

## 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. Concept Paper Phase Questions:

**Q1. I HAVE A QUESTION ON THE ELIGIBILITY, THE FOA SAID 'PI MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL.' REGARDING 'HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL', DOES THIS MEAN THE TIME OF CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION OR FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION? SINCE THE GREEN CARD APPLICATION INVOLVES TWO STEPS (I-140 FORM AND I-485 FORM), AT WHAT STEP SHOULD I HAVE TO SATISFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT? IF I JUST HAVE SUBMITTED THE I-140 PETITION BY THE TIME OF PROPOSAL DEADLINE, WILL I BE ELIGIBLE?**

**ANSWER:** The Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485) must be filed with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services before submitting the Concept Paper.

**Q2. I AM WRITING TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IGNITE 2024 FOA (DE-FOA-0003224), SPECIFICALLY THE NOTE ON LEAVE OF ABSENCES IN SECTION III.A.III. I AM A FOUNDER OF A FOR-PROFIT STARTUP, AND I AM CURRENTLY ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM A DOCTORAL PROGRAM FOR THIS WORK. DOES THIS QUALIFY AS ELIGIBLE?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to PIs who have graduated with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) within eight years preceding the concept paper deadline. Those with reasonable periods of extended leave may be eligible if they have received a Ph.D. within eight years + extended leave preceding the concept paper deadline.

**Q3. THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THIS GRANT IS:**

**"MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL." GREEN CARD APPLICATION HAS 3 STEPS: PERM LABOR CERTIFICATION, I-140 AND I-485. IF MY APPLICATION IS IN THE 1ST STEP (LABOR CERTIFICATION), AM I ELIGIBLE FOR APPLYING TO THIS GRANT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q4. THE FOA, "INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF NEW INNOVATORS TO IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES IN ENERGY 2024 (IGNIITE 2024)", SEEMS LIKE A YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD. MAY I MAKE SURE IF IT ALLOWS COLLABORATIVE PROPOSALS, WHICH CONTAIN MULTIPLE PIS?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to individual Principal Investigators (single PIs).

**Q5. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT I CAN COUNT ONE YEAR OF PARENTAL LEAVE WHEN CALCULATING MY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, AND THEREFORE, I COULD BE 8+1=9 YEARS PAST MY PHD DEGREE.**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, reasonable periods of extended leave may be added to the requirements set forth in Section III.A.ii and III.A.iii.

**Q6. MY INQUIRY REVOLVES AROUND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE IGNITE 2024 PROGRAM.**

**DURING MY GRADUATE EDUCATION I DEVELOPED AN INNOVATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION. I MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO MASTERS OUT AND GO THE STARTUP ROUTE TO BUILD A COMPANY AROUND THIS INNOVATION. MY COMPANY HAS NOW SCALED TO 6 INCLUDING NAVAL ARCHITECTS, MARINE ENGINEERS, OFFSHORE & ONSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCE SPECIALISTS, AND THE PREEMINENT EXPERT ON OTEC. DOES MY LACK OF A PHD PRECLUDE ME FROM APPLYING?**

**ANSWER:** Yes. As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to PIs who have graduated with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) within eight years preceding the concept paper deadline.

**Q7. THERE IS A REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND A SUMMER SESSION. ARE THERE ANY TENTATIVE DATES SET FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THAT CAN BE PROVIDED? IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH SUMMER, THIS WILL BE 2 WEEKS OF TIME**

**ANSWER:** The exact dates will be communicated to the applicants that are invited to submit Full Applications. The summer session will be 2-weeks during each Summer of the award.

**Q8. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT SOME OF OUR POST DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS TO PROPOSE TO THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY. ARE THERE ANY ISSUES WITH POST DOCS BEING THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, the PI "must have the authority to self-direct the proposed work and manage the ARPA-E" and "must have the support of their organization to act as the PI for the proposed project". The ability to meet these requirements must be made clear in the Concept Paper. In addition, employees of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education must be Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professors to be eligible.

**Q9. COULD YOU KINDLY CLARIFY IF IT IS A SINGLE PI OR MULTI-PI OPPORTUNITY (PI+ CO-PI) ? IN THE LATTER CASE, IS THERE ANY RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF CO-PI'S?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q10. IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO BE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AT DOE/NNSA FFRDCS/DOE LABS TO BE INTERPRETED TO INDICATE THAT LIMITED TERM EMPLOYEES ARE INELIGIBLE TO SERVES AS PIS?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, employees at DOE/NNSA FFRDCS/DOE Labs must be full-time employees to be eligible to apply.

**Q11. I AM WRITING TO ENQUIRE ON WHETHER THERE IS PROVISION TO INCLUDE A CO-PI OR SENIOR PERSONNEL WHILE PROPOSING TO THE IGNITE SOLICITATION.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.



**Q12. IN THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, IT IS STATED THAT APPLICANTS MUST BE A "U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL". I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND MORE PRECISELY WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS HAVING "APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD". SPECIFICALLY, MY PETITION FOR I-140 HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE USCIS AND I AM CURRENTLY WAITING FOR MY PRIORITY DATE TO BECOME CURRENT SO I CAN SUBMIT THE I-485 FORM (I-140 APPROVED, I-485 IN PREPARATION BUT NOT SUBMITTED YET). DOES THIS MAKE ME AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q13. CAN WE INCLUDE CO-PIs OR OTHER AGENCIES OR COMPANIES THAT WILL HELP COMMERCIALIZE THE TECHNOLOGY?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q14. I UNDERSTAND THE PI MUST BE AN EARLY-CAREER INNOVATOR AS DEFINED IN SECTION III.A IN THE FOA. I WANTED TO CONFIRM WHETHER THIS IS A SINGLE-PI PROGRAM, OR IT ALSO ALLOWS CO-PI (EITHER JUNIOR OR SENIOR) AND/OR SENIOR PERSONNEL (OTHER FACULTY OR POST-DOC)?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q15. WOULD A RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, employees of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education must be Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professors to be eligible.

**Q16. WOULD RESEARCH FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE RECYCLING OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES OR THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR BATTERY FABRICATION BE OF INTEREST TO ARPA-E?**

**I COULD SEE THIS FITTING INTO CATEGORY 2: TRANSPORTATION OR CATEGORY 7: OTHER.**

**ANSWER:** As stated in sections I.A and I.D of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, Applicants may propose any energy technology R&D project that addresses one or more of ARPA-E's statutory goals through the type of research described in Section I.A of this FOA.

