



DE-FOA-0002459 – OPEN 2021

Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: 5 PM ET, MARCH 26, 2021
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](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. Can I speak or meet with the ARPA-E program director or other ARPA-E personnel about this funding opportunity announcement?

ANSWER: No. Upon the issuance of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), ARPA-E Program Directors and other ARPA-E personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with Applicants, or potential Applicants regarding the FOA. This "quiet period" remains in effect until ARPA-E's public announcement of its project selections. During the "quiet period," Applicants may submit questions regarding the FOA to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov with the FOA name and number in the subject line. Applicants may also submit questions regarding ARPA-E's online application portal, ARPA-E eXCHANGE, to ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov with the FOA name and number in the subject line. ARPA-E will not accept or respond to communications received by other means (e.g., fax, telephone, mail, hand delivery). E-mails sent to other e-mail addresses will be disregarded.

Q2. In the Concept Paper is the Lead Organization (City, State) the registration of the organization or were the PI is based? E.g. Our company is registered in Delaware but the PI is based in Los Angeles, CA.

ANSWER: The address of the Lead Organization is not required to submit the Concept Paper record in the ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Exchange website.

Q3. I plan on submitting a Concept Paper for Category 7, subcategory A: Water Production/Reuse. Technologies that enable cost-effective and energy efficient ways of providing fresh water. I believe the proposal I have in mind will fit all criteria for transformative research. The method will Would this still be considered to fit under Category 7, subcategory A?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

Q4. I was pleased when I learned of the climate change related DE-FOA-0002459: OPEN 2021. I was discouraged when I learned of the terms, after applying years of effort to secure a sustainable life standard for myself and others through an equitable service. Limits to intellectual property rights seem unfair from a socially and economically disadvantaged as well as disenfranchised viewpoint. Is there a official I can discuss my position with regarding securing a sustainable economic purpose for submitting a proposal? ...

ANSWER: The large majority of ARPA-E's award terms and conditions are governed by requirements in corresponding Federal law or regulation (e.g., U.S. Government March-in Rights have their genesis

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in the Bayh-Dole Act (P.L. 96-517)), thereby limiting the discretion available to ARPA-E to negotiate these terms with prospective awardees.

Q5. ... [does] the 2021 OPEN FOA Category 4-D of Nuclear Fission Power Generation and Materials include the topics on nuclear waste transmutation for reduction of disposal impact?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

Q6. We submitted an application ... for DE-FOA-0001954, [Targeted Topic] T. Can you advise if any feedback will be provided prior to the April 6, 2021 Concept Paper deadline for DE-FOA-0002459? ...

ANSWER: Selection notifications for DE-FOA-0001954, Targeted Topic T, are scheduled for April 2021. As set forth in FOA Section VII.B, ARPA-E does not offer or provide debriefings on the merits of applications submitted for its consideration.

Q7. In the OPEN 2021 FOA, [Section I.D.] category 2, subcategory A, it is stated that only non-bio based fuels will be considered. Can you define what a bio-based fuel is? Obviously a fuel made from an agricultural crop is a bio-fuel, but is a fuel made from waste or landfill gas a bio-fuel? Please define what a bio-fuel is and what a non-bio alternative fuel is.

ANSWER: The OPEN 2021 FOA is truly open to any technologies that address one or more of ARPA-E's Mission Areas through the type of high-risk, transformational research described in Section I.A of the FOA. Applicants must choose the appropriate Category and Subcategory for their submission based on technical descriptions in the Categories and/or Subcategories provided in the FOA. The purpose of this choice is to help organize submissions for merit review.

Q8. [We are] a startup company that has raised private investor money (completed Series A in 2019). Would our high risk, high impact project still be considered for this FOA?

ANSWER: Eligibility requirements can be found at FOA Section III.A. Applicants submitting a Full Application must disclose all current and pending funding support for projects submitted for ARPA-E's consideration using the Business Assurances & Disclosures form, which will be made available in June 2021.

Q9. The Feb 11 OPEN FOA announcement [refer to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJD51wB5hWayKrKnfVe4Ajq>] contained a series of webinars. One was on "end-of-life options for underground mines and wells." We plan to submit a concept paper in that area. Please confirm that area is one of the possible areas for OPEN [20]21.

ANSWER: As set forth at FOA Section I.D:

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The list of Technical Subcategories is intended to encompass the majority of energy-related technologies. If the proposed technology does not fall within any of the Technical Subcategories ..., the Applicant should select from Category 7, "Other Energy Technologies," Subcategory L, "Other Energy Technologies Not Listed Above."

Also refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 7.

