criteria specific to your application.

#### 1. Legal Responsibility

Although the cost share requirement applies to the entire project, including work performed by members of the project team other than the recipient, the recipient is legally responsible for paying the entire cost share. The recipient's cost share obligation is expressed in the Assistance Agreement as a static amount in U.S. dollars (cost share amount) and as a percentage of the Total Project Cost (cost share percentage). If the funding agreement is terminated prior to the end of the project period, the recipient is required to contribute at least the cost share percentage of total expenditures incurred through the date of termination.

The recipient is solely responsible for managing cost share contributions by the project team and enforcing cost share obligation assumed by project team members in subawards or related agreements.

#### 2. Cost Share Allocation

Each project team is free to determine how best to allocate the cost share requirement among the team members. The amount contributed by individual project team members may vary, as long as the cost share requirement for the entire project is met.

#### 3. Cost Share Types and Allowability

Cost share must meet requirements set forth in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.306](#) and [910.130](#), and cost principles set forth in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.400-476](#) and [2 C.F.R. §§ 910.352](#). In addition, cost share must be verifiable upon submission of the full application. Cost share may be provided in the form of cash or cash equivalents, or in-kind contributions. Cost share must come from non-federal sources (unless otherwise allowed by law), such as project participants, state or local governments, or other third-party financing. DOE Loan Guarantees cannot be leveraged by applicants to provide the required cost share or otherwise support the same scope that is proposed under a project.

Cost share may be provided by the recipient, subrecipients, or third parties (entities that do not have a role in performing the scope of work). Vendors/contractors may not provide cost share. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.

Cash contributions include but are not limited to personnel costs, fringe costs, supply and equipment costs, indirect costs, and other direct costs.

In-kind contributions are those where a value of the contribution can be readily determined, verified, and justified but where no actual cash is transacted in securing the good or service comprising the contribution. Allowable in-kind contributions include but are not limited to the donation of volunteer time or the donation of space or use of equipment.

Project teams may use funding or property received from state or local governments to meet the cost share requirement, so long as the federal government did not provide the funding to the state or local government.

Funding or property received from state or local governments may be used to meet the cost share requirement, so long as the federal government did not provide the funding to the state or local government.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, DOE will review the cost share dollars according to the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Grants Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

#### **4. Unallowable Cost Share Sources**

The recipient and subrecipient(s) may not use the following sources to meet cost share obligations:

- Cost share derived from federal sources (unless otherwise authorized by law).
- Cost share that does not meet:
  - Requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.306 and 910.130;
  - Cost principles set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.400-476 and 2 C.F.R. §§ 910.352;
  - For State Energy Programs, refer to 10 C.F.R. §§ 420.
- Cost share derived from the DOE loan program.
- Revenues or royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the project period;
- Proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity;
- Federal funding or property (e.g., federal grants, equipment owned by the federal government);
- Expenditures that were reimbursed under a separate federal program.
- Cash or in-kind contributions used to meet cost share requirements for another federal project or program;
- Existing data as an in-kind contribution (e.g., data owned by an entity, that is not routinely sold commercially but is instead donated to the project and assigned a value);
- In general, deferred or avoided costs such as unrealized tax credits; or
- If applicable, other items as identified by DOE Programs and as specified in the applicable **NOFO Part 1, Eligibility—Cost Sharing**.

Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, the cost share dollars will be scrutinized under the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Grants Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.



## 5. Cost Share Contributions by FFRDCs

Because FFRDCs are funded by the federal government, costs incurred by FFRDCs generally may not be used to meet the cost share requirement. FFRDCs may contribute cost share only if the contributions are paid directly from the contractor’s Management Fee or another non-federal source.

## 6. Cost Share Verification

Applicants are required to provide written assurance of their proposed cost share contributions in their applications. If selected for award negotiations, applicants are required to provide additional information and documentation regarding their cost share contributions. Please refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Eligibility—Cost Sharing](#) for specific requirements.

## 7. Cost Share Calculation Examples

Cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs.

### Example 1, Standard Cost Share Calculation

The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with \$1 million in federal funds with a minimum 20% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

- Formula: Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost  
Example: \$1,000,000 divided by 80% = \$1,250,000
- Formula: Total Project Cost (\$) minus federal share (\$) = Non-federal share (\$)  
Example: \$1,250,000 minus \$1,000,000 = \$250,000
- Formula: Non-federal share (\$) divided by Total Project Cost (\$) = Non-federal share (%)  
Example: \$250,000 divided by \$1,250,000 = 20%

### Example 2, Blended Cost Share Calculation

The following example shows the math for calculating required cost share for a project with \$2 million in federal funds, with four tasks requiring different non-federal cost share percentages:

Task	Proposed Federal Share	Federal Share %	Recipient Share %
Task 1 (R&D)	\$1,000,000	80%	20%
Task 2 (R&D)	\$500,000	80%	20%
Task 3 (Demonstration)	\$400,000	50%	50%
Task 4 (Outreach)	\$100,000	100%	0%

Federal share (\$) divided by federal share (%) = Task Cost

Each task must be calculated individually as follows:

#### Task 1

- \$1,000,000 divided by 80% = \$1,250,000 (Task 1 Cost)
- Task 1 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share
- \$1,250,000 - \$1,000,000 = \$250,000 (non-federal share)

Task 2

- \$500,000 divided 80% = \$625,000 (Task 2 Cost)
- Task 2 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share
- \$625,000 - \$500,000 = \$125,000 (non-federal share)

Task 3

- \$400,000 / 50% = \$800,000 (Task 3 Cost)
- Task 3 Cost minus federal share = non-federal share
- \$800,000 - \$400,000 = \$400,000 (non-federal share)

Task 4

- Federal share = \$100,000
- Non-federal cost share is not mandated for outreach = \$0 (non-federal share)

The calculation may then be completed as follows:

Tasks	\$ Federal Share	% Federal Share	\$ Non-Federal Share	% Non-Federal Share	Total Project Cost
Task 1	\$1,000,000	80%	\$250,000	20%	\$1,250,000
Task 2	\$500,000	80%	\$125,000	20%	\$625,000
Task 3	\$400,000	50%	\$400,000	50%	\$800,000
Task 4	\$100,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$100,000
Totals	\$2,000,000		\$775,000		\$2,775,000

Blended Cost Share %

- Non-federal share (\$775,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 27.9% (non-federal)
- Federal share (\$2,000,000) divided by Total Project Cost (\$2,775,000) = 72.1% (federal)

## B. Other Eligibility Information

Refer to [NOFO Part 1, Eligibility—Eligible Applicants](#) for NOFO-specific eligibility information. The information below is standard for DOE NOFOs.

### 1. Questions Regarding Eligibility

DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to the NOFO Part 1 must be submitted. The decision to apply in response to the NOFO Part 1 lies solely with the applicant.

### 2. Entity of Concern Prohibition

**Prohibition**

DOE is prohibited by law from funding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of \$10 million or more in DOE funds to Entities of Concern. In addition, such entities (including an individual that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with an Entity of Concern) are prohibited from receiving any funds or performing work under any award involving Department activities authorized under Division A or B of Public Law 117-167, subject to

certain penalties. See section 10114 of Public Law 117-167 (42 USC 18912) and section 310 of Public Law 118-42 and other applicable law for additional information.

By submitting an application to this NOFO, the applicant is certifying that neither the applicant nor any of the project participants qualify as Entities of Concern.

### **Definitions**

Entity of Concern is defined as in section 10114 of Public Law 117-167 (42 USC 18912), also known as the CHIPS and Science Act, as any entity, including a national, that is—

(A) identified under section 1237(b) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 105–261);

(B) identified under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note; Public Law 116– 283);

(C) on the Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;

(D) included in the list required by section 9(b)(3) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145; 134 Stat. 656); or

(E) identified by the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the applicable office that would provide, or is providing, covered support, as posing an unmanageable threat—

(i) to the national security of the United States (U.S.); or

(ii) of theft or loss of U.S. intellectual property.

### **3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application Use**

Any use of artificial intelligence in the creation of any part of an application for this NOFO must be appropriately attributed. Even with the use of artificial intelligence, each applicant is responsible for and is representing to the U.S. Government that the information in its application documents is accurate, that the applicant is fully capable of performing the work described in the application, and that the submission of the application does not and will not infringe or violate any rights of any third party or entity.

## III. Program Description

Refer to *NOFO Part 1, Program Description* for all information related to the specific NOFO goals, objectives, and topic areas, if any.

### A. Informational Webinar

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Refer to the *NOFO Part 1, Basic Information—Key Dates* to determine if DOE plans to conduct an informational webinar while the NOFO is open.

If applicable, DOE will conduct an informational webinar during the NOFO process. It will be held after the initial NOFO release but before the due date for concept papers or the application if concept papers are not required.

Attendance is not mandatory and will not positively or negatively impact the overall review of any applicant submissions. The webinar will be open to all potential applicants who wish to participate. Applicants should refrain from asking questions or communicating information that would reveal confidential and/or proprietary information specific to their project.

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## IV. Application Content and Form

This section contains supplemental information to help applicants understand the application content and form requirements outlined in the NOFO including detailed information on the content and naming conventions of the application content. Please refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form](#) section for the application contents and form specific to your application.

Note that some of the required application elements below have separate requirements for Research and Development (R&D) versus non-R&D NOFOs. Refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Application Content Requirements](#) section for specific instructions.

### A. Application Format Summary

All submissions must conform to the form and content requirements described below. Refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form](#) for the page limits.

Format Requirements	
Parameter	Requirement
File Format	Portable Document Format (PDF) unless stated otherwise
Language	English
Paper Size	8.5" x 11"
Margins	Not less than 1" ( $\geq 1$ ") on every side
Font	Calibri typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11-point or larger (except in figures or tables, which may be 10-point font). A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters, but the font size requirement still applies.
References	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.
Tracking ID Number	A tracking ID number will be assigned to the application once an applicant begins the application process and saves the application. Once saved, the tracking ID number will be generated at the bottom of the application. The tracking ID number must be included with all application documents. Specifically, the control number must be prominently displayed on the upper right corner of the header of every page and included in the file name (i.e., <i>Tracking ID Number_Applicant Name_Application</i> ).
Page Numbers	Page numbers must be included in the footer of every page. Each submission must not exceed the specified maximum page limit, including cover page, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs when printed using the formatting requirements set forth above and single spaced.

Page Count Limitations	If applicants exceed the maximum page limitations, DOE will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.
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The following information is intended to address issues typically encountered during the application process. If you have any questions about NEUP.gov site registration, or require technical assistance, contact the Innovative Nuclear Research (INR) Integration Office at [neup@inl.gov](mailto:neup@inl.gov).

Additional Application Information	
<b>Deadlines for Submission</b>	NEUP.gov is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this NOFO. The “Save” and “Submit” buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines.
<b>Submission Difficulties</b>	Applicants who experience technical difficulties with submission PRIOR to the NOFO deadline should contact <a href="mailto:NEUP@inl.gov">NEUP@inl.gov</a> for assistance.
<b>Application Forms</b>	To access application forms and instructions available on NEUP.gov, select the appropriate call under “My Applications.”
<b>Size Limitations</b>	The maximum file size that can be uploaded to NEUP.gov is 100MB. Files larger than 100MB cannot be uploaded and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file is larger than 100MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the NOFO, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example: "TechnicalVolume_Part_1", "TechnicalVolume_Part_2".  DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 100MB.

## B. Application Content Requirements

The *NOFO Part 1, Application Content Requirements* identifies which of the following application documents are required including the program-specific requirements such as the technical volume and specified page limits. Each application must be limited to a single concept and must not exceed the stated page limits.

DOE provides detailed guidance on the content and form of each component below.

### 1. Conflict of Interest (COI) Acknowledgement

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy) can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial-assistance>. This policy is applicable to all non-Federal entities applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant, cooperative agreement, or technology investment agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning on participating in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award. DOE’s interim COI Policy establishes

standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of projects funded wholly or in part under DOE financial assistance awards will be free from bias resulting from financial conflicts of interest or organizational conflicts of interest. The applicant is subject to the requirements of the interim COI Policy and within each application for financial assistance, the applicant must certify that it is or will be by the time of receiving any financial assistance award, compliant with all requirements in the interim COI Policy. The applicant must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities.

The applicant is required to disclose, manage, and report conflicts of interest as per the DOE interim COI Policy. Check the appropriate box on the application form certifying compliance with the COI Policy. If any disclosures need to be made, upload a COI document to the COI disclosure area of the application form.

**Save file as: FY25 COI [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## **2. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424 R&R)**

Applicants must complete the SF-424, R&R form: Application for Federal Assistance, which is available [here](#), and on the application site. The list of certifications and assurances can also be found on the site noted above. Complete all required fields in accordance with the instructions on the form.

Please ensure that the dates (Block 17) and dollar amounts (Block 18) on the SF-424 are for the complete project period and not just the first project year, first phase, or another subset of the project period.

Effective January 1, 2020, the System for Award Management (SAM) is the central repository for common government-wide certifications and representations required of Federal grants recipients. As registration in SAM is required for eligibility for a federal award and registration must be updated annually, Federal agencies use SAM information to comply with award requirements and avoid increased burden and costs of separate requests for such information, unless the recipient fails to meet a federal award requirement, or there is a need to make updates to their SAM registration for other purposes.

**Save file as: FY25 SF424 [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## **3. Research & Related Other Project Information**

Applicants shall complete items 1-6 on the R&R Other Project Information from available at [NEUP.gov](#), and upload a completed PDF copy of the form. Items 7-12 will be completed in the application form and do not need to be completed here.

**Save document as: FY25 R&R Other [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## **4. Project Summary/Abstract File (use provided template on application site)**

The two (2) page project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the applicant name, names of major participants, the project title, the objectives of the project, and a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). Do not

include any proprietary or sensitive business information in this document, because, if an award is made, the Department may make it available to the public. The required template can be found [here](#).

