

## 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. Full Application Phase Questions:

**Q1. The Technical Volume template lists required information for the "Cover Page and Executive Summary Section." It states: (1) The Executive Summary shall not exceed 1 page in length. Is this 1 page limit for just the Executive Summary or for the complete Cover Page and Executive Summary Section?**

**ANSWER:** Refer to General FAQ 6.31.

**Q2. I have a question on who is eligible to be a lead institution. I am at [institution omitted], which is a state-controlled institution of higher education. I assume we would fall into the first paragraph of [S]ection III.A.2, but being state-controlled may classify us as a state entity and not eligible to be a lead.**

**ANSWER:** The term "institution of higher education" is defined at 20 U.S.C. § 1001. Almost all state-controlled universities and colleges are eligible under this definition to apply to this FOA as a lead institution.

**Q3. We are preparing a proposal in response to DE-FOA-0001953. On page 16 (Section III.B.3) of the call it states: *Project Teams composed exclusively of domestic educational institutions, domestic nonprofits, FFRDCs/DOE Labs, and/or Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are not required to provide cost share.* Can you clarify what is meant by 'other than DOE'?**

**ANSWER:** "Other than DOE" means Federal agencies and instrumentalities organized under the Organizational Chart of the U.S. Government except for those organized under the Department of Energy. The Organizational Chart of the U.S. Government can be found in the U.S. Government Manual at <https://www.usgovernmentmanual.gov/>.

**Q4. Under [Appendix J, Paragraph 2.B] Category 1 (Mineral Pre-Processing), it is stated that: *Novel bio-beneficiation techniques to pre-concentrate materials and minimize the size of downstream treatment. ... REE-presorption using macroorganisms such as macroalgae and duckweed; among others* [is identified as a topic of interest]. Our question is: Is the concept of using of seaweed to bioconcentrate REEs from seawater or seawater desalination waste streams responsive to this FOA? Or is the FOA limiting the use of macro-organisms for pre-sorption of REEs ONLY from aqueous mining waste streams, i.e., seawater is excluded?**

**ANSWER:** The use of macro-organisms is not limited to pre-sorption from aqueous mining waste streams.

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**Q5. I have a question in regards to the cost share described on page 16 and 17. We plan to get a letter of support from a small consulting business saying they can retrieve for us relevant sample. However, this small business has no current interest in investing in this technology, and would otherwise be uninvolved? If we only use this small business as a means to get relevant sample, would they be considered a partner in the proposal, thereby requiring a 10% cost share?**

**ANSWER:** The term Project Team is defined in Section IX as follows:

*A Project Team consists of the Prime Recipient, Subrecipients, and others performing any of the research and development work under an ARPA-E funding agreement, whether or not costs of performing the research and development work are being reimbursed under any agreement.*

Whether a particular entity is considered a Project Team member, which does affect the eligibility of a Project Team for reduced cost share, or as a contractor, which does not impact the eligibility of a Project Team for reduced cost share, requires a fact-based determination. Applicable criteria can be found at 2 C.F.R. § 200.330.

**Q6. Are state support[ed] educational institutions allowed to be lead organizations in a project team that included national labs?**

**ANSWER:** As used at Section III.A.2, the term *educational institutions* means *Institutions of Higher Education* as that term is defined at 20 U.S.C. 1001. As defined, almost all state sponsored educational institutions are eligible to participate in this FOA as lead organizations for a project team.

**Q7. An investigator at ... a DOE FFRDC, will be participating as a member in an upcoming submission to DE-FOA-0001953, Topic J. What STARS Accounting Flexfield string (Field 5) and Program Manager Name (Field 7) should be listed on the Field Work Proposal (FWP) which must accompany the submission?**

**ANSWER:** This question is best directed to cognizant local personnel for a reply.

**Q8. We would like to inquire if there is a reason why Rhenium was excluded from the Topic Overview. Rhenium is listed in Reference 59 of the FOA (Final List of Critical Minerals 2018).**

**ANSWER:** As stated in the FOA "... applicants are encouraged to discuss in their Technical Volume how their proposed concept will impact any one or more of the following: ... • the potential for concurrent extraction and recovery of "non-critical" elements like manganese, gold, iron<sup>63</sup>, and phosphorous, or compounds like limestone and silicates, or radioactive materials, like uranium and thorium, that may become associated co-products in the proposed extraction of the CMs". Similarly, a solution that proposes the extraction of a base metal included in the scope of this FOA (like Cu) and the co-extraction of a "critical" element as defined by DOI (like Rhenium) will be consider in scope and responsive to this FOA.

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**Q9. I am writing to inquire if possible to extend the due date of the Full Application for “DE-FOA-0001953, Topic J: Biotechnologies to Ensure a Robust Supply of Critical Materials for Clean Energy”.**

**ANSWER:** At this time ARPA-E is not considering a time extension for the submission of applications.