

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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I. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q1. If I have questions about this funding announcement, who do I contact?

ANSWER: Please see the FOA guidance on submitting FOA content questions and response publication. Applicants may submit questions regarding this ARPA-E's Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov. All emails must include the FOA name and number in the subject line. The cover page and Executive Summary of the Funding Opportunity Announcement state the deadlines for submitting questions to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov.

Q2. How will I receive a response to questions submitted to arpa-e-co@hq.doe.gov about this FOA?

ANSWER: Responses are posted in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of ARPA-E's website. There are general FAQs and a FAQ page for each FOA.

ARPA-E will post responses on a weekly basis to any questions that are received.

ARPA-E will cease to accept questions approximately 5 business days in advance of each submission deadline. Responses to questions received before the cutoff will be posted approximately one business day in advance of the submission deadline. ARPA-E may re-phrase questions or consolidate similar questions for administrative purposes.

Q3. Will ARPA-E post a response to every question submitted to arpa-e-co@hq.doe.gov?

ANSWER: No. ARPA-E will only post responses to questions that have not already been addressed by a published FAQ. Also, ARPA-E may consolidate similar questions for administrative purposes.

Q4. If I have questions about ARPA-E exchange, who do I contact?

ANSWER: Applicants may submit questions regarding ARPA-E's online application portal, ARPA-E eXCHANGE, to ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov. All emails must include the name and number of the Funding Opportunity Announcement in the subject line.

Q5. 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). Emails sent to other email addresses will be disregarded.

Q6. Can a person be PI on one proposal and a Co-PI on a second separate proposal?

ANSWER: Yes, but the applications must be scientifically distinct from one another.

Q7. May applicants submit more than one concept paper to this funding opportunity?

ANSWER: Yes, but each Concept Paper submission must be scientifically distinct.

Q8. I have developed a technology that may be a good fit for this funding opportunity. Will ARPA-E please review the attached project information and let me know if I should make a submission to this funding opportunity?

ANSWER: No. Applicants must review the Technical Requirements of this funding opportunity announcement to determine if their technology warrants a submission to ARPA-E. See e.g. Section I.D (“Technical Categories of Interest”) and Section I.F (Applications Specifically Not of Interest) of the FOA.

II. Questions for week ending: OCTOBER 3, 2014

Q9. I am a faculty member at ** interested in ****. Looking at the recent call DE-FOA-0001211, it seems the program is mainly interested in gene modification technologies. I was wondering if the program is also interested in systems approaches that can be used to evaluate different technologies in terms of robustness and other sustainability measures. Could you please elaborate or clarify more on this?**

ANSWER: ARPA-E will consider all concepts that propose to meet or exceed the technical performance targets set forth in Section I.E (Technical Performance Targets) of the FOA and do not fall under Section I.F (Applications Specifically Not of Interest) of the FOA. Sustainability measures are not included as a technical performance target in the TERRA FOA. However phenotypes related to sustainability are described in Table 1 in the FOA and, if desired, applicants may include their measures in addition to the required Concept Paper content specified in Section IV.C (Content and Form of Concept Papers) of the FOA.

III. Questions for week ending: OCTOBER 10, 2014

Q10. I wanted to confirm that ARPA-E would consider proposals that studied hemp as an energy crop? The study would be conducted in accordance with the new Federal policy as well as Illinois' recent law change enabling Hemp research. Before proceeding forward we wanted to confirm Hemp would not be disqualified by ARPA-E.

ANSWER: Please see Sections I.B.3 (Energy Crops), I.D (Technical Categories of Interest) and Section I.F (Applications Specifically Not of Interest) of the FOA.

IV. Questions for week ending: OCTOBER 17, 2014

Q11. Can Domestic Educational Institutions partner with European/Foreign Educational Institutions for this project? Is there a limitation that the research funded by the ARPA-E grant can only be performed in the US?

ANSWER: Per Section III.A (Eligibility Information) of the FOA, foreign entities are eligible to apply for funding. However, if the project is selected for award negotiations and an award is made, all work must be performed in the United States by subsidiaries or affiliates incorporated in the United States or U.S. territories (unless ARPA-E grants a foreign work waiver to allow performance of part of the work outside of the United States). ARPA-E's grant of a foreign work waiver is a fact dependent, case-by-case determination that is made only in exceptional circumstances and only for discrete parts of an award that necessitate foreign work. Applicants that anticipate the need for a foreign work waiver to perform some work outside of the U.S. should review Section 5 of the Business Assurances & Disclosures Form.