Summary of Public Release Content	
<b>Applicant Name</b>	Provide the legal name of the applicant.
<b>Major Participant Names</b>	List all significant project participants and their roles.
<b>Lead Project Manager / Principal Investigator(s)</b>	Provide names and titles.
<b>Project Title</b>	Provide the title for the planned project.
<b>Project Objectives</b>	Identify the overarching project objectives aligned with requirements set forth in the NOFO.
<b>Project Description</b>	The description must include methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (e.g., benefits, outcomes).
<b>Publicly Releasable (Unlimited Rights)</b>	This document must not include any proprietary or business-sensitive information, as DOE may make it available to the public after selections are made.
<b>Page Limit Clarification</b>	The summary must not exceed the stated page limit when printed, using standard 8.5" x 11" paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 12-point.

Save template as: FY25 Summary Abstract [Tracking ID#].pdf

### 5. Project Summary Slide

The one (1) slide project summary file must contain the following information: a graphical summary to illustrate the proposed consortium activities, a one sentence project summary, list of key project goals and a summary of the project impact. The summary slide should be a self-contained document that also clearly identifies the name of the prime applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, partner and participating institutions, project period, and the budget request and cost-share (if applicable). Do not include any proprietary or sensitive business information in this document, because, if an award is made, the Department may make it available to the public.



Summary Slide Content	
Project Title	Provide the title for the planned project.
Prime Applicant	Provide the legal name of the applicant.
PI/LPM and Key Personnel Information	Provide names and titles.
Requested DOE Funds	Identify Federal funds requested for the project.
Proposed Cost Share	Provide the amount of cost share contribution.
Technology Summary	Describe the technology to be developed.
Technology Impact	Describe the impact of the proposed technology if the project is successful.
Project Goals	Identify the overarching project goals.
Key Graphics	Illustrations, charts and/or tables
Key Idea / Takeaway	Describe the key takeaway that you would like to provide to the DOE.

Save file as: FY25 Summary Slide [Tracking ID#].pdf

## 6. Technical Volume File

Applicant shall provide a written narrative addressing project execution strategy. The technical volume must not exceed twenty-five (25) printed pages, including cover page, table of contents, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, references, other pictorial presentations, and must include all information in the table below, while complying with all document format instructions. The applicant should consider the weighting of each technical review criteria outlined in [NOFO Part 1, Application Review Information, Technical Review Criteria](#) when preparing the Technical Volume.

Applicants must provide sufficient citations and references to the primary research literature to justify the claims and approaches made in the Technical Volume. However, DOE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources.

The Technical Volume should clearly describe and expand upon information provided in the Project Summary/Abstract File.

Technical Narrative Content Requirements	
<b>SECTION/ PAGE LIMIT</b>	25 Page Limit
<b>Cover Page</b>	The cover page should include the project title, the specific NOFO Topic Area being addressed (if applicable), both the technical and business points of contact (including the Administrative Officer, if applicable), names of all team member organizations, names of covered individuals and their organizations, the project location(s), and any statements regarding confidentiality.
<b>Project Overview</b> (Approximately 10% of the Technical Volume)	<p>The Project Overview should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Background:</b> The applicant should discuss the background of its organization, including the history, successes, and current research and development status (i.e., the technical baseline) relevant to the technical topic being addressed in the Full Application.</li> <li>• <b>Project Goal:</b> The applicant should explicitly identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal.</li> <li>• <b>DOE Impact:</b> The applicant should discuss the impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact</b> (Approximately 30% of the Technical Volume)	<p>The Technical Description should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Relevance and Outcomes:</b> The applicant should provide a detailed description of the technology or focus area, including the scientific and other principles and objectives that will be pursued during the project. This section should describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the NOFO, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets or other relevant performance targets. The applicant should clearly specify the expected outcomes of the project.</li> <li>• <b>Feasibility:</b> The applicant should demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed technology and capability of achieving the anticipated performance targets, including a description of previous work done and prior results. This section should also address the project’s access to necessary infrastructure (e.g., transportation, water, electricity transmission), including any use of existing infrastructure, as well as to a skilled workforce.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation and Impacts:</b> The applicant should describe the current state-of-the-art in the applicable field, the specific innovation of the proposed technology or focus area, the advantages of proposed technology over current and emerging technologies, and the overall impact on advancing the state-of-the-art/technical baseline if the project is successful.</li> </ul>
<b>Workplan</b> (Approximately 40% of the	The Workplan includes a summary of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, Project Tasks, and Milestones. The Workplan should contain the following information:

Technical  
 Volume)

- **Project Objectives:** The applicant should provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.
- **Technical Scope Summary:** The applicant should provide a summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the objective(s). The applicant should describe the specific expected end result of each performance period, including milestones.
- **Task Description Summary:** The Workplan should provide a high-level description of tasks, milestones, and deliverables required to accomplish the final project goal(s) with a hierarchy of performance period (approximately annual), task and subtasks. The Workplan shall contain a concise description of the specific tasks to be conducted over the life of the project. The description shall be a full explanation and disclosure of the project being proposed (i.e., a statement such as “we will then complete a proprietary process” is unacceptable).
- **Milestone Summary:** The Workplan should provide a summary of appropriate milestones throughout the project to demonstrate success. A milestone may be either a progress measure (which can be activity based) or a SMART technical milestone. SMART milestones should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely, and must demonstrate a technical achievement rather than simply completing a task. Unless otherwise specified in the NOFO, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one milestone per quarter for the duration of the project with at least one SMART technical milestone per year (depending on the project, more milestones may be necessary to comprehensively demonstrate progress). The applicant should also provide the means by which the milestone will be verified.
- **End of Project Goal:** The Workplan should include a summary of the end of project goal(s). At a minimum, each project must have one SMART end of project goal.
- **Project Schedule (Gantt Chart or similar):** The applicant should provide a schedule for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, and milestones.
- **Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects:** The narrative must, include a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, and/or repair of infrastructure in the U.S. [Build America, Buy America | Department of Energy](#) for applicable definitions and other information to inform this statement.
- **Project Management:** The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan, including the following:
  - The overall approach to and organization for managing the work;
  - The roles of each project team member;
  - Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among project team members;
  - The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach to project risk management, including a plan for securing a qualified workforce and mitigating risks to project performance including but not limited to community or labor disputes;</li> <li>• A description of how project changes will be handled;</li> <li>• If applicable, the approach to Quality Assurance/Control;</li> <li>• How communications will be maintained among project team members.</li> <li>• Market Transformation Plan: The applicant should provide a market transformation plan, including the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of target market, competitors, and distribution channels for proposed technology along with known or perceived barriers to market penetration, including a mitigation plan;</li> <li>• Identification of a product development and/or service plan, commercialization timeline, financing, product marketing, legal/regulatory considerations including intellectual property, infrastructure requirements, data dissemination, and product distribution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Qualifications and Resources</b> (Approximately 20% of the Technical Volume)</p>	<p>The Technical Qualifications and Resources should contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the project team’s unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key subrecipients;</li> <li>• A description of the project team’s existing equipment and facilities, or equipment or facilities already in place on the proposed project site, that will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed project; include a justification of any new equipment or facilities requested as part of the project;</li> <li>• Relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives;</li> <li>• The time commitment of the key team members to support the project;</li> <li>• A description of the technical services to be provided by DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, if applicable;</li> <li>• The skills, certifications, or other credentials of the construction and ongoing operations workforce;</li> <li>• For multi-organizational projects, describe succinctly:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roles and the work to be performed by the project covered individuals at the prime and sub levels;</li> <li>• Business agreements between the applicant and sub;</li> <li>• How the various efforts will be integrated and managed;</li> <li>• Process for making decisions on technical direction;</li> <li>• Publication arrangements;</li> <li>• Intellectual property issues; and</li> <li>• Communication plans.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Save file as: FY25 Technical Volume [Tracking ID#].pdf

## 7. Resumes for Research and Development (R&D) NOFOs

A resume provides information reviewers can use to evaluate an individual’s skills, experience, and potential for leadership within the scientific community. Applicants must submit a resume or biographical sketch (see description below the table) for each Principal Investigator or Lead Project Manager, Senior/Key Personnel, and all covered individuals as defined in the *NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements, Covered Individual Definition, Designation and Responsibility*.

DOE reserves the right to not proceed with merit reviews for incomplete applications. Applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails.

Resumes must include the following information, at a minimum:

Resume Requirements (Research & Development Activities)	
Contact Information	Phone, email, and address
Education & Training	Provide name of institution, major/area, degree, and year for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral training
Research & Professional Experience	Beginning with the current position, list professional/academic positions in chronological order with a brief description. List all current academic, professional, or institutional appointments, foreign or domestic, at the applicant institution or elsewhere, whether remuneration is received, and, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary
Awards & Honors	List any notable awards and honors received
Publications	List of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically. Patents, copyrights, and software systems developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications. An abbreviated style such as the Physical Review Letters (PRL) convention for citations (list only the first author) may be used for publications with more than 10 authors
Synergistic Activities	List up to five professional and scholarly activities related to the proposed effort;
Additional Criteria	There should be no lapses in time over the past 10 years or since age 18, whichever period is shorter.

As an alternative to a resume, it is acceptable to use the biographical sketch format approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The biographical sketch format may be generated by the Science Experts Network Curriculum Vita (SciENCv), a cooperative venture maintained at [SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae \(nih.gov\)](http://SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (nih.gov)) also available at [Common Form for Biographical Sketch \(nsf.gov\)](http://Common Form for Biographical Sketch (nsf.gov)). The use of a format required by another agency is intended to reduce the administrative burden to researchers by promoting the use of common formats.

Save Individual Resumes as: FY25 CV [Last Name] [Tracking ID#].pdf

### 8. Senior/Key Personnel (Covered Individual)

Technical expertise and qualifications are to be provided for individual participants, whether the participant is receiving funding or not (including consultants or national laboratory personnel). All participants making a defined, material contribution that is critical to the success of the project must be listed as collaborators on the application. Applicants must have the full consent of all collaborators prior to submitting the application.

### 9. Other Collaborators and Personnel

All other partners (and/or their recipient institutions) **not receiving** any funding over the life of the cooperative agreement should be listed (including all international collaborators). If international partners are providing funding, please indicate the amount in US currency.

### 10. Current and Pending Support

Current and pending support is intended to allow the identification of potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support. As part of the application, the Principal Investigator or Lead Project Manager and all covered individuals as defined in the *NOFO Part 1, Application Content Requirements—Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility* at the applicant and subrecipient level must provide a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether paid or unpaid; provided as a gift with terms or conditions or provided as a gift without terms or conditions; full-time, part-time, or voluntary; faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary; cash or in-kind; foreign or domestic; governmental or private-sector; directly supporting the individual’s research or indirectly supporting the individual by supporting students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses. All connections with [malign foreign talent recruitment programs](#) must be identified in current and pending support.

Information Required for Each Activity	
<b>Sponsor of the Activity</b>	The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding.
<b>Award Number</b>	The federal award number or any other identifying number.
<b>Award Title</b>	If the title of the award or activity is not descriptive, add a brief description of the research being performed that would identify any overlaps or synergies with the proposed research
<b>Total Cost or Value</b>	The total cost or value of the award or activity, including direct and indirect costs and cost share. For pending proposals, provide the total amount of requested funding
<b>Award Period</b>	The "Start Date" through "End Date".
<b>Person-months</b>	The person-months of effort per year dedicated to the award or activity
<b>Description</b>	To identify overlap, duplication of effort, or synergistic efforts, append a description of the other award or activity to the current and pending support.

<p><b>Digital Persistent Identifier (e.g., ORCID iD)</b></p>	<p>For R&amp;D NOFOs only, provide an <a href="#">ORCID ID</a> (optional until May 2025, and required thereafter).</p>
<p><b>Certification Statement</b></p>	<p>Covered individuals must provide a separate certification statement listing the required information above regarding current and pending support. Each individual must sign and date their respective certification statement:</p> <p><i>I, [Full Name and Title], understand that I have been designated as a covered individual by the Federal funding agency.</i></p> <p><i>I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Current and Pending Support Disclosure Statement is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, misrepresentations, half-truths, or omissions of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812). I further understand and agree that (1) the statements and representations made herein are material to DOE’s funding decision, and (2) I have a responsibility to update the disclosures during the period of performance of the award should circumstances change which impact the responses provided above.</i></p> <p><i>I also certify that, at the time of submission, I am not a party in a <a href="#">maligant foreign talent recruitment program</a>.</i></p> <p><b>The following CPS certification is optional until May 1, 2025, and mandatory thereafter:</b></p> <p><i>I further certify that within the past 12 months I have completed one of the following: (1) research security training meeting the guidelines in SEC. 10634(b) of 42 USC 19234, or (2) all of the NSF training modules located <a href="https://new.nsf.gov/research-security/training">https://new.nsf.gov/research-security/training</a>.</i></p>
<p><b>Foreign Government Sponsorship</b></p>	<p>Details of any obligations, contractual or otherwise, to any program, entity, or organization sponsored by a foreign government must be provided on request to either the applicant institution or DOE. Supporting documents of any identified source of support must be provided to DOE on request, including certified translations of any document.</p>

The information may be provided in the approved common disclosure format available at [Common Form for Current and Pending \(Other\) Support \(nsf.gov\)](#). Regardless of the format used, the individual must include a signature, date, and a certification statement using the language included in the table above.

Current and Pending Support Disclosures must be submitted for all covered individuals, include the exact certification statement provided above, and must be signed and dated in order to be considered. DOE reserves the right to not proceed with application merit reviews for incomplete applications.

