Deadline for Concept Paper Questions: 5 PM ET, September 15, 2025
Deadline for Full Application Questions: 5 PM ET, November 20, 2025

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DE-FOA-0003590 - MAGNITO

Please refer to the General FAQs section of ARPA-E's website for answers to many general questions about ARPA-E and ARPA-E's Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). Additional questions specific to this NOFO are included below. Please review all existing General FAQs and NOFO-specific questions before submitting new questions to ARPA-E.

I. Concept Paper Phase Questions:

Q1. What would be the process of getting approval for a foreign national employee within our organization (FFRDC). Since our lab consistently has foreign national employees with a wide skill set, we had great odds of having foreign national participation. As an FFRDC, we do have certifications and approvals in place for employees that are foreign nationals. Can our organization's processes/approvals serve to satisfy requirements needed for foreign national participation in a ARPA-E MAGNITO project?

ANSWER: Please see Section II.A.4 of the NOFO, Foreign National Participation from Countries of Concern. Also see Section I.G.14, Participants, Collaborating Organizations, and Current and Pending Support.

Q2. The MAGNITO NOFO will follow PF 2025-26 Adjusting Department of Energy Financial Assistance Policy for Nonprofit Organizations' Financial Assistance Awards, but the NOFO include the comment that this policy "covering non-profit organizations, but not institutions of higher education". Can you confirm that this does not cover institutions of higher education (IHEs)? The linked policy does appear to apply to IHEs. So for the purposes of MAGNITO, IHEs do not have a limit on their indirect costs?

ANSWER: This policy does not currently cover institutions of higher education.

Q3. Since FFRDCs are funded separately from the project team (both as the lead or as a team member), if we are the lead will the 15% indirect cap be applied only to our non-FFRDC partners? If we are a sub, will the full team (including FFRDCs) be considered in the new 15% indirect cap?

"Maximum Limit On Indirect Costs DOE has established a limit applicable to the reimbursement of indirect costs for financial assistance awards issued after May 8, 2025. Specifically, per DOE Policy Flashes 2025-27 (covering for-profit organizations, including large and small businesses - https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2025-27-adjusting-department-energy-financial-assistance-policy-profit-organizations) and 2025-26 (covering non-profit organizations, but not institutions of higher education - https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2025-26-adjusting-department-energy-financial-assistance-policy-nonprofit), "recipients should continue to utilize their negotiated and approved indirect cost rate(s) in applications for awards, but the Department [of Energy] will establish a maximum dollar amount that it will reimburse under awards... the maximum limit of funds to be paid or reimbursed to a new Award recipient as indirect costs will be calculated as a percentage of the total project award amount and will be included in the Award terms as a cap... this maximum percentage is 15 percent (15%)."

ANSWER: The indirect cost cap of 15% does not apply to DOE National Labs that are the leads. If the DOE National Lab is a subrecipient, while they still will not individually have an indirect cost cap of 15% the entire project will have an overall indirect cost cap of 15%. Subrecipients or project team partners to a DOE National Lab will have a cap based on their organization type and their award amount.

Q4. We hope this message finds you well. We are ***Redacted*** interested in forming a team for NOFO DE-FOA-0003590 (MAGNITO). Could you kindly provide us with the contact information for the program manager responsible for this NOFO, so that we may reach out to learn more about potential team formation?

ANSWER: A Teaming List is available on ARPA-E eXCHANGE at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/TeamingPartners.aspx. ARPA-E Program Directors cannot communicate with applicants regarding open NOFOs.

Q5. ***Redacted*** Can we add an industry partner to the team, and ask for a commensurate increase in the requested funds , where the new team member is funded through the DE-FOA-0003591 MAGNITO SBIR/STTR; and the others are funded through the DE-FOA-0003590 MAGNITO call? Would this be amenable?

ANSWER: A single project team cannot be split across multiple NOFOs. Each application must be submitted to a single NOFO, MAGNITO or MAGNITO SBIR/STTR.

Q6. I am writing to seek clarification regarding the scope of Funding Opportunity No. DE-FOA-0003590, MAGNITO (Magnetic Acceleration Generating New Innovations and Tactical Outcomes). Specifically, could you confirm whether quantum computing–based approaches are considered within scope? We believe that materials simulation could significantly benefit from quantum computing solutions, particularly in improving the accuracy of simulations required to make reliable predictions.

ANSWER: As stated in the NOFO (Section V.A.2), purely computational approaches are not of interest. As part of an otherwise compliant response, quantum computing solutions could be in scope.