Q12. Are model species related to biofuels crops (such as *Brachypodium distachyon* and *Setaria viridis*) eligible? Also, are oil-seed crops such as Safflower, Sunflower, or Canola eligible?

ANSWER: The TERRA solicitation focuses on biomass yield, so please see Sections I.B.3 (Energy Crops), I.D (Technical Categories of Interest), and Section I.F (Applications Specifically Not of Interest) of the FOA in regards to ARPA-E's crops of interest.

Q13. In a consortium application, may an organization be the Prime Applicant if it is receiving less than 50% of the total award?

ANSWER: Applicants must independently determine the roles for members of their proposed Project Team. Please see Section III.A.4 of the FOA for a discussion on Consortium Entities.

Q14. In the FOA, amounts are specified between \$250,000 and \$10 million but it does not say if that is per year or the entire duration of a project, please clarify.

ANSWER: Section II.A (Award Overview) of the FOA states that individual awards may vary between \$250,000 and \$10 million. These floor and ceiling award amounts refer to the Total Project Cost for the entire duration of the award.

Q15. For projects not incorporating Category 1: integrated system or Cat. 5, hosting site, can we assume we would have access to the hosting site facility to perform high-throughput field growth experiments in years 2-4 on at least a small amount of field space? It seems to me that this facility will greatly enhance the capabilities of each of the funded groups and others, and that this should be taken into account for planning of sub-projects. Access to the facility will greatly expand what we can do and result in significant cost savings.

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not be providing a central field trial facility for the program for projects that only fit under categories 2-4. However, category 1 and 5 projects will be encouraged to collaborate with other TERRA projects and the field data from the reference project (category 5) will be made available to all TERRA projects.

Q16. Are there administrative or other issues with collaborating with foreign institutions such as ** in a project proposal for this FOA?**

ANSWER: Please see the response to Question 11 above.

Q17. Will site installation costs be included in the Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) provided by ARPA-E to the Category 5 awardee (“the reference team”) or should applicants include installation costs in the proposed budget for the Concept Paper?

ANSWER: The selected reference team is not expected to incur installation costs for the ARPA-E provided GFE, but the team is expected to incur some specific site preparation costs prior to installation of the GFE which should be included in the budget. As specified in Section I.D (Technical Categories of Interest) of the FOA, the reference team is expected to incur the following site preparation costs as part of the project: space and personnel available to install the GFE in the 2015 growing season, concrete foundations poured in the field, a dedicated field site with at least 20 meters of usable width and at least 200 meters long, a power supply (10s of kW expected), and all relevant construction and safety permits for operation of the GFE system.

Q18. Will the GFE installed at the reference team’s site remain with that institution at the end of the project?

ANSWER: Subject to the specific provisions of the ARPA-E award, the GFE may be a permanent installation at the reference team’s site, with the system remaining with the reference team at the end of the project. Please see Section I.D (Technical Categories of Interest) of the FOA.

Q19. On p.31 of the FOA, in regards to “foreign entities,” the text read, “all work by foreign entities must be performed by subsidiaries or affiliates incorporated in the United State (including U.S. Territories). If a team wanted to have a collaborator from a foreign university, would this be possible? Would this collaborator be eligible for any funding from the ARPA-E TERRA grant budget?

ANSWER: Please see the response to Question 11 above.

Q20. Can an individual be on two proposals?

ANSWER: Yes, an individual may be on more than one Concept Paper submission – either as a lead or member of a Project Team – but Prime Applicants that submit multiple submissions must ensure that each submission is “scientifically distinct”.

Q21. Would ARPA-E sponsor obtaining a Certificate of Authorization (CoA) for Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) from the FAA to support TERRA research?

ANSWER: ARPA-E will consider sponsoring Certificates of Authorization.

Q22. Can I submit one Concept Paper that includes a Category 1 and Category 5 submission since it seems that these categories are mutually exclusive?

ANSWER: The TERRA FOA does not preclude submission of such a Concept Paper, however, per Section IV.C (Content and Form of Concept Papers) of the FOA, Concept Papers must not exceed 5 pages and must contain all requested content for each technical category as described in the FOA. Alternatively, per Section III.C.2 (Limitation on Number of Applications) of the FOA, applicants may submit separate Concept Papers for Category 1 and Category 5 concepts.

Q23. If a project team has the capability of submitting either a Category 1 or a Category 5, should we submit two proposals assuming they would not both be funded?

ANSWER: Please see the response provided for Question 22 above.