**Definitions:**

**Current and pending support –**

- A) All resources made available, or expected to be made available, to an individual in support of the individual's RD&D efforts, regardless of
  - i. whether the source is foreign or domestic;
  - ii. whether the resource is made available through the entity applying for an award or directly to the individual; or
  - iii. whether the resource has monetary value; and
- B) includes in-kind contributions requiring a commitment of time and directly supporting the individual's RD&D efforts, such as the provision of office or laboratory space, equipment, supplies, employees, or students.

This term has the same meaning as the term "Other Support" as applied to researchers in NSPM-33: For researchers, Other Support includes all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their professional RD&D efforts, including resources provided directly to the individual or through the organization, and regardless of whether or not they have monetary value (e.g., even if the support received is only in-kind, such as office/laboratory space, equipment, supplies, or employees). This includes resource and/or financial support from all foreign and domestic entities, including but not limited to gifts provided with terms or conditions, financial support for laboratory personnel, and participation of student and visiting researchers supported by other sources of funding.

**Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program as defined in P.L. 117-167, Section 10638(4):**

- A) any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual—
  - i. engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a U.S. entity or developed with a federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;
  - ii. being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;
  - iii. establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or



- affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a federal research and development award;
- iv. being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
- v. through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a federal research and development award;
- vi. being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;
- vii. being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award;
- viii. being required to not disclose to the federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or
- ix. having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award; and

(B) a program that is sponsored by—

- i. a foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;
- ii. an academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232); or
- iii. a foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; 1 Public Law 115–232).

More information can be found at [OSTP-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Guidelines.pdf](#) ([whitehouse.gov](#)).

Save file as: FY25 CPS [Tracking ID#].pdf

## 11. Digital Persistent Identifier (PID)

For all Research and Development (R&D) NOFOs, individuals that are required to submit Biographical Sketch and/or Current and Pending (Other) Support disclosures must provide a digital persistent identifier (PID) in such disclosures as part of the application. Included PIDs must meet the common/core standards specified in the [NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance](#) or successor guidance (e.g., an [ORCID iD](#)). The inclusion of an individual's PID will be optional until May 1, 2025, and mandatory thereafter.

Include this information for each covered individual with the [Current and Pending Support](#) submission as described above and in the *NOFO Part 1, Application Content Requirements—Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility*.

## 12. Research Security Training Requirement

The research security training requirement described here is optional until May 1, 2025, and mandatory thereafter for R&D awards. Covered individuals listed on applications under the NOFO Part 1 are required to certify that they have taken research security training consistent with Section 10634 of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. In addition, applicants who receive an award must maintain sufficient records (records must be retained for the time period noted in [2 CFR 200.334](#) and made available to DOE upon request) of their compliance with this requirement for covered individuals at the applicant/recipient organization and they must extend this requirement to any and all subrecipients. To fulfill this requirement, an applicant may utilize the four one-hour training modules developed by the National Science Foundation at <https://new.nsf.gov/research-security/training> or develop and implement their own research security training program aligned with the requirements in Section 10634(b) of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. The submission of an application to this NOFO constitutes the applicant's acceptance of this requirement.

Include this information for each covered individual with the [Current and Pending Support](#) submission as described above and in the *NOFO Part 1, Application Content Requirements–Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility*.

## 13. Benefit of Collaboration

The applicant shall provide a narrative that includes an explanation of the contribution that will be made by the collaborating organizations and/or facilities to be utilized. Please indicate within this section whether the application has benefit or influence on other ongoing or proposed NE R&D projects (e.g., modeling and simulation in one application and effect validation in a separate application).

This document is required unless the application only has a single principal investigator.

Pages outside the specified page limits and font size, including references, will be redacted and unavailable for evaluators to review.

Page limit: 4 pages

Save file as: **FY25 BOC [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 14. Required Infrastructure Capabilities

Provide information on the following, as applicable:

- **Infrastructure Requirements:** The applicant shall identify the infrastructure (e.g., facilities, equipment, instrumentation, and other resources) required to execute the proposed scope of work, including applicant's location, availability, capabilities, and how they will be used in the project. Describe the non-labor (e.g., facilities, equipment, and instrumentation) resources that are available and accessible to the applicant and are required to execute the scope of work. Describe any unique equipment and facilities that are needed, are accessible, and will be used to execute the scope of work. Discuss the adequacy of these resources and identify any gaps and how these will be addressed.
- Adequate financial resources (if cost sharing).
- Ability to comply with the required or proposed performance schedule, taking into consideration all existing commercial and governmental business commitments.

- A satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics.
- Necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, or the ability to obtain them (including, as appropriate, such elements as property control systems, quality assurance measures, and safety programs).

This Infrastructure Revitalization NOFO allows the applicant to propose the purchase of any needed equipment to conduct the proposed work. If equipment purchases are proposed, describe comparable equipment, if any, already at the institution and explain why it cannot be used. Pages outside the specified page limits and font size, including references, will be redacted and unavailable for evaluators to review.

Pages outside the specified page limits and font size, including references, will be redacted and unavailable for evaluators to review.

Page limit: 5 pages

**Save file as: FY25 Capabilities [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## **15. Letters of Commitment and Support**

Submit letters of commitment from all subrecipients.

In addition, submit letters of commitment from all third-party cost share providers. The letter must state that the third party is committed to providing a specific minimum dollar amount of cost sharing. Submitting signed letters with the application provides assurance that the commitments have been agreed upon. Each third party contributing to cost sharing must submit a separate letter which identifies: (1) the name of the organization; (2) the proposed dollar amount to be provided; (3) the amount as a percentage of the total project cost; and (4) the proposed cost sharing - cash, services, or property.

Letters of support or endorsement for the project from entities that do not have a substantive role in the project will not be accepted.

Each letter must not exceed one page.

**Save file as: FY25 Letters [Organization] [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## **16. Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation (if applicable)**

For any application that potentially impacts Indian Tribes or is on Tribal land<sup>1</sup> including when the potentially impacted Indian Tribe is the applicant, applicants are required to submit additional documentation at the time of application, and possibly during negotiation and prior to award. Potential impacts determined after application will also require additional documentation.

For any project that potentially impacts Indian Tribes, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating that an authorized representative of each potentially impacted Indian Tribe is, at a minimum, aware of the nature of the application and its potential impacts to the relevant Indian Tribes.

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<sup>1</sup> Tribal land is as defined in 25 U.S.C. §§ 3501(2), (3), (4)(A) and (13).

The notified authorized representative<sup>2</sup> must be holding their position while the award is open for applications, and documentation must demonstrate affirmative awareness of the application (e.g. a delivery record from certified mail, a reply by the authorized representative).

For any project intended to be sited on Tribal land(s) or known by the applicant to intersect with Tribal subsurface rights, applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating support from the relevant Indian Tribes at the time of application. Documentation of support submitted at the time of application will also be considered.

Helpful Resources	
Item	Criteria
Letter of Support from Tribal Leadership	The letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the Indian Tribe. The signer(s) must be holding their position while the award is open for applications or negotiations.
Tribal Council Resolution, Board resolution (including the Board of Directors of an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC)), or similar act passed by the legislative body of the Tribal government or Board of Directors of an ANC	Must express support for the project.

For projects not intended to be sited on Tribal land(s) or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights, but that are known by the applicant to have potential impacts on Tribal resources or reserved rights, letters of support or resolutions of support are strongly encouraged and, depending on the nature of the impact, may be required if selected for negotiation of an agreement. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Indian Tribes as early as possible in the application process to give Indian Tribes ample time to evaluate and respond.

The following resources may be useful to help determine if a project may impact an Indian Tribe(s) resources or reserved rights and the appropriate contacts. These resources are not exhaustive, and many Indian Tribes have resources or reserved rights which extend beyond their Tribal lands, or are covered within treaties, statutes, or case-law. Applicants are encouraged to do additional research:

Helpful Resources	
Item	Location

<sup>2</sup> An authorized representative must be an elected official or designated leader according to the traditions, constitution, or charter of the Indian Tribe, or someone with relevant delegated authority within the Tribal government. Examples include: Chief, Chairman, Chairwoman, Governor, Nation Representative, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Speaker of the Council, Speaker of the Congress, Tribal administrator.

Map of Indian Lands	<a href="https://bia-geospatial-internal.geoplatform.gov/indianlands/">https://bia-geospatial-internal.geoplatform.gov/indianlands/</a>
Tribal Treaties Database	<a href="https://treaties.okstate.edu/">https://treaties.okstate.edu/</a>
Directory of federally recognized Tribes and Tribal leaders	<a href="https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory">https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory</a>
Best Practices for Identifying and Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights, Reserved Rights, and other similar rights in federal regulatory actions	<a href="https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/inline-files/best_practices_guide.pdf">https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/inline-files/best_practices_guide.pdf</a>

Applicants are required to document any efforts taken to identify any potential impacts and proposed mitigation of these impact to Indian Tribes, Indian lands, Alaska Native regional and village land, traditional homelands, Tribal rights, or Tribal historic sites, or sacred sites. This includes any correspondence with Indian Tribes. These documents should be available on request to DOE. An applicant’s failure to submit documentation of an Indian Tribe’s awareness, or a letter of support, when required as described above, may constitute grounds for determining an application ineligible, non-responsive to the NOFO, not subject to further review, and/or not otherwise subject to selection or award.

Any application that may potentially impact Indian Tribe(s) may be shared with the potentially impacted Indian Tribe(s). Applicants should include a Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data identifying any business sensitive, trade secrets, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information.

Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application or to determine whether the proposed project affects an Indian Tribe(s). If an applicant determines an Indian Tribe(s) will be impacted, the applicant must provide information on the project location, potential impacts and how the applicant will engage with Indian Tribe(s), during the period of performance of the agreement, and, if necessary, after the end of the agreement. If the applicant proposes any activities that could impact Tribal resources or reserved rights, including but not limited to lands, cultural sites, sacred sites, water rights, mineral rights, fishing rights, and hunting rights, they must notify DOE as outlined below in the application submission requirements. DOE will determine if formal government-to-government consultation is needed, and DOE will conduct that consultation accordingly, in addition to any engagement by applicant.

**Save file as: FY25 Impacted Indian Tribes [Tracking ID#].pdf**

### **17. Research and Related (R&R) Lead Budget Form**

Applicants must provide a separate budget for each year of support requested and a cumulative budget for the total project period of performance. Use the SF 424 Research and Related (R&R) 5-Year Budget from found [here](#), and also on the application site.

You may request funds under any of the Object Class Categories as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this NOFO.

Save file as: FY25 SF424RR [Tracking ID#].xlsx

## 18. Budget Justification

Applicants are required to provide a detailed budget justification for the project as a whole, including all work to be performed by the Applicant and its Subrecipients and Contractors, and provide all requested documentation (e.g., a Federally-approved rate agreement, contractor quotes). Applicants should include costs associated with the Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure projects, required annual audits and incurred cost proposals in their proposed budget documents. Such costs may be reimbursed as direct or indirect costs.

Since a minimum of 50% of the budget must go to equipment and upgrades (e.g., physical infrastructure/equipment), the budget justification must clearly show this breakdown. No indirect costs may be charged against this portion of the award. Vendor costs for development, installation, initial testing, or building modifications that immediately support the installation and operation of the equipment/upgrade may be included in this 50% calculation.

**Foreign travel must be included in the budget justification request. Any foreign travel not added to the budget justification will not be approved upon issuance of the grant.**

If cost sharing is voluntarily proposed, provide an explanation of the source, nature, amount, and availability of any proposed cost sharing.

[Budget Justification Supporting Documentation](#) is available at [NEUP.gov](https://www.neup.gov) for use and to describe the level of detail required in the budget justification.

DOE understands that projects selected under this NOFO may require the use of existing data. For purposes of this NOFO, DOE will consider data that is commercially available at an established price to be an allowable cost under the project (either as DOE share or non-federal cost share) but DOE will not consider in-kind data (e.g., data, owned by an entity, that is not routinely sold commercially but is instead donated to the project and assigned a value) to be an allowable cost under the project, including as Recipient cost share. Estimation methods used by the Recipient to assign a value to in-kind data cannot be objectively verified by DOE and therefore will not be accepted by DOE as an allowable cost under any project selected from this NOFO. Consequently, DOE will not recognize in-kind data costs in any resulting approved DOE budget.

Save file as: FY25 RR Budget [Tracking ID#].xlsx

## 19. Vendor Quotes

Submit vendor quotes, referenced costs (e.g., catalog pricing), or other basis for estimate for any single item over \$10,000. This is required even though the proposer may intend to submit the contract for open bids following award. Save vendor quotes in one single file.

**Save file as: FY25 Vendor Quotes [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 20. Subrecipient Budget Form

Budgets for subrecipients, other than DOE FFRDC Contractors. Applicant must provide a separate cumulative [SF-424 RR](#) budget for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$500,000 or 25% of the total work effort (whichever is less). A maximum of 20% of an award can go to industry and national laboratories. Any number of universities may team together on the proposal and share the funding at their discretion. Cost sharing is encouraged but not required.

**Note:** You may add the name or acronym to the file name to distinguish between institutions (up to 10 letters). Example: "Michigan" or "UM" or Mich".

**Save file as: FY25 Subrecipient Budget [Tracking ID#].xlsx**

## 21. Subrecipient Budget Justification

Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$500,000 or 25% of the total work effort, whichever is less. The budget justification must include the same justification information described above.

**Note:** You may add the name or acronym to the file name to distinguish between institutions (up to 10 letters). Example: "Michigan" or "UM" or Mich".

**Save file as: FY25 Subrecipient Budget Justification [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 22. Work Proposal for DOE FFRDC

If a DOE FFRDC is to perform a portion of the work, the applicant must provide a DOE work proposal (WP) in accordance with the requirements in DOE Order 412.1A, Work Authorization System, available at: <https://www.directives.doe.gov/directives-documents/400-series/0412.1-BOrder-a-chg1-AdmChg>.