**Q17. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER, AT SOME POINT DURING THE PROJECT, LEAVES THEIR ENTITY FOR ANY REASON, PERSONAL OR OTHERWISE? WILL THE ENTITY NEED TO APPOINT A NEW RESEARCHER TO TAKE OVER? OR, SINCE IT WAS SELECTED DUE TO THAT SPECIFIC EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER'S ABILITIES, DOES THE PROJECT NOW FOLLOW THEM TO THEIR NEW ENTITY? OR DOES IT JUST END?**

**ANSWER:** Such a hypothetical situation will be decided on a case-by-case basis at the entire discretion of ARPA-E.

**Q18. WILL LOW SWAP (SIZE, WEIGHT, AND POWER) DEVICES BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING OR JUST NEW DEVICES FOR ENERGY GENERATION AND STORAGE? MY SECOND QUESTION IS ABOUT WHETHER THIS OPPORTUNITY CAN BE APPLIED FOR BY POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AT FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (FFRDC) SUCH AS SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES?**

**ANSWER:** 1. As stated in sections I.A and I.D of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, Applicants may propose any energy technology R&D project that addresses one or more of ARPA-E's statutory goals through the type of research described in Section I.A of this FOA.

2. As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, employees at DOE/NNSA FFRDCS/DOE Labs must be full-time employees to be eligible to apply and must also have the support of their organization to act as the PI for the proposed project, as evidenced by a letter signed by the PI's direct supervisor attesting to the applicant's eligibility and expressing their commitment to support the PI in the successful completion of the project.

**Q19. I HAVE DEVELOPED A DESIGN THAT WILL ELIMINATE GREENHOUSE GASES FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.**

**I AM LOOKING FOR FUNDING SO I CAN BUILD A PROTOTYPE AND FIX ANY KINKS. I NEED TO KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY. I AM ATTACHING MY CAPABILITY STATEMENT IN CASE YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.**

**ANSWER:** Refer to Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA for any questions pertaining to eligibility.

**Q20. FOR IGNIITE, WILL APPLICANTS (INDIVIDUALS - THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AIMING TO BE A FIRST-TIME ARPA-E PROJECT PI) BE SCORED ON THEIR ABILITY TO BECOME A PI BASED ON THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section V.A.1 in the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, one of the Concept Paper evaluation criteria includes the demonstrated capabilities of the individuals performing the project and the key capabilities of the organization.

**Q21. GIVEN THE WORDING IN THE IGNIITE FOA, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PROPOSING ENTITY IS STANDALONE AND THE PARTICULAR PI CAN ONLY SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION. WITH ALL THE WORDING, ESPECIALLY IN THE "QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND CAPABILITIES" SECTION, IT IS UNCLEAR IF THE PI CAN HAVE A PROJECT TEAM WITHIN THEIR STANDALONE ENTITY. JUST TO REMOVE ANY AMBIGUITY, CAN THE CHOSEN PI HAVE OTHER COLLEAGUES CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROJECT WITHIN THEIR ENTITY?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to individual Principal Investigators (single PIs). However, a single PI may lead a team of other individuals at their same institution supported by the project.

**Q22. DO I NEED TO HAVE RECEIVED A PH.D BY THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO IGNIITE 2024?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q6 above.

**Q23. GIVEN HOW THE FOA IS WRITTEN AND THE STIPULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PHD DATE, CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT ONLY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED A PHD PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE? THIS MEANS SOMEONE WHO IS STILL IN PROCESS OF OBTAINING THEIR PHD AND THOSE THAT ARE RESEARCHERS WITH A MASTERS DEGREE ARE INELIGIBLE, CORRECT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q6 above.

**Q24. I HAVE A QUESTION WITH RESPECT TO FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DE-FOA-0003224. AS I UNDERSTAND THE APPLICANT PI MUST HAVE A PHD. I AM IN INDUSTRY WITH MY OWN BUSINESS WITH A BS DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING. AM I DISQUALIFIED?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q6 above.

**Q25. I WOULD LIKE TO APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING FOA: INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF NEW INNOVATORS TO IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES IN ENERGY (IGNIITE) 2024**

**ACCORDING TO THE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION IN SECTION III.A OF THE IGNIITE CONCEPT PAPER FOA, THE APPLICANT MUST BE EITHER A US CITIZEN OR A US PERMANENT RESIDENT OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A US GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.**

**I AM A GERMAN CITIZEN ON AN H-1B VISA WHOSE I-140 PETITION (IMMIGRANT PETITION FOR ALIEN WORKERS) HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED (NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER) BY THE USCIS. HOWEVER, SINCE MY "PRIORITY DATE" IS NOT YET „CURRENT", I CANNOT YET APPLY FOR I-485 (APPLICATION TO REGISTER PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR ADJUST STATUS), AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S VISA BULLETIN WILL MAKE MY PRIORITY DATE CURRENT SO THAT I CAN FILE MY I-485 APPLICATION.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER MY SITUATION COUNTS AS „APPLIED FOR A US GREEN CARD" IN YOUR DEFINITIONS OR NOT.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q26. I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO THE IGNITE 2024 PROGRAM FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS AND I THINK I AM ELIGIBLE PER THE FOA GUIDELINES. I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO ASK FOR A PROGRAM MANAGER IN A 30 MIN SHORT MEETING THAN BY EMAIL. DO YOU MIND CONNECTING ME WITH THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR TO FIND A TIME TO MEET IF THAT'S ALLOWED UNDER THIS FOA?**

**ANSWER:** Please see Section VII. Agency Contacts of the FOA.

**Q27. I AM AN EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AND HAVE GRADUATED WITH A PH.D. WITHIN 8.4 YEARS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE (JANUARY 5, 2024). THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED MY RESEARCH PROGRESS DURING 2020-2023 PERIOD. AM I STILL ELIGIBLE TO APPLY, ALTHOUGH BEING A LITTLE BIT OVER EIGHT YEARS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE?**

**THE FOA STATES: "ELIGIBLE APPLICANT MUST HAVE GRADUATED WITH A DOCTORAL DEGREE (PH.D.) WITHIN EIGHT YEARS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE (EXCLUDING REASONABLE PERIODS OF EXTENDED LEAVE – E.G., PERSONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE, PARENTAL LEAVE)."**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNITE 2024 FOA, reasonable periods of extended leave may be added to the requirements set forth in Section III.A.ii and III.A.iii. Circumstances may be briefly explained in the application.

**Q28. THERE ARE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT:**

**"MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL."**

**1) WHAT IF THEY RECENTLY BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE GREEN CARD APPLICATION PROCESS AND ARE STARTING THE APPLICATION PROCESS. AT WHAT STATE WITHIN THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS IT CONSIDERED TO BE APPLIED? IS THERE MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT THE GREEN CARD CRITERIA, SINCE IT IS A 2-STAGE PROCESS?**

**A. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS AN APPROVED I140 WITH I485 UNDER PROCESS OF APPLICATION BUT NOT APPLIED AS YET. WILL THIS SCENARIO QUALIFY?**

**B. IS IT THE FILING OF THE I-40?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q29. GIVEN THE WORDING, AN FFRDC WOULD NEED TO BE A STANDALONE APPLICANT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOMETIMES STUDENT INTERNS AVAILABLE THAT ARE PLACED AT THE FFRDC. WOULD THOSE PEOPLE BE CONSIDERED NON-FFRDC COLLABORATORS IN THIS CONTEXT? MEANING, DOES THE WORDING MAKE IT SO THE INTERNS COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A PROJECT?**

**ANSWER:** Student Interns will be considered non-FFRDC collaborators. Note that Applicants must have already received a PhD within the last 8 years.