Q7. Hello, ***Redacted*** University is planning to submit a collaborative proposal with another institution of higher education in response to this NOFO.
We are interpreting this section of the solicitation to mean that we are allowed to charge our approved negotiated

indirect cost rate because we are an institution of higher education. Is our interpretation correct ***Redacted***?

The relevant language is provided below for ease of reference:

> Specifically, per DOE Policy Flashes 2025-27 (covering for-profit organizations, including large and small businesses - https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2025-27-adjusting-department-energy-financial-assistance-policy-profit-organizations) and 2025-26 (covering non-profit organizations, but not institutions of higher education - https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2025-26-adjusting-department-energy-financial-assistance-policy-nonprofit), "recipients should continue to utilize their negotiated and approved indirect cost rate(s) in applications for awards, but the Department [of Energy] will establish a maximum dollar amount that it will reimburse under awards… the maximum limit of funds to be paid or reimbursed to a new Award recipient as indirect costs will be calculated as a percentage of the total project award amount and will be included in the Award terms as a cap… this maximum percentage is 15 percent (15%)."
>
> ANSWER: Please see response to Q2.

Q8. Our company has a question regarding the subject opportunity. We are requesting clarification regarding the 15% indirect cost (IDC) cap specified in the NOFO.
Could you please confirm whether there is any flexibility in the application of this cap, or if exemptions are possible under specific circumstances (e.g., for certain types of organizations, cost-sharing arrangements, or specific cost categories)? Additionally, would ARPA-E consider allowing a federally negotiated indirect cost rate if it exceeds the 15% cap?

> ANSWER: The indirect cost cap of 15% applies to all for-profit organizations. Recipients should continue to utilize their negotiated and approved indirect cost rate(s) in applications, but the maximum limit of funds to be paid or reimbursed to a new Award recipient as indirect costs will be calculated as a percentage of the total project award amount and will be included in the Award terms as a cap… this maximum percentage is 15 percent.

Q9. I am composing a Concept Paper responsive to MAGNITO NOFO DE-FOA-0003590 solicitation. The example given by DOE asks for the Technical Category but I do not see categories listed in the solicitation. Can I use: "high-throughput materials fabrication technologies" as a technical category?

> ANSWER: The line 'Technical Category' at the beginning of the Concept Paper template can be deleted.

Q10. We are seeking clarification regarding the "Total Technical Areas" to be listed in the Concept Paper, as the NOFO and Concept Paper Template provide conflicting guidance.

> **Section D (p. 12):** "Recent technological advances have the potential to dramatically accelerate new magnet discovery. The MAGNITO program is not broken down into specific technical categories; rather, ARPA-E is interested in applications that explore the integration of many or most of these advances into one project."
> **Section 3B (p. 29):** "Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology. Unrelated concepts and technologies must not be consolidated into a single Concept Paper."
> **Concept Paper Template:** Calls for a singular "Technical Category."

If integration is expected, identifying a single technical category appears inconsistent—particularly since the NOFO explicitly states that no categories are defined. Could ARPA-E clarify what is expected for the "Technical Area" field in the Concept Paper? Specifically, may multiple areas be included, or should applicants designate only one?

ANSWER: See answer to Q9.

Q11. We are interested in applying to the DE-FOA-0003590 Program. We understand the program is interested in progress towards the goal of discovering new physics, chemistries, and structure for ultra-powerful soft and/or hard magnets.

Latest research on our coordination polymers shows the feasibility of exceeding one of the performance metrics in the NOFO. These studies demonstrate that the Curie temperature to main ferrimagnetic order can be enhanced to 512 K by [REDACTED].

We have exclusive license and our own IP in these [REDACTED], and we can further develop them with our partners. Would you please let us know if this would fit into the scope of your program?

ANSWER: As stated in the NOFO (Section I.E.), the new material must exhibit either an increased maximum energy product and/or an increased magnetic flux density, as listed in Table 1. Meeting only Metric 3 (Curie temperature) without addressing the magnetic strength would not be in scope.

II. Full Application Phase Questions:

Q12. 1. May we change the project title from what we submitted in the Concept Paper to a slightly modified one in our Full Application? We will retain the same Application Control Number.

ANSWER: Yes. Applicants may change full application project titles from the submitted Concept Paper.

2. May we add a new key team member (Co-PI) in the Full Application even if they were not listed in the Concept Paper?

   ANSWER: Yes. Applicants may expand or otherwise modify the Project Team for their Full Applications.