Q10.1 Regarding cost share, can we use PI service fee as the cost share[?] Lets say if PI's hourly rate is \$125.00 and if PI provides 2,000 hours of service for this project then will \$250,000 be considered as cost share if we do not charge PI time to the project.

ANSWER: Federal standards for valuing cost share may be found at 2 C.F.R. § 200.306. These include costs for personal compensation incurred for project work that is not reimbursed to the recipient by ARPA-E.

Q10.2 The license fees for the software which a third party may provide without cost for this project - Can it be considered as cost share?

ANSWER: These are addressed at 2 C.F.R. § 200.306(d).

Q10.3 Do all the project team members need to be US citizens?

ANSWER: This depends on the specific facts of the situation. Applicants are responsible for personnel staffing decisions concerning their proposal, including for foreign researchers and students working on ARPA-E awards, and should refer these matters to their counsel (e.g., the university's Office of General Counsel) for legal advice. This includes matters regarding applicable immigration law and regulations (e.g., an individual's visa type), export control, and compliance with terms in the ARPA-E agreement.

Q11. The FOA states that the funding restrictions section will be inserted by modification in June 2021, whereas the concept papers are due on April 6, 2021. We have a keen interest in submitting concept papers depending upon whether ARPA-E allows funding Independent Research and Development (IR&D) as part of an indirect cost rate. Could you please clarify whether IR&D costs will be allowable as indirect costs for the purpose of this FOA?

ANSWER: Refer to General FAQ 10.23.

Q12. I am very interested in preparing a proposal for the above-mentioned FOA DE-FOA-0002459, but I have to admit I am unsure as to whether I am eligible or not! I am a German national, on a tenure track position at ... a domestic educational institution. I am not a permanent resident, but currently on a visa (H1B). Under eligibility, it says "U.S. citizens or permanent residents may apply for funding in their individual capacity as a Standalone Applicant, as the lead for a Project Team, or as a member of a Project Team. However, ARPA-E will only award funding to an entity formed by the Applicant" But two paragraphs later it says "Foreign entities, whether for-profit or otherwise, are eligible to apply for funding as Standalone Applicants, as the lead organization for a Project Team, or as a member of a Project Team." Could you explain to me whether I,

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as a foreign national in the U.S. can apply or not? Or, if I could participate in some other way, i.e. as subcontractor to a National Lab or another applicant?

ANSWER: ARPA-E accepts applications from U.S. citizens or permanent residents in their individual capacity, but awards Federal financial assistance to domestic institutions, not individuals (refer to FOA Section III.A.1). This includes awards resulting from applications received from foreign entities (refer to FOA Section III.A.3). Whether an individual may participate under any agreement depends upon the facts of the situation. Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 10.3 for additional information.

Q13. We have questions regarding the DE-FOA-0002459. On Page 5, Category 2, Subcategory A, the descriptions are “Technologies that create fuels that are substitutes for gasoline/diesel, but are not bio based” Our questions are:

Q13.1 Does this description refer to transportation fuels other than gasoline and diesel? For example, will hydrogen produced from natural gas or waste plastics be considered as substitutes for gasoline/diesel?

ANSWER: The OPEN 2021 FOA is truly open to any technologies that address one or more of ARPA-E’s Mission Areas through the type of high-risk, transformational research described in Section I.A of the FOA. Applicants must choose the appropriate Category and Subcategory for their submission based on technical descriptions the Categories and/or Subcategories provided in the FOA. The purpose of this choice is to help organize submissions for merit review. For additional information refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 9.

Q13.2 Our technology can produces gasoline/diesel from non-petroleum feedstock such as natural gas or plastics, will it be consider[ed to] fit into this subcategory 2A?

ANSWER: Applicants must choose the appropriate Category and Subcategory for their submission based on technical descriptions the Categories and/or Subcategories provided in the FOA. For additional information refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 9.

Q14. Is it okay to submit a concept paper to OPEN that has been previously rejected by ARPA-E in a targeted solicitation? The concept is not currently funded or under review by ARPA-E or any other agency.

ANSWER: Resubmission of previously unfunded concepts is permitted.

Q15. I am at a University and partnering with a startup that has applied for SEED funding through ARPA-E. If startup has applied / is accepted for SEED funding, are they also eligible to apply for OPEN? (either alone or in collaboration with a University).

ANSWER: Per FOA Section III.C.3:

ARPA-E is not limiting the number of submissions from Applicants. Applicants may submit more than one application to this FOA, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

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Disclosure of current and pending financial support is required as described in OPEN 2021 FAQ 8. ARPA-E will not consider applications that are not scientifically distinct from proposals before other governmental or private sector entities for funding (refer to FOA Section III.C.2).