**Q30.**

- 1. THE FOA STATES "FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES , EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, DOE/NNSA FFRDCS/DOE LABS, AND NONPROFITS THAT ARE INCORPORATED IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING U.S. TERRITORIES, ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY, AND THESE ENTITIES MUST APPLY AS A STANDALONE APPLICANT ONLY (I.E., THEY CANNOT APPLY AS A PROJECT TEAM WITH ANOTHER ENTITY)." BEYOND THE REQUIREMENT FOR THESE ENTITIES TO SUBMIT STANDALONE SUBMISSIONS, IS THERE REQUIREMENT REGARDING THE LEVEL OF EFFORT BY THE INDIVIDUAL NEW INNOVATOR PI? FOR EXAMPLE, IS THAT INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO DO A MINIMUM OF X% EFFORT ON THE PROJECT COMPARED TO OTHER INDIVIDUALS FROM THE PI'S ORGANIZATION WHO MAY ALSO BE SUPPORTING THE PROJECT?**
- 2. THE FOA STATES THAT PROPOSERS "IDENTIFY KEY CAPABILITIES PROVIDED BY THE PI'S ORGANIZATION AND HOW THOSE KEY CAPABILITIES WILL BE USED IN THE PROPOSED EFFORT" IN THE CONCEPT PAPER. IS THERE A MAX PERCENTAGE OF THE PROJECT EFFORT THAT CAN BE PROVIDED BY ADDITIONAL PROJECT PERSONNEL FROM THE NEW INNOVATOR PI'S ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN THE PI HIMSELF/HERSELF?**

**ANSWER:** The IGNIITE 2024 FOA does not set minimum Level of Effort requirements for the PI.

**Q31. I RECEIVED MY PH.D. IN DECEMBER 2015, SO TECHNICALLY IT WILL BE 8 YEARS AND 1 MONTH BY THE TIME OF SUBMIT THE CONCEPT PAPER (JANUARY 5, 2024).**

**HOWEVER, I HAD A MATERNITY DURING MY POSTDOCTORAL WORK IN FALL 2017, WHICH DELAYED THE START OF MY INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC CAREER.**

**WOULD THIS APPLY AS AN EXCEPTION FOR AN 8-YEAR RULE?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, reasonable periods of extended leave may be added to the requirements set forth in Section III.A.ii and III.A.iii. Circumstances may be briefly explained in the application.

**Q32. FOA 3224 STATES THAT "MUST HAVE GRADUATED WITH A DOCTORAL DEGREE (PH.D.) WITHIN EIGHT YEARS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE (EXCLUDING REASONABLE PERIODS OF EXTENDED LEAVE – E.G., PERSONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE, PARENTAL LEAVE)."**

**SOME DOE AND DOD PROGRAMS ARE CONSIDERING AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF EXTENSION TO THIS LIMITATION DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC. FOR EXAMPLE, DOE EARLY CAREER RESEARCH PROGRAM NOW CONSIDERS 12 YEARS AFTER PHD GRADUATION.**

**WILL YOU ALSO EXTEND IT?**

**I GRADUATED ON MAY 2, 2015, FROM GEORGIA TECH AND WAS A POSTDOC AT CALTECH FOR THREE YEARS AND A LECTURER AT CAL STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE STARTING MY TENURE TRACK POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH IN 2021. I DID HAVE A MAJOR LIFE EVENT (MY SON WAS BORN) BUT IN 2013.**

**I WAS WONDERING IF I COUNT AS AN EARLY CAREER IN YOUR PROGRAM SO THAT I CAN APPLY FOR IGNIITE.**

**ANSWER:** The leave of absence must have occurred in the period of time after the proposed PI obtained their Ph.D.

**Q33. I AM DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE IGNIITE 2024 PROGRAM, AND I HOPE TO CLARIFY MY ELIGIBILITY REGARDING BELOW.**

**III. A. I) MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL.**

**I AM A CITIZEN OF KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH KOREA) AND IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING MY U.S. GREEN CARD. I HAVE MY I-140 FORM APPROVED (LAST YEAR OCTOBER) AND PLAN TO SUBMIT MY I-485 FORM IN NOVEMBER (THIS MONTH). I WONDER THIS CONDITION FITS INTO THE THIRD CATEGORY (HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL).**

**ANSWER:** The Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (form I-485) must be filed with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services before submitting the Concept Paper. Please refer to Q1 above.



**Q34. I HAVE A QUESTION ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF THIS CALL. THE FOA SAID ' PI MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL.'**

**REGARDING PI 'HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL', DOES THIS MEAN BY THE TIME OF CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION OR FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION?**

**SINCE THE GREEN CARD APPLICATION INVOLVES TWO STEPS (I-140 AND I-485), AT WHAT STEP SHOULD I HAVE TO SATISFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT? IF I JUST HAVE SUBMITTED THE I-140 PETITION BY THE TIME OF PROPOSAL DEADLINE, WILL I BE ELIGIBLE?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q35. I AM INTERESTED TO SUBMIT A CONCEPT PAPER FOR ARPA-E IGNITE. ONE QUESTION REGARDING THE PI. THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IS SUPPOSED FOR SINGLE-PI OR CAN BE SUBMITTED BY MULTI-PI'S?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to individual Principal Investigators (single PIs).

**Q36. FOR THE RECENTLY RELEASED FOA 0003224 IGNIITE 2024, MY TEAM IS WONDERING IF ARPA-E WOULD CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM A NONPROFIT TO ADMINISTER THE \$10M AWARD AND RECRUIT 10 SCIENTISTS WHO ARE WORKING ON TECHNOLOGY RELEVANT TO THIS FOA WHO ARE TRYING TO COMMERCIALIZE THAT TECH.**

**I READ THE FOA A FEW TIMES, AND WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR IF THIS IDEA IS TOO OUT OF SCOPE FOR THE SOLICITATION.**

**ANSWER:** No. ARPA-E will administer the funds and select the awardees.

**Q37. I WONDER IF I AM ENCOURAGED TO HAVE A CO-PI?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q38. I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY. I AM FULL TIME CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR. I HAVE BEEN SUPERVISING THREE FULL-TIME PHD STUDENTS. JUST WONDERING IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT.**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, employees of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education must be Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professors to be eligible.

**Q39. FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY, I UNDERSTAND THAT ELIGIBILITY IS RESTRICTED TO INDIVIDUAL PIS ACCORDING TO SECTION III.A OF THE FOA AND AS INDICATED IN Q4 OF THE FAQ. HOWEVER, CAN YOU PLEASE CLARIFY WHETHER SUB-AWARDS / SUB-CONTRACTS ARE PERMITTED? IF THEY ARE PERMITTED, ARE THEY DISCOURAGED, CONSIDERING THAT THIS IS AN EARLY CAREER TYPE AWARD?**

**ANSWER:** Entities must apply as a Standalone Applicant only. See Section III.B of the FOA.

**Q40. I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING IGNIITE THIS YEAR. I'M WONDERING IF I TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION AFTER BEING AWARDED, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER THE AWARD TO THE NEW INSTITUTION?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q17 above.