**Save file as: FY25 FFRDC [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 23. Authorization for Non-DOE or DOE FFRDCs (if applicable)

If an FFRDC is to perform a portion of the work, the federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project. This authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with the contractor's authority under its award.

**Save file as: FY25 CO Authorization [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 24. Coordination and Management Plan

Multiple PIs (multiple individuals i.e., Lead PI, Co-PI, etc.): The applicant, whether a single organization or team/partnership/consortium, must state whether the project will include

multiple PIs. This decision is solely the responsibility of the applicant. If multiple PIs will be designated, the application must identify the Contact PI/Project Coordinator and provide a “Coordination and Management Plan” that describes the organization structure of the project as it pertains to the designation of multiple PIs. This plan should, at a minimum, include:

- Process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction;
- Publications;
- Intellectual property issues;
- Communication plans;
- Procedures for resolving conflicts; and
- PIs' roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project.

**Save file as: FY25 CMP [Tracking ID#].pdf**

## 25. Lobbying Activities

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters. See also [Lobbying](#) in the Funding Restrictions section below.

### a. All recipients and subrecipients that have lobbying activities to disclose:

Complete and submit the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) available at: [https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL\\_2\\_0-V2.0.pdf](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL_2_0-V2.0.pdf) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

### b. Recipients and subrecipients that have no lobbying activities to disclose:

Complete and submit, Certification Regarding Lobbying form (OMB 4040-0013) available at: [https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/GG\\_LobbyingForm-V1.1.1.pdf](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/GG_LobbyingForm-V1.1.1.pdf)

**Save file as: FY25 SF-LLL [Tracking ID#].pdf**



## 26. Transparency of Foreign Connections

Applicants must provide the following information as it relates to the proposed recipient and subrecipient(s). Include a separate disclosure for the applicant and each proposed subrecipient.

Disclosure exceptions by entity type:

- U.S. National Laboratories and domestic government entities are not required to respond to the Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosure.
- Institutions of higher education are only required to respond to items with an asterisk symbol (\*).

Applicants, regardless of entity type, must provide complete responses for project team members that are not U.S. National Laboratories, domestic government entities, or institutions of higher education.

Disclosure Information	
<b>*Entity Name</b>	Complete legal name of the lead organization.
<b>*Website Address</b>	Link to the entity's website address.
<b>*Mailing Address</b>	Complete mailing address for the entity to include zip code.
<b>*Project Participants Party to ANY Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program</b>	The identity of all owners, principal investigators, project managers, and covered individuals who are a party to any <a href="#">Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program</a> . As part of this requirement, the entity must also certify that each covered individual has been made aware of the Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program prohibition and complied with the certification requirement via the Current and Pending Support disclosure;
<b>Country of Risk Joint Venture or Subsidiary</b>	The existence of any joint venture or subsidiary that is based in, funded by, or has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of risk (i.e., the People's Republic of China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia);
<b>Current or Pending Foreign Contractual or Financial Obligation</b>	Any current or pending contractual or financial obligation or other agreement specific to a business arrangement, or joint venture-like arrangement with an enterprise owned by a foreign state or any foreign entity;
<b>Percentage Foreign Ownership or Control</b>	Percentage, if any, that the proposed recipient or subrecipient has foreign ownership or control;
<b>Percentage Country of Risk Ownership</b>	Percentage, if any, that the proposed recipient or subrecipient is wholly or partially owned, directly or indirectly, by an entity incorporated or otherwise formed in a foreign country of risk or foreign state-owned entity;
<b>Percentage Country of Risk Investment</b>	Percentage, if any, of venture capital or institutional investment by an entity that has a general partner or individual holding a leadership role in such entity who has a foreign affiliation with any foreign country of risk;
<b>*Country of Risk Technology Licensing of Intellectual Property Sales</b>	Any technology licensing, transfer, or intellectual property sales to a foreign country of risk, in effect during the 5-year period preceding submission of the proposal within the same technology area as the

Disclosure Information	
	application (e.g., batteries, biotechnology, grid, energy generation and storage, advanced computing);
<b>*Foreign Equipment</b>	Any of the following foreign equipment proposed for use on the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Unmanned aircraft, control, and communications components originally made or manufactured in a foreign country of risk (including relabeled or rebranded equipment).</li> <li>ii. Coded equipment where the source code is written in a foreign country of risk.</li> <li>iii. Equipment from a foreign country of risk that will be connected to the internet or other remote communication system.</li> <li>iv. Any entity from a foreign country of risk that will have physical or remote access to any part of the equipment used on the project after delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>Foreign Entity Relationships</b>	Any foreign business entity, offshore entity, or entity outside the U.S. related to the proposed recipient or subrecipient;
<b>List of Company Directors (and Board Observers)</b>	Complete list of all directors (and board observers), including their full name, citizenship and shareholder affiliation, date of appointment, duration of term, as well as a description of observer rights as applicable;
<b>Complete Capitalization Table</b>	Complete capitalization table for your entity, including all equity interests (including LLC and partnership interests, as well as derivative securities). Include both the number of shares issued to each equity holder, as well as the percentage of that series and all equity on a fully diluted basis. Identify the principal place of incorporation (or organization) for each equity holder. If the equity holder is a natural person, identify the citizenship(s). If the recipient or subrecipient is a publicly traded company, provide the above information for shareholders with an interest greater than 5%;
<b>Principal Place of Incorporation</b>	Identify the principal place of incorporation (or organization) for each equity holder. If the equity holder is a natural person, identify the citizenship(s). If the recipient or subrecipient is a publicly traded company, provide the above information for shareholders with an interest greater than 5%;
<b>Rounds of Financing Table</b>	A summary table identifying all rounds of financing, the purchase dates, the investors for each round, and all the associated governance and information rights obtained by investors during each round of financing; and
<b>Organization Chart</b>	An organization chart to illustrate the relationship between your entity and the immediate parent, ultimate parent, and any intermediate parent, as well as any subsidiary or affiliates. Identify where each entity is incorporated.

DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information based on the information submitted.

Save file as: FY25 TFC [Tracking ID#].pdf

## 27. Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice

If the applicant or project team member has other active awards of federal funds, the applicant must determine whether the activities of those awards potentially overlap with the activities set forth in its application to this NOFO. If there is a potential overlap, the applicant must notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state how it will ensure any project funds (i.e., recipient cost share and federal funds) will not be used for identical cost items under multiple awards.

Likewise, for projects that receive funding under this NOFO, if a recipient or project team member receives any other award of federal funds for activities that potentially overlap with the activities funded under the DOE award, the recipient must promptly notify DOE in writing of the potential overlap and state whether project funds from any of those other federal awards have been, are being, or are to be used (in whole or in part) for one or more of the identical cost items under the DOE award. If there are identical cost items, the recipient must promptly notify the DOE Grants Officer in writing of the potential duplication and eliminate any inappropriate duplication of funding.

Save file as: FY25 PDFN [Tracking ID#].pdf

## 28. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Indicate lead and collaborating site(s) where R&D work will be performed. Note the Project/Performance Site Congressional District is entered in the format of the 2-digit state code, followed by the 3-digit Congressional district code (e.g., AA-001).

Save file as: FY25 Site Location [Tracking ID#].pdf

## D. Funding Restrictions

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### 1. Allowable Costs

All expenditures must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. Pursuant to 2 CFR 910.352, the cost principles in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR 31.2) apply to for-profit entities. The cost principles contained in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E apply to all entities other than for-profits.

### 2. Pre-Award Costs

Applicants selected for award negotiations (selectees) must request prior written approval to charge pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work.

Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and only with the written approval of the federal awarding agency, through the DOE Grants Officer.

Pre-award costs cannot be incurred prior to the Selection Official signing the Selection Statement and

Analysis.

Pre-award expenditures are made at the selectee's risk. DOE is not obligated to reimburse costs: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the selectee anticipated.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements Related to Pre-Award Costs**

DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this NOFO is subject to NEPA. Applicants should carefully consider and should seek legal counsel or other expert advice before taking any action related to the proposed project that would have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE completing the NEPA review process.

DOE does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse pre-award costs incurred prior to receiving written authorization from the Grants Officer. If the applicant elects to undertake activities that DOE determines may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Grants Officer, the applicant is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding for its project and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share. Nothing contained in the pre-award cost reimbursement regulations or any pre-award costs approval letter from the Grants Officer overrides the requirement to obtain the written authorization from the Grants Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Likewise, if an application is selected for negotiation of award, and the recipient elects to undertake activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the Grants Officer in advance of DOE completing a NEPA review, the recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

## **3. Performance of Work in the U.S. Requirement**

All work performed under awards issued under this NOFO must be performed in the U.S. The recipient must flow down this requirement to its subrecipients.

### **Failure to Comply**

If the recipient fails to comply with the Performance of Work in the U.S. requirement, DOE may deny reimbursement for the work conducted outside the U.S. and such costs may not be recognized as allowable recipient cost share. The recipient is responsible should any work under this award be performed outside the U.S., absent a waiver, regardless of whether the work is performed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors or other project partners.

## **4. Foreign Travel**

Please refer to *NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Funding Restrictions* to see if foreign travel costs are allowable or not.

If allowable per NOFO Part 1 and if international travel is proposed for your project:

- Your organization must comply with the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. § 40118), commonly referred to as the "Fly America Act," and implementing regulations at 41 CFR 301-10.131 through 301-10.143. The law and regulations require air transport of people or property to, from, between, or within a country other than the U.S., the cost of which is supported under this award, to be performed by or under a cost-sharing arrangement with a U.S. flag carrier, if service is available.

- Foreign travel costs are allowable only with the written approval of the Grants Officer assigned to the award prior to any incurred costs.

## 5. Lobbying

Recipients and subrecipients may not use any federal funds to influence or attempt to influence, directly or indirectly, congressional action on any legislative or appropriation matters.

Recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” ([grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-individual-family](https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-individual-family)) to ensure that non-federal funds have not been paid and will not be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the following in connection with the application:

- An officer or employee of any federal agency;
- A Member of Congress;
- An officer or employee of Congress; or
- An employee of a Member of Congress.

## 6. Equipment and Supplies

All equipment and products purchased with funds made available under this NOFO should be American-made, to the greatest extent practicable. This requirement does not apply to used or leased equipment. This requirement does not supersede any other statutory requirement in the NOFO (e.g., [Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects](#)).

## 7. Davis-Bacon Act Requirements

Refer to *NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Funding Restrictions* to determine if the Davis-Bacon Act requirements are applicable (if “Davis-Bacon Act Requirements” is not listed in the *Applicable Funding Restrictions* table, it is not required).

For projects awarded under NOFOs that will be funded under Division D of BIL, per Section 41101 of that law, all laborers and mechanics employed by the recipient, subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work funded in whole or in part under the applicable NOFO Part 1 shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, U.S. Code commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA).

Applicants shall provide written assurance acknowledging the DBA requirements above, confirming that the laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work on projects funded in whole or in part by awards made as a result of this NOFO are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, U.S. Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

Applicants acknowledge that they will comply with all the Davis-Bacon Act requirements, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring that the wage determination(s) and appropriate Davis-Bacon clauses and requirements are flowed down to and incorporated into any applicable subrecipient or contract awards;
- Ensuring that if wage determination(s) and appropriate Davis-Bacon clauses and requirements are improperly omitted from subrecipient or contract awards, the applicable wage determination(s) and clauses are retroactively incorporated to the start of performance;

- Being responsible for compliance by any subrecipient or contractor with the Davis-Bacon labor standards;
- Receiving and reviewing certified weekly payrolls submitted by all subrecipients or contractors for accuracy and to identify potential compliance issues;
- Maintaining original certified weekly payrolls for three years after the completion of the project and making those payrolls available to DOE or the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) upon request, as required by 29 CFR 5.6(a)(2);
- Conducting payroll and job-site reviews for construction work, including interviews with employees, with such frequency as may be necessary to assure compliance by its subrecipients or contractors and as requested or directed by DOE;
- Cooperating with any authorized representative of DOL in its inspection of records, interviews with employees, and other actions undertaken as part of a DOL investigation;
- Posting in a prominent and accessible place the wage determination(s) and DOL Publication: WH-1321, Notice to Employees Working on Federal or Federally Assisted Construction Projects;
- Notifying the Grants Officer of all labor standards issues, including all complaints regarding incorrect payment of prevailing wages and/or fringe benefits, received from recipient, subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor employees; significant labor standards violations, as defined in 29 CFR 5.7; disputes concerning labor standards pursuant to 29 CFR Parts 4, 6, and 8 and as defined in FAR 52.222-14; disputed labor standards determinations; DOL investigations; or legal or judicial proceedings related to the labor standards under this award, subrecipient award, contract or subcontract; and
- Preparing and submitting to the Grants Officer, the Office of Management and Budget Control Number 1910-5165, Davis Bacon Semi-Annual Labor Compliance Report, by April 21 and October 21 of each year.

Recipients will also be required to undergo Davis-Bacon Act compliance training and maintain competency in Davis-Bacon Act compliance. The Grants Officer will notify the recipient of any DOE-sponsored Davis-Bacon Act compliance trainings. DOL offers free Prevailing Wage Seminars several times a year that meet this requirement, at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction/seminars/events>.

For additional guidance on how to comply with the Davis-Bacon provisions and clauses, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

Recipients must ensure the timely submission of weekly certified payrolls as part of its compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act.

DOE has contracted with [LCPtracker](#), a third-party DBA electronic payroll compliance software application, and recipients use of LCPtracker is mandatory absent a grant of a waiver. A waiver for the use of LCPtracker may be granted to a particular recipient if they are unable or limited in their ability to use or access the system. LCPtracker allows for certified payroll reports and workforce data to be uploaded electronically, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and currently partners with several commercially available payroll systems. If a recipient uses a different payroll system, LCPtracker provides a free, spreadsheet template they can use to map out their payroll file, which would allow them to upload their employee and payroll data into the system. LCPtracker validation system checks payrolls for federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements by flagging mathematical errors or omission

discrepancies for the recipient to review on a report. Examples include base hourly rate, total hourly rate, overtime, double time, apprentice approval, and fringe benefit contributions.