Q16. I have a question regarding the DE-FOA-0002459. On Page 9, Category 6, Subcategory C, the descriptions are “Technologies that do not utilize any biological agent in the conversion of organic feedstock to fuels, such as thermochemical and hybrid approaches or biomimetics.” The question is: Is the thermochemical considering as biologic technology under this subcategory?

ANSWER: The examples given in the technical description for Category 6, Subcategory C, are examples of nonbiological methods. For additional information refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 9.

Q17. We would like to submit the following question: Category 4, Subcategory D: Nuclear Power Generation and Materials – How broadly does the scope “Technologies that enhance fission, or materials specifically for safe nuclear fission power generation” extend in the nuclear generation space. Is the intent to focus on the nuclear generation machine (the reactor), or does the scope apply broadly to enhance fission (to the broader fuel cycle, for example)?

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 9.

Q18. I am a PhD student ... and have been independently working on a large scale grid electricity storage concept. Am I eligible to apply for his grant as an individual international student?

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 12.

Q19. I am wondering if it is possible to submit multiple concept papers for significantly different use cases? I have looked at the FAQs and did not see this question answered there.

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 15.

Q20. Our startup was created in 2019 to commercialize applications using a technology developed by We do have prospective clients in Europe waiting for our solutions, and a request for grant funding of a pilot project submitted to the EU. Knowing that we are already working with identified US manufacturers to supply some of the components we need, how can this Open [20]21 can help us to accelerate the production of our various processes?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant’s proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

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Q21. Can you help me. There are two webinars issued in December that very much align with the development work being undertaken in my start-up. I would like to submit concept papers for these.

However its not clear which category in the OPEN21 FOA to use.

Do concept papers responding to the following webinars fall under “category 7 subcategory L” or somethings else?

- **Reduction of the energy consumption of comminution or increasing surface area** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EVwNm22Pc0&feature=youtu.be>
- **CO2 mineralization for extraction of minerals including nickel and cobalt** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BIhmCaDHPU&feature=youtu.be>

ANSWER: The purpose of this choice is to help ARPA-E organize submissions. Please choose a category that you deem appropriate. Please also refer to OPEN 2021 FAQs 7 and 9.

Q22. I have developed, tested and patents have been granted for technology that will meet the Open 2021 requirements and goals. I am an individual and do not have a business, organization, team or money. I have been trying to partner with an existing business that meets the Open 2021 eligibility requirements without success. I have two questions.

Can I submit a concept paper in my situation and if the ARPA encourages a full application, can I use their comments to try to get an existing organization to partner with me? In other words will ARPA accept a concept paper from someone not already eligible for a grant?

A great deal of time and money has already been spent. For matching funds will ARPA consider the money already used to get the new technology to the stage it is at currently?

ANSWER: Yes, ARPA-E accepts applications from U.S. citizens or permanent residents in their individual capacity.

ARPA-E will not presasses an applicants proposal.

ARPA-E may not provide pre-submission assessments on a project team’s specific cost sharing requirement. Applicants should carefully review the cost sharing requirements for the specific FOA to which they intend to submit a Concept Paper or Full Application. General Questions regarding cost share may also be found under Frequently Asked Questions at: <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/faqs/general-questions>.

Q23. I just scanned through the latest announcement from the U.S. Department of Energy about the \$100m funding opportunity for transformative clean energy solutions. My understanding is that soil carbon sequestration projects are not eligible for funding under this initiative. Can you confirm this, and do you expect further announcements of this nature in the upcoming months?

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQs 7 and 9.

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Q24. If a company receives funding under the ARPA-E OPEN 2021 program, are rights to its issued U.S. or international patents compromised or altered in any way?

ANSWER: Please review section VIII. Other Information A. Title to Subject Inventions of the FOA regarding patents.

Q25. We have two questions about teaming and cost share for the OPEN 2021 FOA:

- 1. We understand that no work may be performed by a foreign team member outside of the US without a waiver. Does the same distinction apply to purchasing a part or piece of equipment manufactured outside of the US or a service (i.e. a standard measurement) performed outside of the US from a non-team vendor?**
- 2. How are state and local government team members treated in terms of cost share? Are teams with such entities still required to provide the 20% base cost share, or are they eligible for a reduced cost share?**

ANSWER: Please refer to the Business Assurances & Disclosures Form referenced in the FOA.

State, local, and tribal government entities are eligible to apply for funding as a member of a Project Team, but not as a Standalone Applicant or as the lead organization for a Project Team. They must provide at least the 20% base.