**Q41. I WANT TO CONFIRM INTERPRETATION OF WORDING. THE FOA STATES: "APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY THE PI'S DIRECT SUPERVISOR (1) ATTESTING TO THE APPLICANT'S AND PI'S ELIGIBILITY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS III.A AND III.B AND (2) EXPRESSING THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PI IN THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TIME, SPACE, LABORATORY ACCESS)."**

**IN SOME CASES, THE PERSON WHO APPROVES A RESEARCHER'S TIME IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PERSON WHO DIRECTS THAT RESEARCHER'S WORK. CAN YOU PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ON WHO YOU MEAN AS "DIRECT SUPERVISOR"? WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THE ONE DIRECTING THEIR ACTIVITIES.**

**ANSWER:** If an applicant PI has more than one direct supervisor, then all relevant supervisors should be included on the letter of support.

**Q42. I WOULD LIKE TO GET CLARIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA,**

- 1. ON PAGE 10 OF THE FOA, IT IS MENTIONED THAT PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS PIS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL.**
  - MY I-140 (FORM TO PETITION FOR A NON-CITIZEN WORKER TO BECOME A PERMANENT RESIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE (USCIS).**
- 2. UNDER SECTION III. A. ELIGIBLE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS OF THE FOA IT IS MENTIONED THAT "FOR PIS EMPLOYED AT A U.S. INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MUST BE CURRENT TENURE-TRACK ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, AND MUST HAVE GRADUATED WITH A DOCTORAL DEGREE (PH.D.) WITHIN EIGHT YEARS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE.**
  - I AM WORKING AS A RESEARCH ENGINEER AT ---REDACTED--- A RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ITS OWN CAMPUS AND OUR RESEARCH FACULTY ARE NOT TENURE EARNING AND ARE NON-TEACHING AND WORK OFF OF CONTRACT FUNDS, NOT UNIVERSITY FUNDS.**
  - IN THIS REGARD, AM I ELIGIBLE UNDER THE SECTION III.B. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS - THIS FOA IS OPEN TO U.S. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DOE/NNSA FFRDCS/DOE LABS, AND INDUSTRY.**

**I KINDLY REQUEST CLARIFICATION REGARDING MY ELIGIBILITY TO SUBMIT A CONCEPT PAPER FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. DE-FOA-0003224, SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THE ABOVE MENTIONED POINTS.**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E will not preassess the eligibility of individual applicants. See Section III.A and III.B of the FOA for information regarding PI and applicant eligibility. Please, refer also to Q33 above.

**Q43. I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS:**

**1) IN THE FOA AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENT CHECK LIST, I SEE "ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT". AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, I DON'T HAVE ANY ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT AS I DONT TAKE ANY COURSES, RATHER I TEACH. COULD YOU CLARIFY WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS?**

**2) IS IT POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT MULTIPLE CONCEPT PAPERS AS WE DONT KNOW WHICH CONCEPTS MAYBE MORE INTERESTING TO THE PROGRAM MANAGERS? HOWEVER, I WILL ONLY SUBMIT ONE FULL PROPOSAL IN CASE BOTH ARE ENCOURAGED FOR FULL SUBMISSION.**

**ANSWER:**

1. As stated in Section IV.C.3 of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, applicants must submit a copy of the proposed PI's official or unofficial transcript from their Ph.D. program.

2. As stated in section III.D.3 of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, individual PIs may submit no more than one application.

**Q44. DOES THIS AWARD ALLOW FOR SUBAWARDEES OR SUBCONTRACTING?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q39 above.

**Q45. WOULD BEING DELAYED IN STARTING AS A FACULTY FOR A YEAR AND A HALF DUE TO COVID CONSTITUTE A REASONABLE EXTENDED LEAVE FOR EXTENDING THE TIMELINE BASED ELIGIBILITY FOR THE IGNIITE PROGRAM?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q27 above.

**Q46. ON PAGE 11 OF THE DE-FOA-0003224, YOU MENTION THAT APPLICANTS CANNOT APPLY AS A PROJECT TEAM WITH ANOTHER ENTITY. HOWEVER, ON PAGE 19 IT IS STATED THAT "ARPA-E STRONGLY ENCOURAGES INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION SPANNING ORGANIZATIONAL BOUNDARIES."**

**SO MY QUESTION IS IF I AM NOT ALLOWED TO TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER ENTITY, THEN HOW ARE YOU ENCOURAGING INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION? AM I MISSING SOMETHING. PERHAPS YOU CAN GIVE ME EXAMPLES OF PROJECT TEAMS I CAN BE? I AM FROM PROFIT ENTITIES.**

**ANSWER:** Section III.B of the FOA controls. The other quoted language is from a section describing the requirement to perform work in the United States and is not inconsistent with Section III.B if the applicant entity has more than one facility where work is proposed. However, any request to perform work outside the United States would be subject to the requirements stated in Section IV.H.6 of the FOA.

**Q47. I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF PIS. I AM A FULL TIME NATIONAL LAB EMPLOYEE WHO IS NEARING THE END OF A PHD. I SHOULD BE GRADUATING SPRING OF 2024. WOULD I BE ELIGIBLE AS A PI ON THIS FOA?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q6 above.

**Q48. REGARDING IGNIITE, I AM CURIOUS IF ANY COLLABORATIVE EFFORT/TEAMING IS ALLOWED?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q46 above.

**Q49. I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION ON A COUPLE OF ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- 1. COULD YOU PLEASE INFORM ME WHETHER THE IGNIITE 2024 PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PROPOSALS FROM A SINGLE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) ONLY, OR IF IT ALSO ACCEPTS PROPOSALS INVOLVING MULTIPLE PIS?**
- 2. REGARDING THE TECHNICAL CATEGORIES, SPECIFICALLY CATEGORY 1 GRID FOCUSING ON "TECHNOLOGIES FOR IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE, RELIABILITY, AND SECURITY OF THE GRID," I AM CURIOUS TO KNOW IF THE TERM "TECHNOLOGIES" IS BEING USED IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, INCLUDING HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE TOOLS. ALTERNATIVELY, DOES IT ALSO INCLUDE METHODOLOGIES ?**

**ANSWER:**

1. Please refer to Q4 above.

2. ARPA-E will not pre-assess the topic for a proposed submission. Please refer to Section 1 of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA for more information on the goals for this FOA.