3. Are general "letters of support" accepted or considered at the Full Application stage (aside from the required cost-share commitment letters described in Section II.D.8)?

   ANSWER: Please refer to section V.B.2, "Application Review Information", "Review Criteria," "Criteria for Full Applications" for full application evaluation criteria.

4. Interpretation of Technical Performance Targets (NOFO Section I.E):
   The NOFO states that "the new material must exhibit *either* an increased maximum energy product *and/or* an increased magnetic flux density," and Table 1 lists M1a ($B_{sat} > 2.5$ T) and M1b ($(BH)_{max} > 800$ kJ/m^3) as the magnetic performance target. It would be great if you could confirm our understanding that (or suggest any clarification on):

   (a) meeting either M1a or M1b (i.e., at least one of M1a and M1b)—together with meeting the manufacturability (M2), Curie temperature (M3), and cost (M4) targets as applicable—is sufficient to satisfy all this program's overall performance targets;

(b) projects are evaluated on progress toward these metrics across the period of performance. Simultaneous achievement of both M1a and M1b is not strictly required for success, unless it (both M1a and M1b) is explicitly specified in proposed and negotiated milestones.

ANSWER: Depending on the negotiated milestones, both scenarios are acceptable. Performance is evaluated against the negotiated milestones over the performance period.

Q13. We are writing to request clarification regarding the FFRDC Authorization requirement described in the MAGNITO Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0003590, Section VI.D.2) and the associated Business Assurances and Disclosures Form.

As an Office of Science National Laboratory, Ames National Laboratory operates under the guidance of the Office of Science. In accordance with the attached memorandum dated June 3, 2025, titled "Streamlining Strategic Partnership Projects and Cooperative Research and Development Agreements", the Office of Science no longer requires Contracting Officer approval at the time of proposal submission for responses to DOE Notices of Funding Opportunity:

"National Laboratory proposals in response to a DOE NOFO no longer require contracting officer approval at submission. National Laboratories must ensure proposals are aligned to the scope of the M&O contract. Contracting officer approval will be required if the proposal is subsequently approved for funding."
(*Memo, p. 2*)

We respectfully request confirmation that Office of Science FFRDCs may rely on this guidance and are not required to submit a separate FFRDC Authorization letter at the full application stage, unless and until an award is made.

ANSWER: Confirmed, as an Office of Science National Laboratory, Ames National Laboratory does not need to include the written authorization requested in Section 7 of the Business Assurances and Disclosures Form at the full application stage.

Q14. I looked through both the FOA and the FAQ, and I didn't find anything that clearly states whether support letters from unfunded collaborators are allowed. Can you please help to confirm the allowability?

ANSWER: ARPA-E eXCHANGE will allow for the submission of optional Letters of Intent and/or Letters of Support from Team Members completing work on the project. Any letters submitted from entities that are not team members will be disregarded.

Q15. I am writing in regard to DE-FOA-0003590. We are preparing a full application that includes:

- 4 subawards
- a contractor
- 2-3 unfunded industry collaborators

Does ARPA-E allow inclusion of letters of support from these collaborators?

ANSWER: See response to Q14.

Q16. Per the Reduced Cost Share Requirements outlined on pages 24-25 of the NOFO, "Project Teams composed exclusively of domestic educational institutions, domestic nonprofits, and/or FFRDCs/DOE Labs/Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are required to provide at least 5% of the Total Project Cost as cost share."

If a project team, constituted of solely educational institutions presently, were to add an industry consultant as part of their budget, would the cost share reduction of 5% still apply? Or, would the cost share requirement jump to 10% as the team scope of work would still meet the 80% threshold for work completed/funding received by educational institutions.

Secondly, can a project team, constituted of solely educational institutions presently, include an unfunded industry collaborator in the project and still be eligible for the reduced cost share requirement of 5%.

> ANSWER: ARPA-E will not preassess the applicability of reduced cost share percentages to a particular teaming arrangement.

Q17. We have a question regarding cost-share.

Our Team includes three universities and a group from a DOE Lab . DOE Lab is not requiring to provide cost share.

Should we provide minimum 5% of cost share for the total budget (including funds for DOE lab) or 5% cost share for only university part because DOE Lab is excluded from cost sharing.

> ANSWER: Per Section II.D.3 the project team is required to provide 5% of the Total Project Cost (i.e., inclusive of the National Lab costs) as Cost Share.

