

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. --- REDACTED --- SUBMITTED AN NSF SBIR PITCH YESTERDAY RELATED TO ENERGY STORAGE AND PRODUCTION FOR RAIL, ROAD, AND SEAS USING ISO SHIPPING CONTAINERS IN AN ECOSYSTEM OF ELECTRIFIED TRAILERS AND SHIPS. WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH "HIGH RISK" TECHNOLOGY IN THE PROPOSAL. PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK? SHOULD WE APPLY TO DE-FOA-0003163?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposed project. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the funding opportunity announcement to inform an independent determination to either submit or not submit an application.

Q2. I AM THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE OF---REDACTED---, A SWISS COMPANY, OWNER OF THE RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY OF---REDACTED---

---REDACTED--- ALLOWS QUICK INSTALLATION AND DEPOSE OF SOLAR PANELS BETWEEN RAILS.

YOU MAY WATCH A VIDEO AT:

[HTTPS:// ---REDACTED---](https://---REDACTED---)

QUESTIONS ABOUT DE-FOA-0003163:

- (1) IS THIS FUNDING UNRESTRICTED INTERNATIONALLY OR DOMESTICALLY?**
- (2) CAN A FOREIGN (SWISS) FOR-PROFIT COMPANY APPLY AND PARTICIPATE?**
- (3) DO PATENTED SOLAR PANELS SYSTEM BETWEEN RAILS BE ELIGIBLE?**
- (4) OUR INTENT IS TO INCORPORATE A U.S. SUBSIDIARY, SHOULD WE WAIT TO APPLY AFTER INCORPORATION?**

ANSWER: 1. See Footnote 26 in Section III.A of FOA Number DE-FOA-0003163.

- (2) See Footnote 26 in Section III.A of FOA Number DE-FOA-0003163.
- (3) All Applications that meet the requirements of FOA Number DE-FOA-0003163 and can achieve the technical performance targets, presented in Table 1 will be given due consideration.
- (4) See Footnote 26 in Section III.A of FOA Number DE-FOA-0003163.

Q3. HELLO—WE ARE SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO THIS SBIR PROGRAM, AND SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THE SBIR PHASES AND FUNDING AMOUNTS. PAGE 15 SAYS “PROPEL 1K PHASE 1 IS ANTICIPATED TO LAST 18 MONTHS AND HAVE FUNDING BETWEEN \$500K AND \$1,500,000...THE COMBINED FUNDING OF PROPEL 1K PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE SBIR/STTR CEILING OF \$4.241,580.” THIS IS REPEATED IN SECTION IIA, AWARD OVERVIEW, BUT IT ALSO SAYS “IN THE EVENT THAT ARPA-E SELECTS A PORTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT (ONLY PHASE I, OR ONLY PHASE I, II) THEN THE MAXIMUM AWARD FOR PHASE I IS \$295,924 AND THE MAXIMUM FOR PHASE I/II IS \$2,268,752.”

SO MY QUESTIONS ARE:

- (1) IF WE ARE BIDDING ON AN SBIR, IS PHASE I LIMITED TO \$295K AND 18 MONTHS? OR IS THE PHASE I POP SHORTER FOR SBIRS?**
- (2) IT APPEARS THAT PHASE II AND IIS ARE LUMPED TOGETHER AND ALSO MUST BE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS. IS THAT CORRECT, AND WOULD THE TOTAL SBIR AMOUNT FOR PHASES II/IIS BE \$3.945,656?**

ANSWER: 1. See Section 1.G of the FOA: your full application should focus primarily on *PROPEL-1K* Phase 1, but you should provide a brief overview of the *PROPEL-1K* Phase 2 approach, schedule, and anticipated budget. Under the SBIR/STTR rules, the full application for *PROPEL-1K*'s “Phase 1” should be an application for an SBIR/STTR Phase I/II Award. Such application should be for an 18 month maximum period of performance. As you quote, the *PROPEL-1K*'s “Phase 1” is anticipated to have federal funding between \$500,000 and \$1,500,000 per award.

2. Correct – an SBIR/STTR awardee selected for *PROPEL-1K*'s Phase 2 would be performing an SBIR/STTR Phase II/IIS award, which would have a maximum period of performance of 18 months (sequentially occurring after the completion of the period of performance of their award under *PROPEL-1K*'s Phase 1). The combined federal funding for an SBIR/STTR project has a cap on federal funds described in section 1.G of this FOA. To the extent your application includes a brief overview of the intended approach for *PROPEL-1K* Phase 2, you should keep this total maximum amount in mind.

Q4. WE AND A TEAM OF SMALL BUSINESS COLLABORATORS ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR DE-FOA-0003163 CATEGORY B

---REDACTED---

CAN YOU PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO US AS TO WHETHER OUR CARBON NEUTRAL (BUT CO2 CONSUMING AND CO2 EMITTING) APPROACH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY ARPA-E IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROGRAM OBJECTIVE?

I AM NOT ASKING FOR A REVIEW OF MY IDEA BUT RATHER ASKING IF FUELS WHICH WHEN USED EMIT CO2 ARE ALLOWED IF THOSE FUELS THEMSELVES ARE MADE FROM CO2. THE FOA IN OUR INTERPRETATION IS NOT CLEAR ON THIS POINT AS MAKING FROM FUELS FROM CO2 IS NOT A COMMON APPROACH AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED BY THE AUTHORS.

ANSWER: Please refer to Section I.D of the FOA and to metric #7 in Section I.E of the FOA.

Q5. ON PAGE 21 OF THE SUBJECT SOLICITATION IT STATES THAT APPLICANTS SHOULD PREPARE A PHASE I/II OR PHASE I/II/IIS APPLICATION, NOT JUST A PHASE I APPLICATION. I WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF THIS, PLEASE.

ALSO, IF THIS IS THE CASE, HOW SHOULD WE BUDGET OUR PHASES, GIVEN WE CAN REQUEST UP TO \$1.5 MILLION FOR THE PHASE I? DOES THAT MEAN THE PHASE II FUNDS WILL BE THE MAXIMUM (\$4,241,580) MINUS THE \$1.5 MILLION?

ANSWER: The phased funding question has been addressed under Q3 of this FAQ. Subject to available appropriated funds, awards made under this FOA will adhere to the available funding limits of the SBA's SBIR/STTR program regulations. Please see Q3 of this FAQ and section 1G of FOA # DE-FOA-0003163 for more information on phased amounts and timelines.

Q6. IN THE FOA DE-FOA-0003163 UNDER SECTION A.ELIGIBILITY APPLICANTS, AND 1.SBIR ELIGIBILITY, THE LAST PARAGRAPH SAYS FOR INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY AS A SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN, PLEASE REFER TO THE SBA'S WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.SBA.GOV/CONTENT/AM-I-SMALL-BUSINESS-CONCERN](https://www.sba.gov/content/am-i-small-business-concern). THIS LINK RETURNS AS A "PAGE NOT FOUND". JUST THOUGHT I WOULD LET YOU KNOW AND SEE IF THERE IS A VIABLE LINK FOR THIS?

ANSWER: SBA's SBIR/STTR webpage contains information on applicant eligibility. Please see the "Eligibility" section of this website for more information: [About | SBIR.gov](https://www.sba.gov/content/about-sbir)