DE-FOA-0001953 – STINPA
Topic R - LOCOMOTIVES FAQ
Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov
Deadline for questions to ARPA-E CO: 5 PM ET, 11/13/2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE (https://arpa-e.energy.gov/faqs/general-questions) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQS AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

I.   **Full Application Phase Questions:**

Q1.   … There are common questions regarding the "Open-source requirements" [refer to FOA Appendix XVIII, Section 2.D].

Q1.1   Can we use a proprietary modelling package but open source the models? Does the source code have to be in an language that have open-source compilers?

ANSWER: Using a proprietary modelling package with open source models is allowed as long as the final product has a well-defined user interface for public users and must allow for manipulation of all Input/Output (I/O), including different routes and train configration. The I/O must be in an open source format allowing for simple input in text processors and spreadsheets. A user manual and a FAQ tool must be provided with the software distribution. This also applies to using any programming language compilers, although using an open-source compiler is greatly prefered by ARPA-E.

Q1.2   What open-source license were you considering for the program (like MIT, GNU)?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will consider any open-source license as long as it enables productive utilization for Project Teams under a potential follow on program on US Class 1 railroads energy systems technologies and the broader public in terms of the model results. In particular, each Project Team funded under this Special Program Announcement must agree to distribute the model that is to be developed under this award as Open Source Software using a generally recognized open software standard such as for example those approved at http://opensource.org/osd. To the extent the model to be distributed as Open Source requires access to additional software not available as compatible open source, such additional software must be publically available at a reasonable cost to any users of the model.

Q1.3   Can the simulation framework be kept open source while specific components such as sub models be submitted in a compiled format?

ANSWER: Keeping some sub models in a compiled format is allowed as long as it allows the public users to manipulate all required Input/Output (I/O) in the model (refer to FOA Appendix XVIII, Section 2.D for more detail). The I/O must be in an open source format allowing for simple input in text processors and spreadsheets. A user manual and a FAQ tool must be provided with the software distribution.

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Q2. Does a partner not receiving money from the federal entity (ARPA-e), but contributing to the project with cost-share and research need to supply the supporting documents outlined in the FOA? Ex: SF424A Budget Justification information, SF-LLL, Business Assurances and Disclosures, etc.

> **ANSWER**: An entity providing *third-party in-kind contribtions,* as that term is defined at 2 C.F.R. § 200.96, under a Federal award is considered a *subrecipient* as that term is defined at 2 C.F.R. § 200.93. Moreover, as set forth at 2 C.F.R. § 200.306(d): [*v*]alues *for non-Federal entity contributions of services and property must be established in accordance with the cost principles in subpart E of this part.* Accordingly, the application materials required of prospective subrecipients must be provided to ARPA-E for its consideration.