



DE-FOA-0002251 – SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR

Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:

5 PM ET, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:

5 PM ET, JUNE 12, 2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQs SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=faq/general-questions](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=faq/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. Modification 3 of the SMARTFARM solicitation, DE-FOA-0002251, added this to the program overview ... [FOA Section I.C] on pages 5 and 6: "Successful projects in this second phase of the portfolio will be required to test their technologies at one or more of the Phase 1 sites. Project Teams will be allowed to conduct field testing at other sites of their choosing during the project, but, at a minimum, key system demonstrations must occur at a Phase 1 site."

We have been trying to gather more information on those Phase 1 sites for our potential proposal. We found a list of winners here: <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=news-item/arpa-e-innovating-through-unconventional-ideas>, under "Establishing Validation Sites for Field-Level Emissions Quantification of Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock Production." Beyond following up at the various websites of the winning organizations, we have not found a lot of information about these projects. Will ARPA-E release more information about these Phase 1 sites?

ANSWER: Available information about the Phase 1 sites can be found in the SMARTFARM webinar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXJYJXreWrA>), the Phase 1 website (<https://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=arpa-e-programs/smartfarm>), and the Phase 1 FOA (<https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>, DE-FOA-0001953, Topic H). Note that Phase 2 teams are not expected to connect with Phase 1 teams during full application development.

Q2.1 We are interested in putting together a team to respond to the SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR FOA for N2O. Is it possible to have more detail regarding what instrumentation the Phase 1 test sites will have for us to develop and compare our methods/results against? The webinar indicated some (but not all?) sites will have at least one N2O eddy covariance tower, but I have not been able to find information beyond that.

ANSWER: Information regarding specific instrumentation is not available at this time. Measurement requirements for the Phase 1 sites can be found in the Phase 1 FOA (<https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>, DE-FOA-0001953, Topic H).

Q2.2 What suite(s) of Phase 1 N2O measurement instrumentation and other types of data will be available? Will any of the Phase 1 sites have N2O measurement at 1 acre resolution and what types (flux, only concentration, etc.)?

ANSWER: Refer to SMARTFARM FAQ 2.1.



DE-FOA-0002251 – SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR

Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:

5 PM ET, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:

5 PM ET, JUNE 12, 2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q3. For a project team proposing in response to the SBIR SMARTFARM FOA DE-FOA-0002251, must the prime recipient remain the same throughout Phases I, II, and IIS of the project?

ANSWER: Yes.

Q4. Hello, my company will apply for the SBIR version of SMARTFARM (DE-FOA-0002251, "SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR." On page 29 of the solicitation, it states that cost sharing is not required. The on-line form to submit proposals ("funds and costs" tab) says "minimum cost share, 20%" despite that. I assume I should just check the box that says "I certify that I have reviewed the Funding Opportunity Announcement, and this application is eligible for a reduced cost share obligation" and move on, correct?

ANSWER: Checking the box will allow submission of your application with less than 20% cost share.

Q5. Hello, the SF-424A workbook that you provide asks for attachments in tabs b (fringe benefits) and I (indirect costs); the attachments are for calculations showing indirect rates and/or indirect rate approval letters. However, there is no way to attach PDFs to the spreadsheet that I can see, having tried several options. How should this attachment be accomplished?

ANSWER: Refer to SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR FAQ 6

Q6. Hello, the most recent FAQ for the BAA version of SMARTFARM has the following question and answer:

Q: Where should equipment quotes be uploaded for the proposal?

ANSWER: Applicants can append quotations to the SF-424A Workbook using the INSERT → Object function of MS Excel.

Please be advised that this does not work, at least with Mac version of Excel; the function will not allow any kind of document I have tried (PDF, Word, etc) to be inserted into your workbook. I have added a sheet to the workbook and put images of required attachments there, with reference from the relevant sheets (in my case, the indirect costs sheet). I hope that is sufficient.

ANSWER: This is acceptable. ARPA-E has also added an interface to eXCHANGE that permits applicants to separately upload supporting budget documentation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q7. We are looking at the instructions for the SBIR version of SMARTFARM. On page 39, it states: “The Technical Volume must conform to the content and form requirements included within the template, including maximum page lengths. If Applicants exceed the maximum page lengths specified for each section, ARPA-E will review only the authorized number of pages and disregard any additional pages.” The template says that the section page limits are “suggested.” If you add up the maximum section lengths, you get 18 pages. Yet page 1 of the solicitation, the page limit overall for the five sections in the limit is 20 pages. Can you resolve this for me? Do we need to stay within the maximum page lengths for each section?

ANSWER: Where indicated in the Technical Volume Template, suggested page lengths do not represent maximum page limitations for a particular Section.

Q8. I am preparing a proposal in response to the above-referenced FOA and want to add a consultant to the team. The drop down menu for Organization Type does not include Consultant. Should I select "Individual" or is there another mechanism for listing consultants?

ANSWER: Select the alternative from the drop-down menu that corresponds with the consultancy's form or type or organization.

Q9.1 Under Section II A – Award Overview it states the period of performance shall not exceed 48 months for the Combined Phase I/II/III. If a more aggressive schedule were proposed (e.g. 36 mo.) would that affect the review score? The budget form seems to indicate the required schedule is 1 yr phase I, 2 years phase II, and 1 yr Phase III, can that be modified?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Forty-eight months is the maximum term of any agreement resulting from this FOA. A shorter term may be proposed. Reasonableness of the proposed project schedule is assessed as an element of the Merit Review (refer to FOA Section V.A.2).

Q9.2 In the Category 1 table for technical performance (FOA Section I.F) it refers to the System Level Uncertainty RMSE being less than 200g/acre. Is that meant to be 200g/acre/season or 200g/acre/emissions reporting period (e.g. Hour, Day, Week)?

ANSWER: The metric for System Level Uncertainty applies to the estimate for the season.

Q9.3 Is it correct that no fee, or profit, can be included under the SBIR budget for the prime or sub-recipients under this FOA?

ANSWER: It is correct.



DE-FOA-0002251 – SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR

Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:
5 PM ET, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV:
5 PM ET, JUNE 12, 2020

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q10. We are in the process of submitting a proposal for: ARPA-e: DE-FOA-0002251 - Systems for Monitoring and Analytics for Renewable Transportation Fuels from Agricultural Resources and Management SBIR/STTR (SMARTFARM SBIR/STTR) and we saw that an SBA certificate is required. Our company does not currently have an SBA certificate and it may take several days to acquire one. Is it possible to submit our proposal without the certificate and submit it at a later date?

ANSWER: No.

Q11.1 As I read the instructions, only one university or college can participate. Is that correct?

ANSWER: No. Refer to FOA Section III.B.

There is no limit on the number of Research Institutions that may participate in an SBIR award as a sub-recipient. There is a cumulative limitation on the extent of their participation as measured by proportion of Total Project Cost incurred, which varies by phase of the award.

Similarly, there is no limit on the number of Research Institutions that may participate in an STTR award as a sub-recipient, though at least one of those institutions must perform at least 30% of the work in each phase as measured by proportion of Total Project Cost incurred. Cumulatively, Research Institutions may not perform more than 60% of the work in each phase under any agreement as measured by proportion of Total Project Cost incurred.

Q11.2 Are consultants permitted?

ANSWER: Yes.