

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. I'M A CO-FOUNDER OF---REDACTED---. OUR COMPANY WAS ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION THROUGH ---REDACTED-- IN--REDACTED. WE ARE COLLABORATING WITH PROF. ---REDACTED---OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ---REDACTED--- WHO IS A LEADING RESEARCHER OF THIS TECHNOLOGY.

WE ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ARPA-E AND THE SBIR/STTR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOCUSED ON HYDROGEN PRODUCTION.

WE HAVE STUDIED YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT MATERIALS AND HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED EXCLUSION:

TOPICS NOT OF INTEREST

APPLICATIONS THAT PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS MAY BE DEEMED NONRESPONSIVE AND MAY NOT BE REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED:

- **GASIFICATION OF EXISTING HYDROCARBON RESERVES IN THE SUBSURFACE (E.G., COAL, OIL RESERVES).**
- **SUBSURFACE CONVERSION OF METHANE INTO HYDROGEN.**

---REDACTED---

---REDACTED---

PROF ---REDACTED---GAVE A TALK FOR DOE'S HYDROGEN EARTH SHOT KICKOFF THAT EXPLAINED THE CHEMISTRY.

---REDACTED---

I BELIEVE OUR TECHNOLOGY IS A POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE 'GAME-CHANGER'. THAT IS WHY WE STARTED THE BUSINESS. WE ARE ALSO COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON PRODUCING CLEAN HYDROGEN—WITHOUT RELEASING ANY GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS. THAT IS A CORE PART OF WHAT WE ARE DOING.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR MISSION IS ALIGNED WITH YOUR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE WE SPENT OUR TIME SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION.

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's planned proposal. Applicants are encouraged to read the funding opportunity announcement and make an independent decision to submit or not submit a Full Application to this funding opportunity. Also please reference the ARPA-E website FAQ page General Question 2.7.

Q2. TOPIC G REQUESTS THAT WE: INCREASE REACTION RATE BY $>10^5\times$ OVER THE RATE FOUND IN THE NATIVE ORE BEING EVALUATED AT AN EQUIVALENT STARTING T AND P (GENERIC RATE REPORTED AS 5×10^4 KGS-1FOR 1 KM3)

CAN ARPA-E CLARIFY THE DESIRED INCREASE IN REACTION RATE? IS THE INTENT ONE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE INCREASE OR 5? (I.E., 10^5 OR 10^9)?

ANSWER: The FOA has been modified to clarify.

Q3. DO APPLICATIONS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL OR ARE THEY SUBJECT TO FOIA? WONDERING HOW MUCH DATA/MATH WE SHOULD INCLUDE IN OUR APPLICATION WHILE MANAGING THE RISK OF TOO MUCH INFORMATION HITTING THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THE APPLICATION IS ROBUST.

ANSWER: Review Section VIII.I of the FOA (Marking of Confidential Information). Confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is contained in a Full Application and that is appropriately marked will be exempt from public disclosure.

Q4. FOR THE SUBJECT OPPORTUNITY, THE ATTACHED BUSINESS ASSURANCES & DISCLOSURES FORM DOES NOT SEEM TO INCLUDE DIRECTION FOR THE FFRDC AUTHORIZATION AND FIELD WORK PROPOSAL.

"ANY FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (FFRDC) INVOLVED AS A MEMBER OF A PROJECT TEAM MUST PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE "FFRDC LAB AUTHORIZATION" AND "FIELD WORK PROPOSAL" SECTION OF THE BUSINESS ASSURANCES & DISCLOSURES FORM, WHICH IS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICANT'S FULL APPLICATION."

ANSWER: The Business Assurances & Disclosures Form has separate sections for the FFRDC Lab Authorization and Field Work Proposal.



Q5. IN SECTION III-A-3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT:

"AN APPLICANT THAT MEETS BOTH THE SBIR AND STTR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ABOVE MAY REQUEST BOTH SBIR AND STTR FUNDING .."

DOES THAT MEAN TWO SEPARATE BUT RELATED PROPOSALS ARE FUNDED SIMULTANEOUSLY (ONE AN SBIR AND THE OTHER AN STTR) WITH A COMBINED BUDGET TWICE WHAT IS ALLOWED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SBIR OR STTR?

IF SO, ARE THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED SEPARATELY, OR AS A SINGLE SUBMISSION?

ANSWER: A Applicant eligible for both SBIR and STTR can choose which type of award you would like to receive, if selected for award negotiations. You may only submit more than one application if the applications are scientifically distinct. See Section III.F.3 of the FOA.