Q26. I have two question regarding the teaming requirements and cost shares.

- 1. If a team is comprised of two or more FFRDCs, for instance a DOE and non-DOE FFRDC, no other entity types such as business or university, is that allowable and is the cost share arrangement 5%.**
- 2. In the attached table, I have attempted to summarize the cost share requirements based on team participation, lead/prime and contract arrangement. Is it possible to get concurrence that everything was captured correctly?**

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's cost share arrangements. Prospective applicants must review the cost share requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed Cost Share is compliant.

Q27. ARPA-E has a video on YouTube for OPEN 2021 discussion end-of-life options for mines and wells (OPEN 2021: ARPA-E's Dr. Jack Lewnard Discusses End-of-Life Options for Underground Mines & Wells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoUeh01x5BY>) but that topic is not included in the "Categories of Interest" list. Was this an oversight or was "End-of-Life Options for Underground Mines & Well" left off the list intentionally after the video was posted?

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQs 7 and 9.

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Q28. Can we use unpaid time contributed by an industrial advisory board that is not part of the proposal team as cost share if it is properly documented? If the members of that board are not part of the proposal team, does their participation in this role affect the percentage of cost share that is required (for instance, if the team is made up of only FFRDCs and academic institutions)?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's cost share arrangements. Prospective applicants must review the cost share requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed Cost Share is compliant.

Q29. Can you please describe foreign national eligibility and disqualifying criteria. Would a U.S. permanent resident working in a U.S. research institute but citizen of Iran be allowed to be PI of this funding opportunity and working on this project upon award winning?

ANSWER: Eligibility of foreign entities to participate in this FOA as prospective prime or sub-recipients is discussed at Section III.A.3. ARPA-E accepts applications from U.S. citizens or permanent residents in their individual capacity, but awards Federal financial assistance to domestic institutions, not individuals (refer to FOA Section III.A.1). This includes awards resulting from applications received from foreign entities (refer to FOA Section III.A.3). Whether an individual may participate under any agreement depends upon the facts of the situation. Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 10.3 for additional information.

Q30. I have following questions with respect to submission of concept paper

- 1. Should each team member be a Co-PI? Can we include collaborators?**
- 2. Is tecnoeconomic analysis required for concept paper?**
- 3. Should a detailed budget be included?**

ANSWER: Please see FOA Section IV.C.1. Concept Paper, d. TEAM ORGANIZATION AND CAPABILITIES.

Please refer to FOA Sections IV.C.1 and V.A.1

Yes, Please see section IV.B. Application Forms.

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Q31. I had some questions about the program. I am focused on the Category 6 (Bioenergy) subcategory B (Biofuel production – biological methods).

- 1) What TRL level do you expect proposals to focus on? Will submissions that propose nascent technologies (TRL1-2) be competitive? Or is there a preference for TAL 4-5+? Alternatively, would you encourage more ambitious projects that span multiple TRLs (e.g. 1-5)?
- 2) What does ARPA-E consider the greatest technological challenge that must be overcome for 6B (biological method for biofuels production)?
- 3) Does biomass pre-treatment need to be a component of the work or can the work focus on pre-treated biomass components (e.g. monosaccharides)?
- 4) Is there preference for certain types of biofuels over others? For example, is ethanol as a final product non-competitive and focusing on longer chain esters/alcohols/alkanes preferable?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission. Please also refer to OPEN 2021 FAQs 7 and 9.

Q32. Your program seems to overlap substantially with my interests and I was wondering about some aspects of the current OPEN 2021 FOA.

- 1) The first questions, is not technical, but proves to be very important for my case. Perhaps I missed it, but I did not see anywhere in the FOA that specified the eligibility requirements for PIs, such as tenure-tenure-track faculty. Are there any eligibility restrictions for PIs?
- 2) My understanding of arpa-e is that the translational component is very important, would a proposal without an industrial partner be competitive?
- 3) Is there any interest in fission product sequestration (i.e., Cs and Sr) or is the main focus on the recovery of U and the TRUs?

ANSWER: The Applicant must meet the eligibility requirements in Section III.A of the FOA.

ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

Q33. We are a small business and are interested in the ARPA-E OPEN 2021 opportunity. Can we as a small business participate in multiple concept papers (i.e. lead as the prime in one concept paper and join other concept papers as sub recipients)? Your clarifications will be greatly appreciated.

ANSWER: Applicants may submit one Full Application for each compliant and responsive Concept Paper that was either encouraged or discouraged by ARPA-E.