**Q50. I AM DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AT UNIVERSITY – REDACTED -**

- 1. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF FACULTY INTERESTED IN THIS OPPORTUNITY. IS IT ADVISABLE FOR THEM TO REACH OUT TO THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR IN ADVANCE OF SUBMITTING A CONCEPT PAPER? IF YES, IS DR. LAURENT PILOT THE BEST CONTACT?**
- 2. AS ARPA-E WAS MODELED AFTER DARPA, HOW CLOSELY DOES THE AGENCY FOLLOW THE HEILMEIER CATECHISM?**

**ANSWER:**

1. Please refer to Q26 above.

2. Please refer to the official ARPA-E website for more information on ARPA-E's processes and mission.

**Q51. I AM AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FROM ---REDACTED---. JUST A FEW CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS THAT I DID NOT FIND ANSWERS TO ON THE FAQ.**

- 1. I AM CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY. MY I-140 HAS BEEN APPROVED BUT I HAVE NOT SUBMITTED MY I-485 DUE TO THE LONG QUEUE FOR CHINESE CITIZENS. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**
- 2. I AM THINKING OF COLLABORATING WITH A COMPANY ON THE INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION CATEGORY. WOULD THIS BE ENCOURAGED OR DISCOURAGED? IF ENCOURAGED, SHOULD I ASK FOR A SUPPORT LETTER?**

**ANSWER:**

1. Please refer to Q1 above.
2. Please refer to Q46 above.

**Q52. IF TRANSCRIPTS WERE NOT PART OF THEIR PHD PROGRAM, WHAT DOCUMENTATION SHOULD THE PI SUBMIT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q43 above.

**Q53. THE FOA FOR THE 2024 IGNIITE PROGRAM STATES THAT "APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY THE PI'S DIRECT SUPERVISOR".**

- 1. WOULD THIS TYPICALLY BE THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR?**
- 2. WHO ARE THE PEOPLE THAT WILL BE EVALUATING (1) THE CONCEPT LETTERS AND (2) THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES? WILL IT BE ARPA-E/DOE EMPLOYEES, OR WILL I BE EVALUATED BY A PANEL OF PEERS (NSF PANEL STYLE)?**

**ANSWER:**

1. ARPA-E does not pre-assess or dictate who would fulfill this role for the PI.
2. Please refer to Section V. of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA.

**Q54. I NOTICED THAT THE FOA OF IGNIITE REQUIRES "THE APPLICATIONS SHOULD HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL." I AM APPLYING FOR A GREEN CARD. THE "GREEN CARD" PROCESS HAS 2 COMPONENTS: AN I-140 IMMIGRANT VISA PETITION, AND AN I-485 ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS APPLICATION. I WONDER WHICH STAGE IS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THE IGNIITE PROGRAM? AND WHETHER THIS ELIGIBILITY IS REQUIRED AT THE TIME POINT FOR SUBMITTING THE CONCEPT PAPER OR FOR SUBMITTING THE FULL PROPOSAL?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q55. I AM A FOREIGNER WORKING ON I-485 AND I-130 APPLICATIONS AND INTERESTED IN THIS FOA, THUS I WANT TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF "HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD". DOES IT MEAN ACCEPTANCE OF AN I-130 RECEIPT, OR APPROVAL OF I-130?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q56. I AM AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY --- REDACTED---. THE SOLICITATION INDICATES THIS WILL BE A SINGLE PI PROPOSAL, BUT I WONDER IF A SENIOR PERSONNEL IS ALLOWED ON THE PROPOSAL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION. IF YES, IS THERE A BUDGET LIMIT FOR HIM/HER?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q21 and Q46 above.

**Q57. CAN THE ARPA E IGNITE PROPOSAL (RFP ATTACHED) INCLUDE CO-PIS OR IS IT ONLY ONE PI WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT AND SUBMITS IT? IF YES, CAN CO-PIS BE NON-US CITIZENS AND ARE NOT PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE US? I KNOW THE LEAD PI MUST BE A US CITIZEN OR US PERMANENT RESIDENT. WHAT ABOUT "A COLLABORATOR" OR "A CONSULTANT", IS IT ALLOWED TO HAVE THEM ON A PROPOSAL, AND CAN THEY BE NON-US CITIZENS AND NOT PERMANENT RESIDENTS?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q21 and Q46 above. ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's eligibility.

**Q58. AS I LOOKED AT THE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION, WOULD A PRE-TENURE FACULTY IN THE U.S. WITH AN O-1A "EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY OR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SCIENCES" VISA BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q59. I WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR THE "INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF NEW INNOVATORS TO IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES IN ENERGY 2024 (IGNIITE 2024)" GRANT HOWEVER I AM UNABLE TO FIND THE NEEDED OPPORTUNITY " PACKAGE" ID. WHERE MIGHT I FIND IT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to the IGNIITE 2024 FOA and other applicable information available on ARPA-E eXCHANGE -- <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/>.

**Q60. I WOULD LIKE SOME CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY IN THE FOA. MY READING OF SECTION III.A.II) SUGGESTS THAT NON-TENURE-TRACK FACULTY, LIKE RESEARCH FACULTY, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS FOA. IS THIS CORRECT?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q15 above.

**Q61. ARE SMALL BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

**ANSWER:** Small business, which also meet other criteria set forth in Section III.B, are eligible to apply to this FOA.

**Q62. SINCE THIS IS MY FIRST TIME APPROACHING DOE, I WAS WONDERING IF IT IS ALLOWED AND/OR RECOMMENDED TO REACH OUT TO A PROGRAM MANAGER BEFORE SUBMITTING A CONCEPT PAPER, TO MAKE SURE THAT MY RESEARCH IDEA IS IN LINE WITH DOE INTERESTS.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q26 above.

**Q63. I AM WRITING TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THE III. A. ELIGIBLE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS.**

**I AM AN INTERNATIONAL RESIDENT ALIEN WITH AN H1B VISA AND CURRENTLY WORKING ON MY U.S. GREEN CARD APPLICATION. I AM NOT SURE IF WE CAN SUBMIT THE GREEN CARD APPLICATION MATERIALS BY THE DEADLINE OF THE CONCEPT PAPER BUT WE CAN DO IT BY THE DEADLINE OF THE FULL APPLICATION. IN THIS CASE, CAN I STILL SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q64. DO I NEED TO HAVE RECEIVED MY PH.D. FROM A U.S. INSTITUTION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR IGNIITE 2024?**

**ANSWER:** The IGNIITE 2024 FOA does not require that the Ph.D. be earned from a U.S. institution.

**Q65. WE HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE APPLICANT'S DIRECT SUPERVISOR. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SECTION IV.C.2 OF THE FOA THAT THESE LETTERS MUST (1) ATTEST TO THE APPLICANT'S AND PI'S ELIGIBILITY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS III.A AND III.B; AND (2) EXPRESS THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PI IN THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TIME, SPACE, LABORATORY ACCESS). CAN YOU PLEASE CLARIFY WHETHER WE ARE LIMITED TO INCLUDING THIS INFORMATION OR IF THE LETTER MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section IV.C.2 of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, there is no page limit for the letter of support. However, the purpose of the letter is specifically to confirm the eligibility criteria.

**Q66. I AM WONDERING WHETHER IGNIITE (DE-FOA-0003224) IS PLANNED AS AN ANNUAL REPEATING FOA HERE-ON-AFTER, OR WHETHER THERE IS LESS LIKELIHOOD OF IGNIITE BEING AN OPPORTUNITY IN 2025 AND IN THE FUTURE?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E cannot speculate on the availability of future funding announcements.