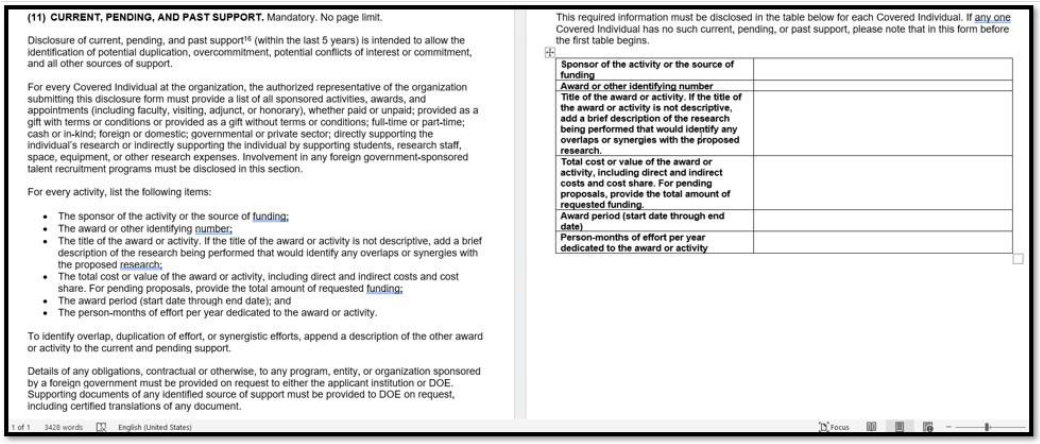
Q18. It has been our standard practice to submit the SciENcv versions of the Biographical Sketches and Current & Pending Support, aligning with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) implementation of the common forms for Current and Pendings in response to proposals. Would these versions be sufficient to attach to the Business and Assurances Form or is the completion of the table in that section the only accepted version of a C&P?

> ANSWER: The inclusion of the SciENcv Current and Pending Support document is sufficient to meet the Current and Pending requirements, but a record of Past Support (within the last 5 years) is also required.

Q19. Is the NSF Current and Pending Support document allowed to be used for the Current, Pending, and Past Support section of the Business Assurances and Disclosures Form (BADF), or should covered individuals only use the table provided in the BADF?

> ANSWER: See response to Q18.

Q20. I am writing in regard to DE-FOA-0003590. Are we allowed to use the sciENcv NSF current and pending form for inclusion in the BADF in place of filling in the Current and Pending table? The information supplied in the NSF style CP includes the information that we're being asked for in the table. We would also be sure to include past support.



(11) CURRENT, PENDING, AND PAST SUPPORT. Mandatory. No page limit.

Disclosure of current, pending, and past support[16] (within the last 5 years) is intended to allow the identification of potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support.

For every Covered Individual at the organization, the authorized representative of the organization submitting this disclosure form must provide a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments (including faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary), whether paid or unpaid; provided as a gift with terms or conditions or provided as a gift without terms or conditions; full-time or part-time; 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. Involvement in any foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs must be disclosed in this section.

For every activity, list the following items:

- The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding;
- The award or other identifying number;
- The title of the award or activity. 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;
- 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;
- The award period (start date through end date); and
- The person-months of effort per year dedicated to the award or activity.

To identify overlap, duplication of effort, or synergistic efforts, append a description of the other award or activity to the current and pending support.

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.

1 of 1 3428 words English (United States) Focus

This required information must be disclosed in the table below for each Covered Individual. If any one Covered Individual has no such current, pending, or past support, please note that in this form before the first table begins.

Sponsor of the activity or the source of funding	
Award or other identifying number	
Title of the award or activity. 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.	
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.	
Award period (start date through end date)	
Person-months of effort per year dedicated to the award or activity	

ANSWER: See response to Q18.

Q21. We have a question about matching for the MAGNITO program: we are thinking about bringing in a company (small business) to do prototyping in year 3 only when there is a grace period, and the rest of the team are all universities. Could we do 5% matching, or the grace period for the small business starts counting at the beginning of the project even if they are not involved yet (therefore 10% matching is required)?

ANSWER: Since the proposed Project Team is not exclusively composed of educational institutions, nonprofits, and/or federal entities, the project must contribute 10% of the Total Project Costs as cost share.

Q22. Can we submit the attached memo in place of the required FFRDC Authorization Letter in the Business Assurances and Disclosures Form? CO Letters are no longer required for DOE Office of Science labs at the time of submission, but are required after award.

ANSWER: DOE Office of Science labs do not need to include the FFRDC Authorization Letter with their submission to the NOFO but will be required to do so if the application is selected for award negotiations.