Additionally, LCPtracker utilizes industry standard eSignature technology, thus allowing recipients to electronically sign payroll reports versus using a wet signature. Individual program offices will coordinate with recipients on access and training.

For more information, visit [Davis-Bacon Act Requirements for Recipients of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding](#).

## V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Please refer to the [NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements](#) for all submission requirements and instructions including the content and form for each submission and deadlines.

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# VI. Application Review Information

Please refer to the *NOFO Part 1, Application Review Information—Review Criteria* for specific compliance and technical criteria. The following describes the DOE evaluation and selection process that is applicable to all NOFOs.

## A. Standard Evaluation and Selection Processes

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### 1. Overview

The evaluation process consists of multiple phases; each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews of eligible submissions are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the NOFO. Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors and risk reviews, in determining which applications to select.

### 2. Pre-Selection Clarification

DOE may determine that pre-selection clarifications are necessary from one or more applicants. These pre-selection clarifications will solely be for the purposes of clarifying the application. The pre-selection clarifications may occur before, during or after the merit review evaluation process. Information provided by an applicant that is not necessary to address the pre-selection clarification question will not be reviewed or considered. Typically, a pre-selection clarification will be carried out through either written responses to DOE's written clarification questions or video or conference calls with DOE representatives.

The information provided by applicants to DOE through pre-selection clarifications is incorporated in their applications and contributes to the merit review evaluation and DOE's selection decisions. If DOE contacts an applicant for pre-selection clarification purposes, it does not signify that the applicant has been selected for negotiation of award or that the applicant is among the top ranked applications.

DOE will not reimburse applicants for expenses relating to the pre-selection clarifications, nor will these costs be eligible for reimbursement as pre-award costs.

### 3. Recipient Responsibility and Qualifications

Prior to making a federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, DOE is required to review and consider any responsibility and qualification information about the applicant that is in the entity information domain in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (see 41 U.S.C. § 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the entity information domain in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the entity information domain in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the entity information domain in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business

ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206.

#### **4. Due Diligence Review for Research, Technology and Economic Security**

All applications submitted to DOE are subject to a due diligence review.

As DOE invests in critical infrastructure and funds critical and emerging technology areas,<sup>3</sup> DOE considers possible threats to U.S. research, technology, and economic security from undue foreign government influence when evaluating risk. If high risks are identified and cannot be sufficiently mitigated, DOE may elect to not fund the applicant. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the applicant and/or proposed project team members for additional information to inform the review. This risk review is conducted separately from the technical merit review.

The due diligence review of covered individuals includes but is not limited to the review of resumes and disclosures, as required in the NOFO. DOE reserves the right to ask for disclosures on project participants not defined as covered individuals. The Applicant need not submit any additional information on non-covered individuals, unless requested by DOE. The volume and type of information collected may depend on various factors associated with the award.

Note this review is separate and distinct from DOE Order 142.3B “Unclassified Foreign National Access Program”.

#### **5. Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel**

In conducting the merit review evaluation and Peer Reviews, the government may seek the advice of qualified non-federal personnel as reviewers. The government may also use non-federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities, including DOE contractors. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-federal reviewers/administrators. Non-federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest (COI) and non-disclosure acknowledgements (NDA) prior to reviewing an application. Non-federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign an NDA.

#### **6. Selection**

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Federal Consensus Board’s recommendations, program policy factors, risk reviews, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this NOFO.

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<sup>3</sup> See [Critical and Emerging Technologies List Update \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

## VII. Selection and Award Notices

DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for negotiation of award and negotiating awards by the dates provided on the [NOFO Part 1, Basic Information—Key Dates](#).

### A. Selection Notices

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#### 1. Ineligible Submissions

Ineligible applications will not be further reviewed or considered for award. The Grants Officer will send a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant on the submitted application. The notification letter will state the basis upon which the concept paper or the application is ineligible and not considered for further review.

#### 2. Application Notifications

DOE will notify applicants of its determination via a notification letter by email to the technical and administrative points of contact designated by the applicant in the submitted application. The notification letter will inform the applicant whether its application was selected for award negotiations. Alternatively, DOE may notify one or more applicants that a final selection determination on particular applications will be made at a later date, subject to the availability of funds or other factors.

#### 3. Applicants Selected for Award Negotiations

DOE may stagger its selection determinations. As a result, some applicants may receive their notification letter in advance of other applicants. Successful applicants will receive written notification that they have been selected for award negotiations including estimated award negotiation dates. Receipt of a notification letter selecting an application for award negotiations does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. If an application is selected for award negotiations, it is not a commitment by DOE to issue an award nor is it a guarantee of federal government funding. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Grants Officer executes the funding agreement, accessible by the recipient in FedConnect.

The award negotiation process can take a minimum of 60 days up to 180 days depending on the complexity of the project and responsiveness of the selectee among other factors. Applicants must designate a primary and a backup point-of-contact on the application with whom DOE will communicate to conduct award negotiations.

The applicant must be responsive during award negotiations by providing requested documentation, including post-selection documentation, and meet the negotiation deadlines. If the applicant fails to do so or if award negotiations are otherwise unsuccessful, DOE will cancel the award negotiations and rescind the Selection. DOE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please refer to the [Pre-Award Costs](#) section above for guidance on pre-award costs. for guidance on pre-award costs.

## 4. Alternate Selections

In some instances, an applicant may receive a notification that its application was not selected for award and DOE designated the application to be an alternate. As an alternate, DOE may consider the application for federal funding in the future. A notification letter stating the application is designated as an alternate does not authorize the applicant to commence performance of the project. DOE may ultimately determine to select or not select the application for award negotiations.

## 5. Applicants Not Selected for Award Negotiations

DOE shall promptly notify in writing each applicant whose application has not been selected for award negotiation or whose application cannot be funded because of the unavailability of appropriated funds.

## B. Post-Selection Information Requests

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To reduce burden in the application process required under [Memorandum M-24-11 Reducing Burden in the Administration of Federal Financial Assistance](#), DOE has instituted Post-Selection Information Requests and Submissions procedures. These procedures allow certain elements of an application to be submitted later in the application process, either prior to merit review or after merit review when the application is under consideration for funding.

Applicants will be notified (primarily by e-mail) when Post-Selection Information is needed. This notification is not a Notice of Award, nor should it be construed to be an indicator of possible funding. Applicants should only submit this information when requested. The applicant will be notified on what documents and materials to submit, the format required and where and when to submit.

### 1. Example Information Requests

The following is a list of examples of information that may be required to complete award negotiations:

- Personnel proposed to work on the project and collaborating organizations
- Participants and Collaborating Organizations;
- Current and Pending Support;
- C
- Other budget information;
- Indirect cost information;
- Letters of Commitment from third parties contributing to cost share, if applicable;
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5);
- Information for the DOE Office of Civil Rights to process assurance reviews under 10 CFR 1040;
- Environmental Checklist;
- Lobbying disclosure;
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable;

For construction projects: information related to Davis-Bacon Act requirements.

### 2. Entity Risk Assessment

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.206, DOE may conduct an additional review of the risk posed by applications submitted under the applicable NOFO Part 1. This risk assessment may consider:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by 2 CFR Part 910;

- History of performance;
- Audit reports and findings; and
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on recipients or subrecipients.

DOE may make use of other publicly available information and the history of an applicant's performance under DOE or other federal agency awards.

Depending on the severity of the findings and whether the findings were resolved, DOE may elect not to fund the applicant.

In addition to this review, DOE must comply with the guidelines on government-wide suspension and debarment in 2 CFR Part 180 and must require recipients or subrecipients to comply with these provisions. These provisions restrict federal awards, subawards and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal programs or activities.

### **3. Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

DOE's decision whether and how to distribute federal funds under this NOFO is subject to NEPA (42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, please see DOE's NEPA website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa>.

While NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all applicants selected for award negotiations and recipients of an award will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their proposed project. If DOE determines certain documents must be prepared to complete the NEPA review process, the recipient may be required to prepare the documents and the costs to prepare the necessary documents may be included as part of the project costs. DOE will independently evaluate the environmental document and will take responsibility for the contents, including ensuring the professional integrity of the discussion and analysis, as required by NEPA.

#### **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**

DOE must comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to deciding whether or how to distribute federal funds. Section 106 requires DOE to identify and consider adverse effects to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. DOE may perform a NHPA review under the umbrella of its NEPA review and will require applicants to assist in this review and consider impacts to historic, Tribal, and cultural resources.

### **4. Flood Resilience**

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires agencies engage in a decision-making process to evaluate the potential effects of any action it may take in a floodplain and to avoid development in a floodplain to the extent possible. DOE procedures for implementing the Executive Order are in 10 CFR part 1022. Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a

Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input (reinstated by EO 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk), directs federal agencies to “expand management from the current base flood level to a higher vertical elevation and corresponding horizontal floodplain to address current and future flood risk and ensure that projects funded with taxpayer dollars last as long as intended.” The higher flood elevation is based on one of three approaches: climate-informed science (preferred), freeboard value, or 0.2% annual flood change (500-year floodplain). Selectees will be required to indicate whether the proposed project location(s) is within a floodplain, how the floodplain was defined, and how the project’s design has been modified to reduce the risk of flood loss and minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare. Information to assist in the implementation of these requirements is available at:

- <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/eo-13690-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and-process-further>
- <https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/intergovernmental/white-house-flood-resilience-interagency-working-group>
- <http://floodstandard.climate.gov>

## 5. Trafficking in Persons

Awards under this NOFO will be subject to the requirements at [2 CFR Part 175, Award Term for Trafficking in Persons](#), including the compliance plan and certification requirements applicable if the estimated value of services required to be performed under the grant or cooperative agreement outside the U.S. exceeds \$500,000.

## 6. Operations Workforce Continuity Plan

Required for awards inclusive of any project that will have more than 100 employees in operation, including contract workers who are not W2 employees, and where DOE is contributing 10 percent or more of the project amount, or as otherwise selected by DOE.

If selected for award negotiations, within 30 days of the notification of selection for award negotiations, the selectee must submit an Operations Workforce Continuity Plan. A Workforce Continuity Plan template is provided at <https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/reporting-checklists> with the intent to reduce the administrative burden by promoting the use of common formats.

Selectees that have a qualifying Collective-Bargaining Agreement that will cover operations activities under this award are not required to submit a separate Operations Workforce Continuity Plan or the associated Workforce Continuity report on a quarterly frequency post-award.

## C. Award Notices

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Upon successful completion of award negotiations, the DOE Grants Officer will approve the award, and the recipient will then receive notification of award and can access it in the FedConnect system. Selectees must be registered in FedConnect to receive the final award package after successful completion of award negotiations.

Registering with [FedConnect](#)<sup>®</sup> is fast, easy, and free. Only individuals who are designated as Points of Contact in SAM.gov can create a new company account.

- **What is it?** It’s how recipient receive their legally executed award package.

- The SAM Unique Entity Identifier Number (UEI) must be obtained before this registration can be initiated.
- Review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at [https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf)
- **Duration** to complete: can take two to three days.
- **Registration Link:** FedConnect website: <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Default.htm>
- **HELP:** <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/TechSupport.aspx>

### **Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents**

Submission of an application and supplemental information under the NOFO Part 1 through electronic systems used by the DOE, including NEUP.gov and FedConnect, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

# VIII. Award Administration Information

## A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

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Note: Please review this document prior to applying.

DOE requires all award recipients to follow and accept requirements governed by laws and policies – both federal government-wide and DOE or program specific. These post-award requirements include: all National and Administrative Policy Requirements; financial assistance general Certifications and Representations; Build America, Buy America requirements; Davis-Bacon Act requirements; Risk-Based Review of Project Participants; Performance of Work in the U.S. (Foreign Work Waiver); Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Specific Requirements; Fraud, Waste and Abuse requirements; Safety, Security, and Regulatory requirements; and Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

Recipients of an award made under DOE NOFOs must comply with requirements of all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, DOE policy and guidance, instructions in this NOFO, and the award terms and conditions. Recipients must require subrecipients' compliance with all applicable requirements. Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement.

All DOE award recipients must adhere to the following:

### 1. Award Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by 2 CFR Part 910.

### 2. Subaward and Executive Reporting

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR Part 170. Recipients must register with the FFATA Subaward Reporting System database and report the required data on their first tier subrecipients. Recipients must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

### 3. National Policy Requirements

The National Policy Assurances that are incorporated as a term and condition of award are located at: <http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>.

### 4. Applicant Representations and Certifications

#### Lobbying Restrictions

By accepting funds under this award, the recipient agrees that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence Congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.



### Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Representations

In submitting an application to a NOFO, the applicant represents that:

- a. It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any federal law within the preceding 24 months; and
- b. It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations, a corporation is any for-profit or nonprofit entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the U.S. [but not foreign corporations].

### Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations

In submitting an application to a NOFO the applicant represents that:

- a. It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.
- b. It **does not and will not** use any federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

*“These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive Order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive Orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”*

- (1) The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312 Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement (<https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/sf312.pdf>), Form 4414 Sensitive Compartmented Information Disclosure Agreement (<https://fas.org/sgp/othergov/intel/sf4414.pdf>), or any other form issued by a federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other

than an employee or officer of the U.S. government, may contain provisions appropriate to the activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received during such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the U.S. government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the U.S. Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

## 5. Statement of Federal Stewardship

DOE will exercise normal federal stewardship in overseeing the project activities performed under DOE awards. Stewardship activities include but are not limited to conducting site visits; reviewing performance and financial reports; providing assistance and/or temporary intervention in unusual circumstances to correct deficiencies that develop during the project; assuring compliance with terms and conditions; and reviewing technical performance after project completion to ensure that the project objectives have been accomplished.