**Q67. I HAVE RECEIVED MY PHD IN DECEMBER 2015 (8 YEARS AND ONE MONTH FROM THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE), I WANTED TO KNOW IF I QUALIFY FOR THE IGNIITE PROGRAM. I HAVE ONLY BEEN EMPLOYED IN ACADEMIA FOR 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS AS I WAS BETWEEN POSITIONS AND IN INDUSTRY PRIOR TO BEGINNING MY ACADEMIC CAREER. CAN YOU PLEASE RESPOND IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section III.A of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, eligibility is restricted to PIs who have graduated with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) within eight years preceding the concept paper deadline. Reasonable periods of extended leave may be added to extend the eligibility window. Time spent working outside of a specific field is not considered a reasonable period of extended leave.

**Q69. THE IGNIITE PROGRAM REQUIRES THE APPLICANTS TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD BY THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE DEADLINE THE FOA IS REFERRING TO IS THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE ON JAN 5TH OR THE FULL APPLICATION IN FEB**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q70. WILL YOU ACCEPT AND DO YOU ENCOURAGE THE ADDITION OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS OR OTHER EXPERTS?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E does not encourage any submissions for the IGNIITE 2024 FOA beyond those described in the IGNIITE 2024 FOA document. Additional documents may not disqualify an application, but ARPA-E makes no assurances that additional materials will be considered.

**Q71. I AM REACHING OUT FOR YOUR VALUED INPUT ON A FEW POINTS THAT REQUIRE CLARIFICATION:**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT: I AM UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM MY CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, THE DEAN, OR ANOTHER AUTHORITY. COULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE SOURCE FOR THIS LETTER?**

**ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT: I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM WHETHER THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD REFLECT THE ACADEMIC RECORDS OF THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE FUNDING, OR IF IT SHOULD DETAIL MY QUALIFICATIONS AND ACADEMIC JOURNEY AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT UTRGV.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4, Q43, and Q53 above.

**Q72. BASED ON THE IGNIITE PROGRAM TECHNICAL CATEGORIES I UNDERSTAND POWER ELECTRONICS IS OF PRIMARY INTEREST FOR TRANSPORTATION SECTOR (CATEGORY 2). HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE POWER ELECTRONICS (HIGH EFFICIENCY HIGH POWER DENSITY HIGH PERFORMANCE PULSED POWER CONVERTER) FOR FUSION AND THAT WOULD BE PRIMARILY CATEGORY 4. MY QUESTION IS: IF THIS TOPIC IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE RELEVANT FOR THIS ARPA-E IGNIITE CALL.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q16 above.

**Q73. I AM A POTENTIAL APPLICANT FOR ARPA-E IGNIITE 2024 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY. I AM WONDERING WHETHER IT IS A SINGLE PI OPPORTUNITY, OR WE NEED TO APPLY AS A TEAM? IF WE BUILD A TEAM, DOES THAT NEED TO INCLUDE ONLY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q74. I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE IGNIITE PROGRAM (FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. DE-FOA-0003224) UNDER III. A. I) ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION/ PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR THE FOA STATES: "MUST BE U.S. CITIZEN, U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR HAVE APPLIED FOR A U.S. GREEN CARD."**

**I HAVE APPLIED FOR A GREEN CARD UNDER EB2 NIW. THE NIW CASE HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AND I AM WAITING FOR MY I-485 FILING DATE TO BECOME CURRENT. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS FOA?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q75. I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE DE-FOA-0003224: INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF NEW INNOVATORS TO IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES IN ENERGY 2024 (IGNIITE 2024):**

- 1. IN SECTION III.B. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS, THERE IS FOOTNOTE 8 ON "FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES" THAT STATES "ENTITIES ORGANIZED FOR-PROFIT OTHER THAN SMALL BUSINESSES". DOES THIS MEAN SMALL BUSINESSES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS? PLEASE CLARIFY WHETHER STARTUPS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.**
- 2. SECTION IV.C.2. LETTER OF SUPPORT STATES THAT "APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY THE PI'S DIRECT SUPERVISOR". WHAT IF THE PI IS A STARTUP FOUNDER AND DOES NOT HAVE A DIRECT SUPERVISOR? WHO SHOULD THE LETTER OF SUPPORT COME FROM?**

**ANSWERS:** 1. Please refer to Q61 above.

2. Please refer to Q53 above.

**Q76. MAY I INCLUDE A CO-PI FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q4 above.

**Q77. I AM AN INTERNATIONAL PI AND HAVE APPLIED FOR THE GREEN CARD OF THE FIRST STEP WITH APPROVAL OF FORM 140, AND AM WAITING TO SUBMIT MY LAST STEP OF FORM 485. DOES THIS FALL INTO THE ELIGIBILITY OF HAVING APPLIED FOR A US GREEN CARD? IN ADDITION, MY PHD WAS OBTAINED FROM CHINA WITHIN 7 YEARS, THERE IS NO DEFINITION ON WHERE THE PHD DEGREE WAS AUTHORIZED. DO YOU SEE A ISSUE WITH THIS**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 and Q64 above.

**Q78. IS THE ARPA-E UPLOADED PORTAL AN APPROPRIATE TOOL TO TRANSMIT AND PROTECT PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII) (E.G., TRANSCRIPTS) OR IS THERE SPECIFIC PROTOCOL WE SHOULD FOLLOW TO DELIVER THIS INFORMATION TO ARPA-E (COVER PAGE, ENCRYPTION, ETC.)?**

**ANSWER:** Applicants may not include any Protected Personally Identifiable Information (Protected PII) in their submissions to ARPA-E. Please refer to Section VIII.D of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA for the definition of Protected PII and a list of examples.

**Q79. I AM CURRENTLY THE CO-FOUNDER OF A START-UP COMPANY ALONG WITH MY FORMER PHD ADVISOR. CAN HE WRITE MY LETTER OF SUPPORT? HE'S AN ADVISOR WITHIN OUR COMPANY AND ACTUALLY DOES SUPERVISE MY TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES STILL!**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q53 above.

**Q80. QUESTION 1:**

**THE FOA STATES THAT ARPA-E MAY ISSUE ONE, MULTIPLE, OR NO AWARDS UNDER THIS FOA AND THAT THE FEDERAL SHARE OF AWARDS WILL NOT EXCEED \$500,000. IT ALSO STATES THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE AWARDED IS APPROXIMATELY \$10 MILLION, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS. IS THE MAXIMUM AWARD PER APPLICATION LIMITED TO \$500,000 OR WILL APPLICATIONS BE CONSIDERED WHICH EXCEED \$500,000?**

**QUESTION 2:**

**IS IT A REQUIREMENT FOR AN APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A U.S. INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND/OR A NATIONAL LABORATORY?**

**ANSWERS:**

1. As stated in the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, the maximum federal share of awards will not exceed \$500,000 per award.

