DE-FOA-0002692 – CURIE SBIR/STTR FOA FAQ

QUESTIONS CAN BE SENT TO ARPA-E-CO@HQ.DOE.GOV
FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: 5 PM ET, APRIL 4, 2022
SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: TBD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE (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.   Concept Paper Phase Questions:

Q1. … HERE ARE OUR QUESTIONS:

1. **ACCORDING TO THE FOA, CATEGORY I TECHNOLOGIES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE AN "EQUIVALENT THROUGHPUT PROCESSING RATE OF 2KG/HR FOR 8 H…WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF SELECTIVITY." DOES THIS MEAN THAT BY THE END OF PHASE IIS, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RATE, OR CAN WE DEMONSTRATE A LOWER PROCESSING RATE AND JUSTIFY HOW IT CAN BE SCALED UP TO 2KG/HR FOR 8 HOURS (E.G., VIA LARGER EQUIPMENT)? IF THE LATTER IS ACCEPTABLE, IS THERE A MINIMUM DEMONSTRATION RATE REQUIRED?**

   A lower processing rate can be demonstrated and justification can be provided with respect to meeting the 2 kg/hour standard. There is not a minimum demonstration rate, though tech-to-market viability is an important consideration of any ARPA-E project and scale is an important factor in tech-to-market viability.

2. **IF WE'RE TRYING TO IMPROVE MULTIPLE STEPS IN A PROCESS FLOWSHEET, DO WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE EACH STEP'S CAPABILITIES AT THE SAME THROUGHPUT RATE?**

   The throughput rate of the proposed individual steps (or unit operations) should be able to support an overall separation process throughput of at 2 kg / hour.

3. **CAN WE DO PIECEWISE DEMONSTRATIONS, OR MUST THEY ALL BE DEMONSTRATED TOGETHER?**

   Piecewise demonstrations are sufficient.

4. **THE SOLICITATION SEEMS TO PUT A LARGE EMPHASIS ON TRYING TO ENCOMPASS AS MANY CATEGORIES AND OBJECTIVES AS POSSIBLE AND WORK WITH A BIG TEAM. HOWEVER, THE SOLICITATION STATES, "EACH CONCEPT PAPER MUST BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE CONCEPT OR TECHNOLOGY." THESE SEEM CONTRADICTORY; CAN YOU PLEASE CLARIFY HOW THESE ARE COMPATIBLE?**

   A FOA modification is in process that will remove the sentence you quote above; you may disregard that limitation.

Q2. WE DO NOT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CURIE SBIR/STTR FOA. CAN WE STILL APPLY?

ANSWER: There are two distinct CURIE FOAs. The SBIR/STTR FOA (DE-FOA-0002692) is for those applicants that meet the eligibility criteria that are governed by Small Business Administration rules and guidance (see Section III of that FOA). The non-SBIR/STTR FOA (DE-FOA-002691) is for those applicants that meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Section III of that non-SBIR/STTR FOA.

Q3. USING THE 'COST ESTIMATOR WORKBOOK' IS DIFFICULT IF IMPOSSIBLE. AFTER MAKING A COUPLE ENTRIES, A POPUP WINDOW CONTINUED TO BE DISPLAYED ASKING FOR A PASSWORD. THIS HAPPENED EVERY 15-20 SECONDS, DISRUPTING ACTIVITY, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ENTRIES ON THE WORKSHEET.

ANSWER: Some of the cells in the Summary, Aqueous Reprocessing Costs, and Pyro Reprocessing Costs tabs in the Cost Estimator Workbook have been locked and password-protected to preserve the workbook's functionality. The Introduction tab of the workbook provides information about which cells can be modified.

II.   **Full Application Phase Questions:**

Q4. I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED ON HOW THE TIMESCALE WORKS FOR THE THREE PHASES (I, II, IIS), ESPECIALLY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION. IN THE FOA, IT INDICATES THAT "THE PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE FOR FUNDING AGREEMENTS MAY NOT EXCEED 36 MONTHS FOR A COMBINED PHASE I/II/IIS AWARD", BUT THE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION STATES PHASE II (YEAR 1), PHASE II CONTINUED (YEAR 2), AND PHASE IIS (12 MONTHS). HOW DO THESE TWO DOCUMENTS ALIGN IF THE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION APPEARS TO TOTAL 4 YEARS?

ANSWER: The Period of Performance for CURIE SBIR/STTR may not exceed 36 months. For purposes of the Budget Justification Workbook: Phase 1 is intended to be 12 months, Phase 2 is 12 months and Phase IIS is 12 months. "Phase II (cont'd)" should remain blank.