**Recipient's Responsibilities.** The recipient is responsible for:

- Complying with all award requirements, including performing the activities supported by this award, including providing the required personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies and services.
- Defining approaches and plans as may be required by this award, submitting the plans to DOE for review, and incorporating DOE's comments.
- Managing and conducting the project activities, including coordinating with DOE management and operating (M&O) contractor(s) as required and as proposed in the recipient's project plan on activities performed under the M&O contract(s) that are related to the project.
- Attending annual program review meetings and reporting project status, if requested by the program.
- Submitting technical reports as stated in the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and incorporating DOE comments.
- Completing reporting requirements as outlined in the instructions provided in the awards Attachment B "Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions" including:
  - **NE Program Information Collection System (PICS:NE):** PIs are required to complete reporting requirements as outlined in the instructions provided in the awards Attachment B "Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions". Information provided in required award reporting will be utilized to populate PICS:NE (PICS:NE data entry will be done by DOE using information provided by the PI). PIs may be asked by the DOE PICS:NE representative for additional information during the initial work package setup process to accurately document the project plan, as well as through the award's project period to populate information in PICS:NE. PIs may be requested to provide additional assistance for clarification purposes in assuring accuracy of the information being entered into PICS:NE.
  - **NE Program Accrual Information:** DOE policy requires the monthly tracking of uncosted obligations on financial assistance awards in the DOE accounting system to assist DOE in accomplishing more accurate project management and to more accurately recognize Department liabilities to the recipient. DOE personnel do this internally by subtracting paid costs and any costs accrued (yet to be paid incurred costs of the recipient) from the amounts obligated on the financial assistance award. In accomplishing this, DOE may

request the recipient provide additional cost accrual information to accurately estimate/document the accrual in the DOE accounting system. If such information is needed, it will typically be done on awards over \$1M and DOE will normally do this using an e-mail to the recipient requesting the recipient identify the dollar value of work it has performed each month but not yet invoiced (or done a Treasury system draw on) as of month end. Recipients will cooperate with DOE in providing the needed cost accrual information.

**Note:** There are limitations on recipient responsibilities and authorities in the performance of the project activities. Performance of the project activities must be within the scope of the Statement of Objectives, the terms and conditions of the grant, and the funding and schedule constraints.

## 6. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements

Per 2 CFR 910.360 (Real Property and Equipment) when a piece of equipment is purchased by a for-profit recipient or subrecipient with federal funds, and when the federal share of the financial assistance agreement is more than \$1 million the recipient or subrecipient must:

Properly record, and consent to the Department's ability to properly record if the recipient fails to do so, UCC financing statement(s) for all equipment in excess of \$10,000 purchased with project funds. These financing statement(s) must be approved in writing by the Grants Officer prior to the recording, and they shall provide notice that the recipient's title to all equipment (not real property) purchased with federal funds under the financial assistance agreement is conditional pursuant to the terms of this section, and that the government retains an undivided reversionary interest in the equipment. The UCC financing statement(s) must be filed before the Grants Officer may reimburse the recipient for the federal share of the equipment unless otherwise provided for in the relevant financial assistance agreement. The recipient shall further make any amendments to the financing statements or additional recordings, including appropriate continuation statements, as necessary or as the Grants Officer may direct.

## 7. Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy)<sup>4</sup> is applicable to all recipients or subrecipients applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant or cooperative agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award. The term "Investigator" means the PI and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. Recipients must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient. Further, for DOE funded projects, the recipient must include all financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable) in its initial and ongoing FCOI reports.

It is understood that recipients or subrecipients receiving DOE financial assistance awards will need sufficient time to come into full compliance with DOE's interim COI Policy. To provide some flexibility, DOE allows for a staggered implementation. Specifically, prior to award, applicants selected for award negotiations must: ensure all Investigators complete their significant financial disclosures; review the

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<sup>4</sup> DOE's interim COI Policy can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial-assistance>.

disclosures; determine whether a FCOI exists; develop and implement a management plan for FCOIs; and provide DOE with an initial FCOI report that includes all FCOIs (i.e., managed and unmanaged/unmanageable). Recipients will have 180 days from the date of the award to come into full compliance with the other requirements set forth in DOE's interim COI Policy. Prior to award, the applicant must certify that it is, or will be within 180 days of the award, compliant with all requirements in the COI Policy.

## 8. Whistleblower Protections

As provided in 2 CFR 200.217, an employee of a recipient or subrecipient must not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant. The recipient and subrecipient must inform their employees in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections.

## 9. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The mission of the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to strengthen the integrity, economy, and efficiency of the Department's programs and operations, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of DOE activities to include grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

The OIG maintains a hotline for reporting allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement. To report such allegations, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/ig/ig-hotline>.

Additionally, recipients of DOE awards must be cognizant of the requirements of [2 CFR 200.113 Mandatory disclosures](#), which states:

An Applicant, Recipient, or Subrecipient of a federal award must promptly disclose whenever, in connection with the federal award (including any activities or subawards thereunder), it has credible evidence of the commission of a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the U.S. Code or a violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3729–3733). The disclosure must be made in writing to the federal agency, the agency's Office of Inspector General, and pass-through entity (if applicable). Recipients and subrecipients are also required to report matters related to recipient integrity and performance in accordance with Appendix XII of this part. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339](#). (See also [2 CFR part 180](#), [31 U.S.C. § 3321](#), and [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#).) [[85 FR 49539](#), Aug. 13, 2020]

Applicants/recipients and subrecipients (if applicable) are encouraged to allocate sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated for personnel and data infrastructure needs to support performance management and program evaluation needs, including but not limited to independent program and project audits to mitigate risks for fraud, waste, and abuse.

## 10. Participants and Collaborating Organizations

If selected for award negotiations, the selected applicant must submit a list of personnel who are proposed to work on the project, both at the recipient and subrecipient level and a list of proposed collaborating organizations prior to award. Recipients will have an ongoing responsibility to notify DOE of changes to the personnel and collaborating organizations and submit updated information during the life of the award.

## 11. Current and Pending Support

Throughout the life of the award, the recipient has an ongoing responsibility to submit: 1) current and pending support disclosure statements and resumes for any new covered individuals, and 2) updated disclosures if there are changes to the current and pending support previously submitted to DOE. Also see the [Current and Pending Support](#) information in the Application Contents Requirements section above.

## 12. Prohibition Related to Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs

### Prohibition

As required by law,<sup>5</sup> *Covered Individuals* participating in a *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program* are prohibited from participating in projects selected for federal funding under this NOFO. Should an award result from this NOFO, the recipient must exercise ongoing due diligence to reasonably ensure that no such individuals participating on the DOE-funded project are participating in a *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program*. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy.

Further, the recipient must notify DOE within five (5) business days upon learning that an individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a malign foreign talent recruitment program. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

*Covered Individuals* and the applicant must provide certifications regarding no participation in *Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs* (see the Current and Pending Support section and Transparency of Foreign Connections section).

### Non-Discrimination

DOE will ensure that the Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program Prohibition is carried out in a manner that does not target, stigmatize, or discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin, consistent with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

### Definitions

#### **Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program. as defined in P.L. 117-167, Section 10638(4):**

- A) any program, position, or activity that includes compensation in the form of cash, in-kind compensation, including research funding, promised future compensation, complimentary

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<sup>5</sup> See sections 10631-10632 of [P.L. 117-167 \(42 USC 19231-19232\)](#); [OSTP-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Guidelines.pdf \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).

foreign travel, things of non de minimis value, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, or other types of remuneration or consideration directly provided by a foreign country at any level (national, provincial, or local) or their designee, or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country, to the targeted individual, whether directly or indirectly stated in the arrangement, contract, or other documentation at issue, in exchange for the individual—

- i. engaging in the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property, materials, data products, or other nonpublic information owned by a U.S. entity or developed with a federal research and development award to the government of a foreign country or an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country regardless of whether that government or entity provided support for the development of the intellectual property, materials, or data products;
- ii. being required to recruit trainees or researchers to enroll in such program, position, or activity;
- iii. establishing a laboratory or company, accepting a faculty position, or undertaking any other employment or appointment in a foreign country or with an entity based in, funded by, or affiliated with a foreign country if such activities are in violation of the standard terms and conditions of a federal research and development award;
- iv. being unable to terminate the foreign talent recruitment program contract or agreement except in extraordinary circumstances;
- v. through funding or effort related to the foreign talent recruitment program, being limited in the capacity to carry out a research and development award or required to engage in work that would result in substantial overlap or duplication with a federal research and development award;
- vi. being required to apply for and successfully receive funding from the sponsoring foreign government's funding agencies with the sponsoring foreign organization as the recipient;
- vii. being required to omit acknowledgment of the recipient institution with which the individual is affiliated, or the federal research agency sponsoring the research and development award, contrary to the institutional policies or standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award;
- viii. being required to not disclose to the federal research agency or employing institution the participation of such individual in such program, position, or activity; or
- ix. having a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment contrary to the standard terms and conditions of the federal research and development award; and

B) a program that is sponsored by—

- i. a foreign country of concern or an entity based in a foreign country of concern, whether or not directly sponsored by the foreign country of concern;
- ii. an academic institution on the list developed under section 1286(c)(8) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; <sup>1</sup> Public Law 115–232); or
- iii. a foreign talent recruitment program on the list developed under section 1286(c)(9) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note; <sup>1</sup> Public Law 115–232).

Consistent with applicable law (42 U.S.C. 19232), this provision does not prohibit, unless such activities are funded, organized, or managed by an academic institution or a foreign talent recruitment program

on the lists developed under paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1286(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 4001 note; Public Law 115–232)—

- A) making scholarly presentations and publishing written materials regarding scientific information not otherwise controlled under current law;
- B) participation in international conferences or other international exchanges, research projects or programs that involve open and reciprocal exchange of scientific information, and which are aimed at advancing international scientific understanding and not otherwise controlled under current law;
- C) advising a foreign student enrolled at an institution of higher education or writing a recommendation for such a student, at such student's request; and
- D) other international activities determined appropriate by the federal research agency head or designee.

### 13. Foreign Collaboration Considerations

For **new** collaborations with foreign entities, organizations, and governments, the recipient will be required to provide DOE with advanced written notification of any potential collaboration with foreign entities, organizations, or governments in connection with its DOE-funded award scope. The recipient will then be required to await further guidance from DOE prior to contacting the proposed foreign entity, organization, or government regarding the potential collaboration or negotiating the terms of any potential agreement.

For **existing** collaborations with foreign entities, organizations, and governments, the recipient will be required to provide DOE with a written list of all existing foreign collaborations in which it has entered in connection with its DOE-funded award scope.

Description of collaborations that should be reported:

- In general, a collaboration will involve some provision of a thing of value to, or from, the recipient.
- A thing of value includes but may not be limited to all resources made available to, or from, the recipient in support of and/or related to the DOE award, regardless of whether they have monetary value.
- Things of value also may include in-kind contributions (such as office/laboratory space, data, equipment, supplies, employees, students).
- In-kind contributions not intended for direct use on the DOE award but resulting in provision of a thing of value from or to the DOE award must also be reported.

Collaborations do not include routine workshops, conferences, use of the recipient's services and facilities by foreign investigators resulting from its standard published process for evaluating requests for access, or the routine use of foreign facilities by awardee staff in accordance with the recipient's standard policies and procedures.

### 14. U.S. Manufacturing Commitments

Refer to *NOFO Part 1, Award Administration Information—Post-Award Requirements* to determine if U.S. Manufacturing Commitments are applicable (if “U.S. Manufacturing Commitments” is not listed in

the *Applicable Post-Award Requirements and Administration* table, it is not required). If applicable, the following applies:

A primary objective of DOE's multi-billion-dollar research, development, and demonstration investments is to cultivate new research and development ecosystems, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chains for and by U.S. industry and labor. Therefore, in exchange for receiving taxpayer dollars to support an applicant's project, the applicant/recipient and any subrecipient and contractor must agree to a U.S. Competitiveness provision requiring that any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the U.S. unless the applicant/recipient can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible. Award terms, including the specific U.S. Competitiveness Provision applicable to the various types of recipients and projects, are available at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

Please note that a subject invention is any invention conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of work under an award. An invention is any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable. The recipient includes any awardee, recipient, subawardee, or subrecipient.

As noted in the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, if an entity cannot meet the requirements of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, the entity may request a modification or waiver of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision. For example, the entity may propose modifying the language of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in order to change the scope of the requirements or to provide more specifics on the application of the requirements for a particular technology. As another example, the entity may request that the U.S. Competitiveness Provision be waived in lieu of a net benefits statement or U.S. manufacturing plan. The statement or plan would contain specific and enforceable commitments that would be beneficial to the U.S. economy and competitiveness. Examples of such commitments could include manufacturing specific products in the U.S., making a specific investment in a new or existing U.S. manufacturing facility, keeping certain activities based in the U.S. or supporting a certain number of jobs in the U.S. related to the technology. DOE may, in its sole discretion, determine that the proposed modification or waiver promotes commercialization and provides substantial U.S. economic benefits, and grant the request. If granted, DOE will modify the award terms and conditions for the requesting entity accordingly.

More information and guidance on the waiver and modification request process can be found in the DOE Financial Assistance Letter on this topic, available at <https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2022-09-fal-2022-01-implementation-doe-determination-exceptional-circumstances-under>. Additional information on DOE's Commitment to Domestic Manufacturing for DOE-funded R&D is available at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/us-manufacturing>.

The U.S. Competitiveness Provision is implemented by DOE pursuant to a Determination of Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) under the Bayh-Dole Act and DOE Patent Waivers. Please refer to the [Title to Subject Inventions](#) section below for more information on the DEC and DOE Patent Waivers. section below for more information on the DEC and DOE Patent Waivers.