2. As stated in Section III.B of the IGNIITE 2024 FOA, this FOA is open to Institutions of Higher Education, DOE/NNSA FFRDCs/DOE Labs, and Industry. For-profit entities, educational institutions, DOE/NNSA FFRDCs/DOE Labs, and nonprofits that are incorporated in the United States, including U.S. territories, are eligible to apply, and these entities must apply as a Standalone Applicant only (i.e., they cannot apply as a project team with another entity).

**Q81. I AM TRANSFERRING INSTITUTIONS AND MY OFFICIAL EMPLOYMENT/APPOINTMENT AS A TENURE-TRACK ASSISTANT PROFESSOR COMMENCES 1/11/24. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING UNDER DE-FOA-0003224, WOULD THIS MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF BEING A "CURRENT TENURE-TRACK ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS" GIVEN THE CONCEPT PAPER DEADLINE IS 1/5/24?**

**ANSWER:** All IGNIITE 2024 eligibility requirements must be satisfied by the concept paper submission deadline. Response to Q67 may also be relevant.

**Q82. I AM INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO THE IGNITE 2024 PROGRAM AND I WAS WONDERING WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS YOU MAY RECOMMEND AS THE MOST SUITABLE ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS FOA:**

- SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION AS A NON-TENURE-TRACK RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY WHO MAY CONTINUE TO WORK AT UNIVERSITY,
- SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION AS A NON-TENURE-TRACK RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY WHO, IF SELECTED, WILL FORM A COMPANY WHERE HE WILL WORK AT,
- SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION AS AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER WHO, IF SELECTED, WILL FORM A COMPANY WHERE HE WILL WORK AT,
- SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION AS THE FOUNDER OF A FORMED STARTUP.

**IF THE OPTION 3 OR 4 IS RECOMMENDED, THEN WHO SHOULD WRITE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT? THE FOA POINTS OUT IT SHOULD BE FROM THE PI'S DIRECT SUPERVISOR, BUT IN OPTIONS 3 AND 4, I WILL BE MY OWN SUPERVISOR AND FULL-TIME COMMITTED TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED PROJECT.**

**ANSWER:** We advise you to carefully read and consider the IGNIITE 2024 FOA. ARPA-E does not provide guidance on submission strategy. Regarding the letter of support, please refer to Q53 above.

**Q83. I HAVE READ THROUGH ALL THE FAQs FOR THE IGNIITE FOA AND IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PI ALLOWED FROM A SINGLE INSTITUTION (STANDALONE APPLICANT). HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR TO ME WHETHER I COULD PURCHASE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION OR CONTRACT A CONSULTANT FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION AS PART OF THE PROJECT PLAN. COULD YOU CLARIFY?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, that would be acceptable.

**Q84. ARE REFERENCES INCLUDED IN CONCEPT PAPER PAGE LIMITS?**

**ANSWER:** Bibliographic References are not included in the IGNIITE 2024 concept paper page limits. References may be added in footnotes or at the end of the 4-page concept paper narrative.

**Q85. I AM TECHNICALLY NO LONGER WITHIN 8 YEARS OF MY DOCTORATE DEGREE (AS THE IGNIITE FOA ELIGIBILITY REQUIRES), BUT I HAVE NOT WORKED IN THE FIELD SINCE MY POST-DOC. COULD MY WORK EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF CLEAN ENERGY BE CONSIDERED A "REASONABLE PERIOD OF EXTENDED LEAVE"?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q67 above.

**Q86. AS THE CEO OF A SMALL BUSINESS, WHO WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE WRITER FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT, SINCE I DO NOT HAVE A DIRECT SUPERVISOR? MY CO-FOUNDER? MEMBERS OF MY COMPANY'S ADVISORY BOARD?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q53 above.

**Q87. I'M CURRENTLY HOLDING A J1 VISA AND WILL SWITCH TO H1B NEXT YEAR AND PLAN TO APPLY FOR A GREEN CARD. I'M WONDERING IF I'M AN ELIGIBLE PI FOR THIS PROGRAM.**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q1 above.

**Q88. ELIGIBILITY QUESTION - ARE SMALL BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR IGNIITE 2024 DE-FOA-0003224?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q61 above.

**II. Full Application Phase Questions:****Q89. CAN YOU PLEASE CLARIFY IF WE NEED TO PRINT THE POSTER FOR THE POSTER SESSION AND BRING IT WITH US OR IF WE NEED TO SUBMIT TO ARPA-E THROUGH EMAIL AND IT IS PRINTED THERE ONSITE?**

**ANSWER:** Finalists are responsible for printing and bringing their own poster (e.g., on paper or fabric) to the event. ARPA-E does not provide printing service or mailbox. ARPA-E will provide the board on which the posters can be pinned.

**Q90. I AM CURRENTLY PREPARING MY ORAL TALK AND POSTER PRESENTATION, AS WELL AS THE FULL PROPOSAL FOR IGNIITE 2024. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, PLEASE:**

**A) THE NOTIFICATION LETTER FROM 02/16 SAYS:**

**"APPLICANTS MUST USE THE TEMPLATE MATERIALS FOR THE IGNIITE 2024 POSTER SESSION AND THE ORAL PRESENTATION WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN ARPA-E EXCHANGE."**

**I CAN SEE THE TEMPLATES FOR THE FULL PROPOSAL, BUT I CANNOT FIND TEMPLATES FOR THE POSTER AND ORAL PRESENTATION. COULD YOU PLEASE ASSIST?**

**B) CAN "LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND INTENT TO COLLABORATE" FROM PARTNERS IN INDUSTRY BE ENCLOSED IN THE FULL PROPOSAL?**

**ANSWER:**

A) The templates can be found on the ARPA-E Exchange website: <https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald33bab827-1f03-4c34-9594-4e79d2b05033>

B) Yes, additional supporting materials such as letter(s) of support and intent to collaborate may be included in the submission of the full application. ARPA-E does not guarantee that any additional materials will be considered during the selection process.

**Q91. IN THE AWARD LETTERS FOR THOSE INVITED TO FULL APPLICATION, THE FOLLOWING IS NOTED: "APPLICANTS MUST USE THE TEMPLATE MATERIALS FOR THE IGNIITE 2024 POSTER SESSION AND THE ORAL PRESENTATION WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN ARPA-E EXCHANGE (HTTP://ARPA-E-FOA.ENERGY.GOV)."**

**WE CAN NOW SEE THE TEMPLATE POSTED. ARE FONT SIZE CHANGES RESTRICTED IN THE POSTER OR CAN THEY BE CHANGED (BUT STILL KEPT APPROPRIATE FOR A POSTER SIZE)?**

**ARE BACKUP SLIDES ALLOWED IN THE 8-SLIDE PRESENTATION OR SHOULD THE PROSPECTIVE PI KEEP IT TO ONLY 8?**

**ANSWER:** The font size can be changed provided that the text is readable from a reasonable distance. The poster size (36" by 48" in the template) should NOT be changed. As stated in the Oral Presentation template instructions: "All IGNIITE Finalists should limit their Oral Presentation slide deck to 8 slides + 1 title slide."

