

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. [W]e are interested in submitting an application for “Topic E: Quantification of Effectiveness of Nutrient Bioextraction by Seaweed”, on FOA DE-FOA-0001953, but noted that the anticipated awards will be “Fixed Amount Grants”. As a DOE F[ederally] F[unded] R[esearch and] D[evelopment] C[enter], all our work must be full cost recovery. Are we eligible for Topic E, and if so, will ARPA-E fund us (if our proposal is selected for award) via a Work Authorization through the DOE Field Work Proposal [system]?

ANSWER: Consistent with FOA Section II.C.3, ARPA-E will provide funding for an award to any DOE sponsored Federally Funded Research and Development Center via the DOE Field Work Proposal system as a reimbursable agreement. Any amount awarded will be limited to Topic E's \$300,000 maximum, inclusive of amounts awarded separately to other project team members (if any). Application content is limited to those items set forth under Topic E.

Q2. I am curious to what degree the technical area of interest #2 (concepts for validation of computational modeling) needs address expansive off-shore vs. numerous small near shore macroalgae farms and nutrient bioextraction. Mitigation of wastewater treatment plant discharge is important in both scenarios to reduce coastal eutrophication. Is there a preference or focus for this RFP?

ANSWER: There is no preference.

Q3. Would our project be eligible if it doesn't utilize seaweed, but rather other photosynthetic organisms to bioextract nutrients from agricultural waste runoff?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will review compliant and responsive Full Application submissions to this funding opportunity. Full Applications submissions are compliant if they meet the requirements of “Compliant Criteria” of the FOA, and are responsive if they meet the Program Objectives and other requirements set forth in the FOA Appendix E section 2.A. “Technical Areas of Interest” and do not fall under the list of Appendix E. section 3. “Submissions Specifically Not of Interest”. Applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

Q4. The RFP says that the expected deadline for full application is July, 2019. Do we assume start date is July 1st, 2019?

ANSWER: The anticipated effective date for awards resulting from Topic E is mid-November 2019.

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Q5.a Hi, I am wondering if the 5% TT&O requirement applies to Topic E: Quantification of Effectiveness of Nutrient Bioextraction by Seaweed?

Q5.b We are working on Section 2 (Technology to Market) of the Technical Volume (Fixed-Amount Grant) for the use of seaweeds to remove nutrients and had a question we were hoping you could clarify for us. As the FOA clearly states that the proposal should focus on the identification of geographies for seaweed farming and nitrogen fluxes and uptake – rather than harvesting and commercial use – it seems that Section 2 is almost irrelevant to the FOA. Can you provide any additional information on how we should proceed (please refer to item 3 on page 82 of the FOA)?

ANSWER (Q5.a and Q5.b): The Technology Transfer and Outreach (TT&O) requirement found at FOA Section IV.E.8 is applicable to awards resulting from Topic E.

Q6: Our team is reviewing program announcement DE-FOA-0001953, ‘Quantification of Effectiveness of Nutrient Bioextraction by Seaweed,’ and is considering developing a proposal around technical area of interest #1 (identification of geographies where seaweed farms could have a proximal positive impact on nitrogen removal). We reviewed the ‘technical area of interest’ and the accompanying ‘technical performance targets’ and are seeking clarification on project expectations. The ‘technical area of interest’ for #1 describes development of a study to identify priority geographies where seaweed farms could have a positive impact on nitrogen removal, however the ‘technical performance target’ for #1 implies a requirement for a ‘temporal and spatial survey of nitrogen loads...’ We are aware of existing data resources that could be utilized to conduct a robust, desktop-based study to identify priority geographies. However, given the requirement around ‘temporal and spatial surveys of nitrogen loads,’ we were unclear if field data collection is a requirement?

ANSWER: As stated in DE-FOA-0001953, Appendix E, ARPA-E is interested in identification of geographies where seaweed farms could have a proximal positive impact on anthropogenic nitrogen removal. This means that the impact must be quantified with sufficiently high resolution data to unambiguously attribute nitrogen removal from a proximal anthropogenic source to seaweed bioextraction as a primary enabler.

ARPA-E did not specify a requirement for field data collection; however, if existing data resources do not contain sufficiently high resolution temporal and spatial information, then field data collection may be considered essential. Description of any new or existing data resources should include references to experimental and/or analytical methodologies employed.

Q7: We are interested in pursuing this grant but wanted a clarification as to the minimum size of the project – is it 100 hectares?

ANSWER: As set forth at FOA Appendix E, Section 2.B:

Proposed solutions must address the following performance parameters. ...

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- 1. Identification and assessment of coastal geographies where seaweed farming will have high potential to locally reduce nitrogen eutrophication and improve water quality and ecosystem productivity.*
- O Temporal and spatial survey of nitrogen loads in marine geographic area(s) with high potential to benefit from large scale (100+ hectares) seaweed cultivation. ...*