## 15. Subject Invention Utilization Reporting

To ensure that recipients, subrecipients, and contractors holding title to subject inventions are taking the appropriate steps to commercialize subject inventions, DOE requires that each recipient, subrecipient, and contractor holding title to a subject invention submit annual reports for 10 years from the date the subject invention was disclosed to DOE on the utilization of the subject invention and



efforts made by recipient or its licensees or assignees to stimulate such utilization. The reports must include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the recipient, and such other data and information as DOE may specify.

## 16. Intellectual Property Provisions

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at <http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

## 17. Technology Protection Plan

The Recipient must submit a Technology Protection Plan within 60 days of award setting out the Recipient's policies and procedures for identifying, accessing, handling, controlling, and releasing the following under this Award: (1) Recipient's proprietary information, including non-public technical information, trade secrets and other confidential business information, including but not limited to information, know-how, methods or processes that give the Recipient a competitive advantage in the marketplace; (2) information that is subject to U.S. export control laws or regulations; (3) information that has been designated as classified or controlled unclassified information (CUI) by DOE; (4) any other information designated by DOE as sensitive throughout the period of performance. The Recipient must meet the stated objectives set forth in its Technology Protection Plan. The Recipient must notify the Department of any revisions to the Technology Protection Plan or the proposed security approach. A report on the Recipient's progress toward meeting the objectives and milestones set forth in the Technology Protection Plan must be included in any continuation application. The Technology Protection Plan and any revisions to the plan and all related deliverables must be emailed securely to the point of contact designated by DOE. Any DOE and/or National Laboratory review comments or feedback provided to the Recipient does not constitute an endorsement or approval of any specific elements within the Technology Protection Plan or the proposed security approach. Therefore, such feedback should not be referenced or used in marketing or promotional materials.

## 18. Data Management Plan

A Data Management Plan (DMP) will be required within 90 days of award. Please refer to the **NOFO Part 1, Award Administration Information—Post-Award Requirements and Administration**.

The DMP must provide a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed work digitally accessible at the time of publications. A DMP explains how, when appropriate, data generated in the course of the work performed under a DOE award will be shared and preserved to validate the results of the proposed work or how the results could be validated if the data is not shared or preserved. The Data Management Plan:

1. Should describe whether and how data generated in the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved. If the plan is not to share and/or preserve certain data, then the plan must explain the basis of the decision (for example, cost/benefit considerations, other parameters of feasibility, scientific appropriateness, or limitations discussed in #4). At a minimum, DMPs must describe how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of results, or how results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved. DMPs may utilize the Nuclear Research Data System (NRDS) for storage of digital research data. NRDS is a newly developed NSUF High Performance Computing data repository solution that can provide secure lifecycle storage of NSUF and NEUP project data. Access to NRDS would be provided to the PI

after award notification and before data is generated. Further details on the NRDS can be found at [nsuf.inl.gov](https://nsuf.inl.gov).

2. Should provide a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed research open, machine-readable, and digitally accessible to the public at the time of publication. This includes data that are displayed in charts, figures, images, etc. In addition, the underlying digital research data used to generate the displayed data should be made as accessible as possible to the public in accordance with the principles stated above. This requirement could be met by including the data as supplementary information to the published article, utilization of the NRDS, or through other means. The published article should indicate how these data can be accessed.
3. Should consult and reference available information about data management resources to be used in the course of the proposed research. In particular, DMPs that explicitly or implicitly commit data management resources at a facility beyond what is conventionally made available to approved users should be accompanied by written approval from that facility.
4. Must protect confidentiality, personal privacy, Personally Identifiable Information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness; and otherwise, be consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and DOE orders and policies. There is no requirement to share proprietary data.

The DOE Public Access Plan located at

[https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE\\_Public\\_Access%20Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE_Public_Access%20Plan_FINAL.pdf) provides additional guidance.

The DMP submitted with the application must be consistent with the planned intellectual property (IP) approach for the award.

If selected for negotiation of an award, the IP provisions included in the award will govern rights provided to the Government regarding IP such as the Government-purpose license, march-in rights, and certain U.S. manufacturing requirements that may be implemented.

## 19. Conference Spending

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the U.S. government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the U.S. government would otherwise exceed \$20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

## 20. Invoice Review and Approval

DOE employs a risk-based approach to determine the level of supporting documentation required for approving invoice payments. Recipients may be required to provide some or all of the following items with their requests for reimbursement:

- Summary of costs by cost categories;

- Timesheets or personnel hours report;
- If applicable, proof of compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and electronic submittals of certified payroll reports;
- Invoices/receipts for all travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other costs;
- UCC filing proof for equipment acquired with project funds by for-profit recipients and subrecipients;
- Explanation of cost share for invoicing period;
- Analogous information for some subrecipients; and
- Other items as required by DOE.

## 21. Cost Share Payment

DOE requires recipients to contribute the cost share amount incrementally over the life of the award. The terms and conditions of the award will specify the recipient's cost share interval, such as by billing period or on a budget period basis. The recipient's cost share for each interval must always reflect the overall cost share ratio negotiated by the parties (e.g., the total amount of cost sharing on each invoice when considered cumulatively with previous invoices must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated). When FFRDC funding will be provided directly to the FFRDC(s) by DOE, recipients will be required to provide project cost share at a percentage commensurate with the FFRDC costs, on a budget period basis, resulting in a higher interim invoicing cost share ratio than the total award ratio.

In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the DOE Grants Officer may approve a request by the recipient to meet its cost share requirements on a less frequent basis than required by the terms and conditions of the award. Regardless of the interval requested, the recipient must be up to date on cost share at each interval. Such requests must be sent to the Grants Officer during award negotiations and include the following information: (1) a detailed justification for the request; (2) a proposed schedule of payments, including amounts and dates; (3) a written commitment to meet that schedule; and (4) such evidence as necessary to demonstrate that the recipient has complied with its cost share obligations to date. The Grants Officer must approve all such requests before they go into effect.

## 22. Implementation of Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty

States, local governments, and other public entities may not condition subawards in a manner that would discriminate against or otherwise disadvantage subrecipients based on their religious character.

## 23. Affirmative Action and Pay Transparency Requirements

All recipients must comply with all applicable federal labor and employment laws, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the National Labor Relations Act, which protects employees' right to bargain collectively and engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of mutual aid or protection.

All federally assisted construction contracts exceeding \$10,000 annually will be subject to the requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended—Equal Employment Opportunity:

- Recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors are prohibited from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender

identity, or national origin.

- Recipients and contractors are required to take affirmative action to ensure that equal opportunity is provided in all aspects of their employment. This includes flowing down the appropriate language to all subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors.
- Recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors are prohibited from taking adverse employment actions against applicants and employees for asking about, discussing, or sharing information about their pay or, under certain circumstances, the pay of their co-workers.

DOL's Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs (OFCCP) uses a neutral process to schedule compliance evaluations related to Executive Order 11246, as amended. Consult OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide<sup>6</sup> to gain an understanding of the requirements and possible actions the recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors must take. Additional guidance may also be found in the National Policy Assurances, produced by DOE.

Additionally, for construction projects valued at \$35 million or more and lasting more than one year, the recipients, subrecipients, contractors, and subcontractors may be selected by the OFCCP to participate in the *Mega Construction Project Program*. DOE, under relevant legal authorities including Sections 205 and 303(a) of Executive Order 11246, as amended, will require participation as a term of the award. This program offers extensive compliance assistance with Executive Order 11246. For more information regarding this program, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/construction/mega-program>.

## 24. Human Subjects Research

Research involving human subjects, biospecimens, or identifiable private information conducted with DOE funding is subject to the requirements of DOE Order 443.1C, Protection of Human Research Subjects, 45 CFR Part 46, Protection of Human Subjects (subpart A which is referred to as the "Common Rule"), and 10 CFR Part 745, Protection of Human Subjects. Additional information on the DOE Human Subjects Research Program can be found at: [HUMAN SUBJECTS Human Subjects Pr... | U.S. DOE Office of Science \(SC\) \(osti.gov\)](#).

## B. Reporting

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Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement.

DOE must measure the performance to show achievement of program goals and objectives, share lessons learned, improve program outcomes, and foster the adoption of promising practices. DOE will establish program goals and objectives during negotiations and incorporate it into the award terms. To clearly communicate the specific reporting requirements to meet the program goals and objectives in the federal award, DOE combined all reporting into one document, the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist. This document, attached to the award agreement, provides any expected outcomes (such as outputs, service performance, or public impacts of any of these), indicators, targets, baseline data, or data collections that the applicant will be responsible for measuring and reporting

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<sup>6</sup> See OFCCP's Technical Assistance Guide at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ofccp/Construction/files/ConstructionTAG.pdf?msclkid=9e397d68c4b111ec9d8e6fecb6c710ec> Also see the National Policy Assurances <http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>

Refer to the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (DOE F 4600.2), attached to the award package, for award-specific reporting requirements.

## IX. Other Information

### A. Government Right to Reject or Negotiate

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DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this NOFO and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

### B. Commitment of Public Funds

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The Grants Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by anyone other than the Grants Officer, either express or implied, is invalid.

### C. Treatment of Application Information

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Applicants should not include trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information in their application unless such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project or to comply with a requirement in the NOFO. Applicants are advised to not include any critically sensitive proprietary detail.

The Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, requires DOE to release certain federal financial assistance documents and records requested by members of the public regardless of the intended use of the information. DOE will release funded applications and funded progress reports, including award data, as legally releasable at the conclusion of the competitive funding process. However, DOE will generally withhold this information during the pendency of competitive stages of the funding process.

If an application includes trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it is furnished to the federal government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for merit review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Applications and other submissions containing trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The federal government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose as authorized by law.

The cover sheet of the application, and other applicant submission must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information:

#### **Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:**

Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance agreement between the submitter and the government. The government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source. [End of Notice]

In addition, (1) the header and footer of every page that contains trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information must be marked as follows: “Contains Trade Secrets, Business-Sensitive, Proprietary, or Otherwise Confidential Information Exempt from Public Disclosure,” and (2) every line or paragraph containing such information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

## **D. Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities**

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Eligible activities under this NOFO include those that describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

## **E. Notice of Right to Conduct a Review of Financial Capability**

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DOE reserves the right to conduct an independent third-party review of financial capability for applicants that are selected for negotiation of award (including personal credit information of principal(s) of a small business if there is insufficient information to determine financial capability of the organization).

## **F. Requirement for Full and Complete Disclosure**

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Applicants are required to make a full and complete disclosure of all information requested. Any failure to make a full and complete disclosure of the requested information may result in:

- The cancellation of award negotiations;
- The modification, suspension, and/or cancellation of a funding agreement;
- The initiation of debarment proceedings, debarment, and/or a declaration of ineligibility for receipt of federal contracts, subcontracts, and financial assistance and benefits; and
- Civil and/or criminal penalties.

## **G. Retention of Submissions**

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DOE expects to retain copies of all applications and other submissions. By applying to DOE for funding, applicants consent to DOE’s retention of their submissions.

## **H. Title to Subject Inventions**

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Ownership of subject inventions is governed pursuant to the authorities listed below:

- a. Domestic Small Businesses, Educational Institutions, and Nonprofits: Under the Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. § 200 et seq.), domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits may elect to retain title to their subject inventions.
- b. Domestic Large Businesses: DOE has issued a class patent waiver that applies to this NOFO. Under this class waiver, domestic large businesses may elect title to their subject inventions similar to the right provided to the domestic small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits by law. To avail itself of the class waiver, a domestic large business must agree that any products embodying or produced through the use of a subject invention first conceived or first actually reduced to practice under this program will be substantially manufactured in the U.S..
- c. All other parties: The Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Act of 1974, 42. U.S.C. § 5908, provides that the government obtains title to new inventions unless a patent waiver is granted. Applicants not covered by a Class Patent Waiver or the Bayh-Dole Act may request a patent waiver that will cover subject inventions that may be invented under the award, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if an advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver for identified inventions, i.e., individual subject inventions that are disclosed to DOE within the timeframes set forth in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784.
- d. DEC: On June 07, 2021, DOE approved a Determination of Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) under the Bayh-Dole Act to further promote domestic manufacture of DOE science and energy technologies. In accordance with this DEC, all awards, including subawards, under the applicable NOFO Part 1 shall include the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in accordance with the U.S. Manufacturing Commitments. A copy of the DEC can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/determination-exceptional-circumstances-decs>. Pursuant to 37 CFR 401.4, any nonprofit organization or small business firm as defined by 35 U.S.C. § 201 affected by any DEC has the right to appeal it by providing written notice to DOE within 30 working days from the time it receives a copy of the determination.
- e. DOE may issue and publish further DEC's on the website above prior to the issuance of awards under the applicable NOFO Part 1. DOE may require additional submissions or requirements as authorized by any applicable DEC.

## I. Government Rights in Subject Inventions

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Where recipients, subrecipients, and contractors retain title to subject inventions, the U.S. government retains certain rights.

### **Government Use License**

The U.S. government retains a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the U.S. any subject invention throughout the world. This license extends to government contractors.

### **March-In Rights**



The U.S. government retains march-in rights with respect to all subject inventions. Through “march-in rights,” the government may require a recipient or subrecipient who has elected to retain title to a subject invention (or their assignees or exclusive licensees), to grant a license for use of the invention to a third party. In addition, the government may grant licenses for use of the subject invention when a recipient, subrecipient, or their assignees and exclusive licensees refuse to do so.

DOE may exercise its march-in rights only if it determines that such action is necessary under any of the four following conditions:

- The owner or licensee has not taken or is not expected to take effective steps to achieve practical application of the invention within a reasonable time;
- The owner or licensee has not taken action to alleviate health or safety needs in a reasonably satisfied manner;
- The owner has not met public use requirements specified by federal statutes in a reasonably satisfied manner; or
- The U.S. manufacturing requirement has not been met.