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Q34. Your form for submitting a Concept Paper for FOA #DE-FOA-0002459 OPEN 2021 contains a checkbox and the following statement on the Submit section:

By checking this box, I certify as follows: (1) I have reviewed and agree to the terms and conditions in the FOA; (2) this application has not been and will not be submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI) or any Co-PIs to pending ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Announcement(s); and (3) this application is scientifically distinct from other applications that the PI or any Co-PIs have submitted or will submit to pending ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Announcement(s).

I attempted to submit my Concept Paper without that box checked, and it was rejected, so you have made that a hard requirement at this stage.

In contrast, in Section IV.B (page 25) of OPEN_2021_FOA_Concept_Paper.pdf, you identify forms required for Full Application, including Business Assurances & Disclosures Form. This form requires declaration of a yet broader set of Pending and Current Sources of Funding, so such pending applications will apparently be acceptable.

I have submitted an application under DE-FOA-0001954 (Topic T) which is under review, and may still be by the April 6th closing date for the current FOA-0002459 Concept Paper, so I have a schedule conflict. FOA-0002459 may have more funds available or a different set of competitors for it, possibly putting me in a better position for funding, so I want to apply for it.

Please consider removing the requirement for the checkbox identified above, which would make it consistent with your Full Application process and with the process used in DE-FOA-0001954. Alternatively, I seem to have the option of bypassing the Concept Paper step (and thus the checkbox), but I'm guessing that is not your intent.

ANSWER: The requirement for the checkbox identified above will not be removed. Furthermore, there is no option of bypassing the Concept Paper step.

Q35. Do the Project Team, including potential teaming partners, need to be confirmed prior to submission of the concept paper?

ANSWER: The Project Team needs to be identified as outlined in Section III.A. Eligible Applicants.

Q36. Our group is deciding which category to submit a concept paper under. We are wondering if technology for dealing with nuclear waste would fall under category 4 subcategory D: Nuclear Fission Power Generation and Materials. We believe we could create technology that would enhance nuclear fission power generation by dealing with the resulting waste issues. Otherwise we are considering submitting under the "other" category.

ANSWER: Applicants must choose the appropriate Category and Subcategory for their submission based on technical descriptions the Categories and/or Subcategories provided in the FOA. For additional information refer to OPEN 2021 FAQ 9

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Q37. In its Subcategory D (hydro energy) of Category 5 (renewable power generation), it lists some conventional hydro sources such ocean, osmotic, tidal as examples. But I'm writing to ask if new hydro sources such as ambient humidity/moisture would also qualify? For example, lately we discovered electricity generation from ambient humidity (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2010-9>), which can be a huge clean energy source—this seems to align well with OPEN 2021 that encourages disruptive/novel energy concept/technology.

ANSWER: Refer to OPEN 2021 FAQs 7 and 9.

Q38. Section 4 of the Concept Paper's template "Team Organization and Capabilities" asks for details on the team. Does this have to be in place already in the Concept Paper stage?

ANSWER: Yes, in order to be considered a full application. However, the ARPA-E eXCHANGE system will allow applicants to expand or otherwise modify the Project Team for their Full Applications.

Q39. Working through the concept paper template I found these bullet points that reference Section I.A and I.D.

- Describe how the concept will have a positive impact on at least one of the ARPA-E mission areas in Section I.A of the FOA.
- To the extent possible, provide quantitative metrics in a table that compares the proposed technology concept to current and emerging technologies and to the appropriate Technology Category in Section I.D of the FOA.

Yet, despite checking many links on the site I haven't been able to find these sections. Would you mind to reply with the proper link so I can review? Many thanks in advance and apologies for not having found the section.

ANSWER: On the second page of the FOA under the Table of Contents, there are links to both sections I.A and I.D under Funding Opportunity Description.

Q40. I have a quick question regarding the eligibility of applicant. Apparently I will be applying the grant with a company incorporated in the US. Since my nationality is China and I will own a big portion of the company, will that affect the eligibility of my company applying for the grant?

ANSWER: Please see section III Eligibility Information of the FOA.



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Questions can be sent to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: 5 PM ET, MARCH 26, 2021
SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: TBD

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Q41. We have an innovative technology that we are progressing and the next major milestone toward commercialization is additional engineering work to provide more definition to the project. Will this FOA support engineering development for innovative technologies?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

Q42. I have technology that meets Open 2021 objectives. However I am an individual without a business, organization, team or money.

Can I submit a "concept paper" without the above and if ARPA-E has a positive response then try to make a consortium of existing companies for the final proposal?

ANSWER: Yes, the ARPA-E eXCHANGE system will allow applicants to expand or otherwise modify the Project Team for their Full Applications.