**Q92. WITHIN THE FULL APPLICATION VERSION OF THE FOA FOR DE-FOA-0003224: IGNIITE, IN SECTION IV.E, THERE IS A LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION. AT THIS TIME, THE LIST WITHIN THE FOA INCLUDES THE REQUIRED LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THEIR SUPERVISOR AND THEIR PH.D. TRANSCRIPTS. IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THOSE WERE SUBMITTED WITHIN THE CONCEPT PAPER PHASE. IN ADDITION, IN THE EXCHANGE, THERE IS NO LOCATION TO SUBMIT THESE DOCUMENTS IN THE FULL APPLICATION. WILL THIS BE COUNTED AGAINST A PI'S COMPLIANCE IF THOSE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT SUBMITTED IN THE FULL APPLICATION SINCE THERE IS NO AVENUE TO SUBMIT THEM?**

**ANSWER:** You should submit the required documents as part of your full applications. The ARPA-E Funding Opportunity eXCHANGE website is able to accept these documents: <http://ARPA-E-FOA.energy.gov>.

**Q93. IN THE FAQs DURING THE CONCEPT PAPER PHASE, THE FOLLOWING FAQ EXISTED:**

**Q: THERE IS A REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND A SUMMER SESSION. ARE THERE ANY TENTATIVE DATES SET FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THAT CAN BE PROVIDED? IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH SUMMER, THIS WILL BE 2 WEEKS OF TIME.**

**A: THE EXACT DATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE APPLICANTS THAT ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT FULL APPLICATIONS. THE SUMMER SESSION WILL BE 2-WEEKS DURING EACH SUMMER OF THE AWARD.**

**THE DATES WERE NOT COMMUNICATED IN THE INVITATION LETTER TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION NOR THE FULL APPLICATION VERSION OF THE FOA. CAN YOU PLEASE PROVIDE THE ASSOCIATED DATES SINCE THIS IS ONE OF THE PI'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

**ANSWER:** The dates for the Summer Program are being finalized at this time and will be announced before Full Applications are due.

**Q94. I RECEIVED THE DECISION THAT I AM INVITED TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION FOR THE IGNIITE DE-FOA-0003224. AT THE TIME OF SUBMITTING THE CONCEPT PAPER, I DID NOT HAVE ANY ARPA-E AWARD. HOWEVER, A FEW WEEKS AGO, I RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT THE APPLICATION BY I AND MY CO-PIS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY ARPA-E FOR NEGOTIATION OF A FINANCIAL AWARD.**

**AM I STILL ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ORAL PRESENTATION / POSTER SESSION?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E will re-evaluate eligibility for all applicants at the Full Application phase. If any applicant's PI's eligibility status has changed because of participation in a new ARPA-E project awarded

since the IGNIITE 2024 concept paper deadline, we recommend that person reach out to the IGNIITE 2024 contracting officer to discuss that change in eligibility on a case-by-case basis before the Full Application deadline.

**Q95. CAN ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT BE SUBMITTED, FOR EXAMPLE BY A RELEVANT INDUSTRY MEMBER TO SUPPORT THE TECH TO MARKET PLAN?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q70 above.

**Q96. I AM PREPARING A FULL PROPOSAL FOR THE ARPA-E IGNIITE FOA. THE FOA DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY COST SHARE. BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE COST SHARE?**

**ANSWER:** Cost share is not required for applicants to the IGNIITE 2024 FOA. Potential or proposed cost share will not be considered as a positive or negative factor during the selection process for the IGNIITE 2024 program.

**Q97. I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT THE TT&O REQUIREMENT (>=5% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET):**

- **IS 5% TT&O BUDGET ALSO REQUIRED FOR SINGLE-PI IGNIITE PROJECTS?**
- **IF REQUIRED: IF A PROJECT TASK IS TO DEVELOP A PROTOTYPE FOR THE PROPOSED WORK (TO BE COMMERCIALIZED), THEN, CAN THE SALARY FOR THE PERSONNEL WHO WILL WORK ON THAT TASK BE CONSIDERED AS A TT&O COST?**
  - **IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THEN, FOR THE ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL COST, DO WE INCLUDE IT UNDER THE TAP OF "A. PERSONNEL", OR UNDER THE TAP OF "H. OTHER" SO THAT WE CAN EXPLICITLY CLAIM IT AS A TT&O COST IN THE SF424 BUDGET EXCEL FORM?**

**ANSWER:** As stated in Section IV.D.3 of the IGNIITE FOA, unless a waiver is granted by ARPA-E, each project must spend at least 5% of the Federal funding on Technology Transfer & Outreach (TT&O) activities to promote and further the development and eventual deployment of ARPA-E-funded technologies. Additionally, please refer to Section IV.H.8 for examples of allowable and unallowable TT&O costs, as well as Section VI.B.4.

**Q98. THE IGNIITE FOA SAYS "2 PAGES MAX" WHILE THE TECHNICAL VOLUME TEMPLATE SAYS "EACH PERSONAL QUALIFICATION SUMMARY IS LIMITED TO 3 PAGES IN LENGTH". COULD YOU HELP CLARIFY THE PAGE LIMIT ON THE PERSONAL QUALIFICATION SUMMARY (PQS)?**

**ANSWER:** The information in the IGNIITE FOA is controlling.

**Q99. WOULD THE REQUIRED SUMMER PROGRAM IN DC BE CONSIDERED TT&O COSTS?**

**ANSWER:** No



**Q100. IN THE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION WORKBOOK/SF424A, TAB I. INDIRECT COSTS, WHERE AN INDIRECT RATE AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN NEGOTIATED, THE INSTRUCTIONS SAY TO USE THE SEPARATE TEMPLATE FOR INDIRECT COST RATE CALCULATION. HOWEVER, THIS TEMPLATE RELIES ON HISTORICAL INFORMATION FOR PERSONNEL AND OTHER COSTS, WHICH DO NOT EXIST FOR VERY EARLY-STAGE START-UPS.**

- **CAN YOU PLEASE PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE ON CALCULATING THE INDIRECT COST RATE WHEN HISTORICAL DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE?**
- **DOES THE ICR CALCULATION SPREADSHEET NEED TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE IGNIITE FULL APPLICATION? OR ONLY IF/AFTER THE APPLICATION IS SELECTED FOR AWARD NEGOTIATIONS?**

**ANSWER:** The 10% de minimis indirect cost rate may be used by any non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate. Our Indirect team will work with you after selection. The ICR spreadsheet does not need to be submitted as part of the IGNIITE full application.

**Q101. BASED ON THE FOA INFORMATION, \$5000 MUST BE ALLOCATED FOR EACH OF THE SUMMER PROGRAMS IN THE BUDGET OF THE FULL PROPOSAL. BASED ON THE IGNIITE SCHEDULE, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHEN AWARD NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE. IF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE BEFORE JULY 2024, THEN I WILL BE CONFIDENT TO INCLUDE THE SUMMER 2024 PROGRAM IN MY BUDGET. COULD YOU PLEASE CONFIRM THIS?**

**ANSWER:** Please, include the Summer 2024 Program in your budget.