Any determination that march-in rights are warranted must follow a fact-finding process in which the recipient has certain rights to present evidence and witnesses, confront witnesses and appeal with counsel and appeal any adverse decision. To date, DOE has never exercised its march-in rights to any subject inventions.

## J. Copyright

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The recipient and subrecipient(s) may assert copyright in copyrightable works, such as software, first produced under the award without DOE approval. When copyright is asserted, the government retains a paid-up nonexclusive, irrevocable worldwide license to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and to perform publicly and display publicly the copyrighted work. This license extends to contractors and others doing work on behalf of the government.

## K. Export Control

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The U.S. government regulates the transfer of information, commodities, technology, and software considered to be strategically important to the U.S. to protect national security, foreign policy, and economic interests without imposing undue regulatory burdens on legitimate international trade. There is a network of federal agencies and regulations that govern exports that are collectively referred to as “Export Controls.” All recipients and subrecipients are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable U.S. Export Control laws and regulations relating to any work performed under a resulting award.

The recipient must immediately report to DOE any export control investigations, indictments, charges, convictions, and violations upon occurrence, at the recipient or subrecipient level, and provide the corrective action(s) to prevent future violations.

## L. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

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As set forth in 2 CFR 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (federal funds and recipient cost share) to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain *covered telecommunications equipment or services*. As described in Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, covered telecommunications equipment or services is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

See Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, 2 CFR 200.216, and 2 CFR 200.471 for additional information.

## M. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

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All information provided by the applicant must to the greatest extent possible exclude PII. "PII" refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, Social Security number, or biometric records, alone or combined with other personal or identifying information linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth or mother's maiden name. (See [OMB Memorandum M-17-12](#) dated January 3, 2017.)

By way of example, applicants must screen resumes to ensure that they do not contain PII such as personal addresses, personal landline/cell phone numbers, and personal emails. **Under no circumstances should Social Security numbers (SSNs) be included in the application.** Federal agencies are prohibited from the collecting, using, and displaying unnecessary SSNs. (See the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-283, Dec 18, 2014; 44 U.S.C. § 3551).

## N. Annual Independent Audits

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If a for-profit entity is a recipient and has expended \$1,000,000 or more of DOE awards during the entity's fiscal year, an annual compliance audit performed by an independent auditor is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 CFR 910.501 and Subpart F.

If an educational institution, nonprofit organization, or state/local government is a recipient or subrecipient and has expended \$1,000,000 or more of federal awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year, a Single or Program-Specific Audit is required. For additional information, please refer to 2 CFR 200.501 and Subpart F.

Applicants and subrecipients (if applicable) should propose sufficient costs in the project budget to cover the costs associated with the audit. DOE will share in the cost of the audit at its applicable cost share ratio.

## O. Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects; Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials Produced in the U.S.

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### A. Definitions

For purposes of the Buy America Requirement, the following definitions apply:

- **Components** -See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.
- **Construction Materials** -See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.
- **Domestic Content Procurement Preference Requirement** – means a requirement that no amount of funds made available through a program for federal financial assistance may be obligated for an infrastructure project unless—
  - all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the U.S.;
  - the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the U.S.; or
  - the construction materials used in the project are produced in the U.S.
- Also referred to as the **Buy America Requirement**.
- **Infrastructure** -See 2 CFR 184.4(c) and (d).
- **Infrastructure Project** – See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.
- **Manufactured Products** – See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions
- **Predominantly of iron or steel or a combination of both** -See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.
- **Produced in the U.S.** – See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.
- **Project** – means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the U.S.
- **Public** – The Buy America Requirement does not apply to non-public (private) infrastructure. For purposes of this guidance, infrastructure should be considered “public” if it is: (1) publicly owned (owned, operated, funded and managed, in whole or in part, by any unit or authority of a Federal, State, or Local government-including U.S. Territories and Indian Tribes); or (2) privately owned but utilized primarily for a public purpose. Infrastructure should be considered to be “utilized primarily for a public purpose”, and therefore “public”, if it is privately owned but operated on behalf of the public or is a place of public accommodation.
- **Section 70917(c) Materials** – See 2 CFR 184.3 Definitions.

#### **B. Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects (Buy America Requirement)**

None of the award funds (includes federal share and recipient cost share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

(1) all iron and steel used in the project is produced in the U.S.—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the U.S.;

(2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the U.S.—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the U.S.; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the U.S. is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation. See 2 CFR 184.5 for determining the cost of components for manufactured products; and

(3) all construction materials<sup>7</sup> are manufactured in the U.S.—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the U.S. See 2 CFR 184.6 for construction material standards.

The Buy America Requirement only applies to those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to the infrastructure in the project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does the Buy America Requirement apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

The Buy America Requirement only applies to an article, material, or supply classified into one of the following categories\* based on its status at the time it is brought to the work site for incorporation into an infrastructure project:

- (i) Iron or steel products;
- (ii) Manufactured products; or
- (iii) Construction materials;

The Buy America Requirement only applies to the iron or steel products, manufactured products, and construction materials used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public infrastructure in the U.S. when those items are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to the infrastructure. An article, material, or supply incorporated into an infrastructure project should not be considered to fall into multiple categories, but rather must meet the Buy America Preference Requirement for only the single category in which it is classified.

All iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the infrastructure project must be produced in the U.S.

\* *Section 70917(c) Materials* are cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives as provided in section 70917(c) of BABA. Section 70917(c) materials are excluded from Construction materials. Asphalt concrete pavement mixes are typically composed of asphalt cement (a binding agent) and aggregates such as stone, sand, and gravel. Accordingly, asphalt is also excluded from the definition of Construction materials.

Section 70917 (c) materials, on their own, are not manufactured products. Further, Section 70917(c) materials should not be considered manufactured products when they are used at or combined proximate to the work site—such as is the case with wet concrete or hot mix asphalt brought to the work site for incorporation. However, certain Section 70917(c) materials (such as stone, sand, and gravel) may be used to produce a manufactured product, such as is precast concrete. Precast concrete is made of components, is processed into a specific shape or form, and is in such state when brought to the work site. Furthermore, wet concrete should not be considered a manufactured product if not dried or set prior to reaching the work site.

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<sup>7</sup> Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives.

Further clarification is provided in 2 CFR 184 on the circumstances under which a determination is made that Section 70917(c) materials should be treated as components of a manufactured product. That determination is based on consideration of: (i) the revised definition of the “manufactured products” at 2 CFR 184.3; (ii) a new definition of “section 70917(c) materials” at 2 CFR 184.3; (iii) new instructions at 2 CFR 184.4(e) on how and when to categorize articles, materials, and supplies; and (iv) new instructions at 2 CFR 184.4(f) on how to apply the Buy America preference by category.

The Buy America Requirement does not statutorily apply to Prime Recipients that are For-Profit Entities. However, the Buy America Requirement is applicable to a For-Profit Entity if: (1) it is a sub-recipient or sub-awardee under an award that contains the Buy America Requirement term and condition, or (2) it is the Prime Recipient that voluntarily chooses to use domestically sourced iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials by stating so in its proposed application containing an infrastructure project. If the For-Profit Entity specifically states that it will comply with the Buy America Requirements in its application and it is selected for award, its award will contain a *Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects* term and condition.

The Prime Recipient is responsible for flowing the Buy America Requirement down to all sub-awards, all contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders for work performed under the proposed infrastructure project, including to For-Profit Entities when the For-Profit Entity is a sub-recipient or sub-awardee.

Recipients must certify or provide equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that a good faith effort was made to solicit bids for domestic products used in the infrastructure project under this award.

Recipients must also maintain certifications or equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, affixed to, or otherwise used in the infrastructure project, not covered by an approved waiver or an exemption provided in 2 CFR 184.8, are produced in the U.S. The certification or proof of compliance must be provided by the suppliers or manufacturers of the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials and flow up from all subawardees, contractors and vendors to the recipient. Recipients must keep these certifications with the award/project files and be able to produce them upon request from DOE, auditors or Office of Inspector General.

### **C. DOE Submission Requirements for Full Application**

Within the first two pages of the workplan or project description, applicants must provide a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, maintenance and/or repair of infrastructure in the U.S. The ultimate determination about whether a project includes infrastructure remains with DOE, but the applicant’s statement will assist project planning and integration of the Buy America Requirement, which may impact the project’s proposed budget and/or schedule.

### **D. Waivers**

In limited circumstances, DOE may waive the application of the Buy America Requirement in an award where DOE determines that:

- (1) applying the Buy America requirements would be inconsistent with the public interest (Public Interest);

(2) the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality (Non-Availability); or

(3) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the U.S. will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent (Unreasonable Cost).

DOE will only process waiver requests after an award has been made and for which the requests have been submitted in accordance with the term and conditions of the award. Waiver requests must be reviewed by DOE and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Made in America Office and are subject to a public comment period of no less than 15 calendar days.

Waiver Requests may be submitted utilizing Optional Form 2211 (OF2211) or any other format to provide the required information below. DOE or OMB may request additional information for consideration of the waiver. DOE may reject or grant waivers in whole or in part depending on its review, analysis, and/or feedback from OMB or the public. DOE's final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed by a Recipient. The waiver request review and public comment process required for a waiver determination can take up to 65 calendar days.

Requests to waive the Buy America Requirement must include the following:

- Waiver type (Public Interest, Non-Availability, or Unreasonable Cost);
- Recipient name and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI);
- Award information (Federal Award Identification Number, Assistance Listing number);
- A brief description of the award- project objectives, location, and the specific infrastructure project involved;
- Total estimated Financial Assistance award value, inclusive of recipient cost share;
- Total estimated infrastructure costs (estimated costs of the Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products and Construction Materials being purchased under the award and utilized in the infrastructure project);
- List and description of iron or steel item(s), manufactured goods, and/or construction material(s) the recipient seeks to waive from the Buy America Requirement, including name, cost, quantity(ies), country(ies) of origin, and relevant Product Service Codes (PSC) and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for each;
- A detailed justification as to how the non-domestic item(s) is/are essential to the project;
- A certification that the recipient made a good faith effort to solicit bids for domestic products supported by terms included in requests for proposals, contracts, and non-proprietary communications with potential suppliers;
- A justification statement—based on one of the applicable justifications outlined above—as to why the listed items cannot be procured domestically, including the due diligence performed (e.g., market research, industry outreach, cost analysis, cost-benefit analysis) by the recipient to attempt to avoid the need for a waiver. This justification may cite, if applicable, the absence of any Buy America-compliant bids received for domestic products in response to a solicitation; A description of the market research conducted that includes who conducted the market research, when it was conducted, sources that were used, and the methods used to conduct the research; and
- Anticipated impact to the project if no waiver is issued.

The following principles should be incorporated as minimum requirements in waiver request:

- **Time-limited:** Consider a waiver constrained principally by a length of time, or phased-out over time, rather than by the specific project/award to which it applies. Waivers of this type may be appropriate, for example, when an item that is “non-available” is widely used in the project. When requesting such a waiver, the recipient should identify a reasonable, definite time frame (e.g., no more than one to two years) designed so that the waiver is reviewed to ensure the condition for the waiver (“non-availability”) has not changed (e.g., domestic supplies have become more available).
- **Targeted:** Waiver requests should apply only to the item(s), product(s), or material(s) or category(ies) of item(s), product(s), or material(s) as necessary and justified. Waivers should not be overly broad as this will undermine domestic preference policies.
- **Conditional:** The recipient may request a waiver with specific conditions that support the policies of IIJA/BABA and Executive Order 14017.

## P. Acronyms

Acronym Spelled Out		Acronym	Spelled Out
<b>ANC</b>	Alaska Native Corporation	<b>NNSA</b>	National Nuclear Security Administration
<b>BABA</b>	Build America, Buy America Act	<b>NOFO</b>	Notice of Funding Opportunity
<b>BIL</b>	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	<b>NSF</b>	National Science Foundation
		<b>OFCCP</b>	Office of Federal Contractor Compliance Programs
		<b>OIG</b>	Office of Inspector General
<b>CEQ</b>	Council on Environmental Quality	<b>OMB</b>	Office of Management and Budget
<b>COI</b>	Conflict of Interest	<b>OSHA</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<b>CRADA</b>	Cooperative Research and Development Agreement	<b>OSTI</b>	Office of Scientific and Technical Information
<b>DBA</b>	Davis-Bacon Act	<b>OTA</b>	Other Transactions Authority
<b>DEC</b>	Determination of Exceptional Circumstances	<b>PII</b>	Personally Identifiable Information
		<b>PLA</b>	Project Labor Agreement
<b>DMP</b>	Data Management Plan	<b>RD&amp;D</b>	Research, Development, and Demonstration
<b>DOE</b>	United States Department of Energy	<b>RMP</b>	Risk Management Plan

<b>DOI</b>	Digital Object Identifier	<b>RTES</b>	Research, Technology, and Economic Security
<b>DOL</b>	United States Department of Labor	<b>SAM</b>	System for Award Management
<b>EO</b>	Executive Order	<b>SciENCv</b>	Science Experts Network Curriculum Vita
<b>FCOI</b>	Financial Conflicts of Interest	<b>SMART</b>	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely
<b>FFATA</b>	Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006	<b>SPOC</b>	Single Point of Contact
<b>FFRDC</b>	Federally Funded Research and Development Center	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
<b>IRA</b>	Inflation Reduction Act	<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>M&amp;O</b>	Management and Operations	<b>TRL</b>	Technology Readiness Level
<b>MFA</b>	Multi-Factor Authentication	<b>UCC</b>	Uniform Commercial Code
		<b>UEI</b>	Unique Entity Identifier
<b>NDA</b>	Non-Disclosure Acknowledgement	<b>WBS</b>	Work Breakdown Structure
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act	<b>WP</b>	Work Proposal
<b>NHPA</b>	National Historic Preservation Act		