

# The ARPA-E Funding Process

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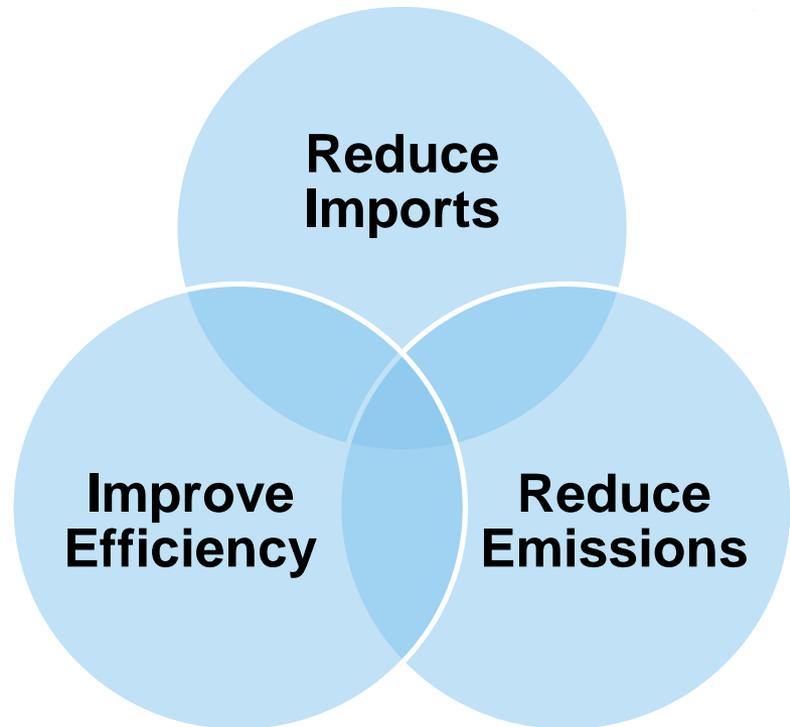


# The ARPA-E Mission

Catalyze and support the development of transformational, high-impact energy technologies

## Ensure America's

- ▶ National Security
- ▶ Economic Security
- ▶ Energy Security
- ▶ Technological Lead

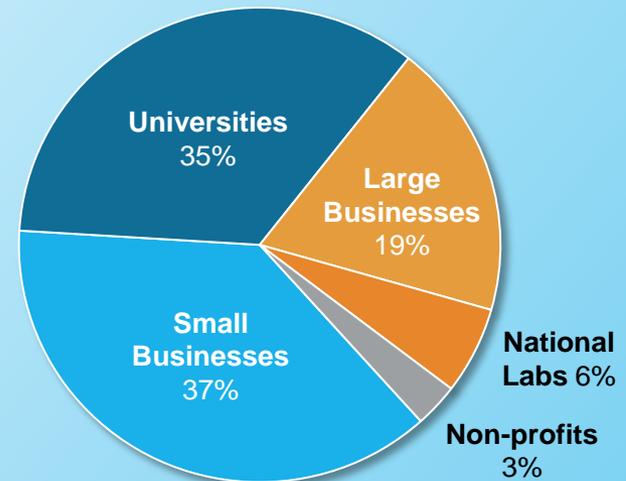


# A Brief History of ARPA-E

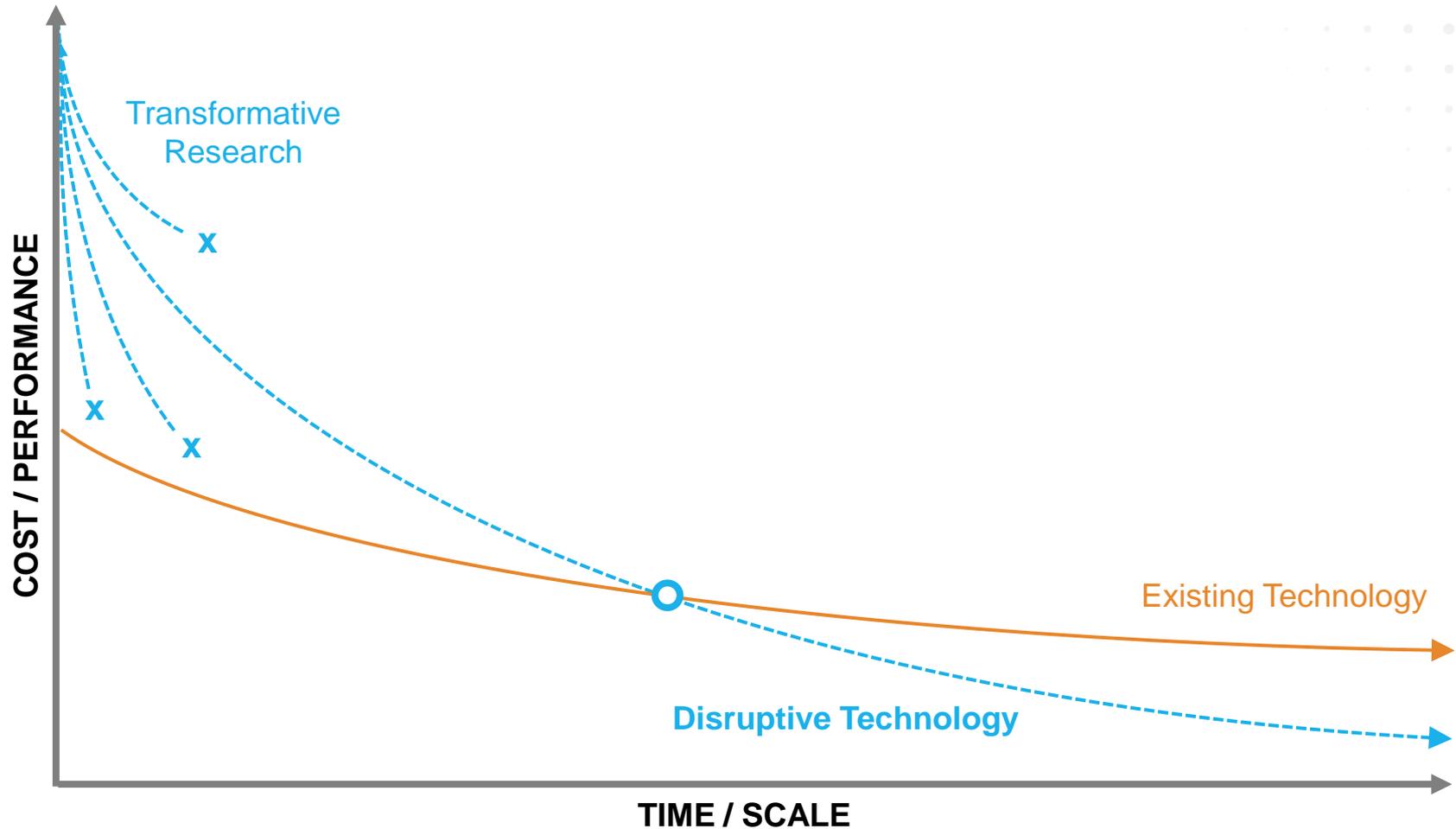
- **2007**
  - *America COMPETES Act* signed, authorizing ARPA-E
- **2009**
  - *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act* signed, providing \$400M to establish ARPA-E
- **2014**
  - Over \$1B invested
  - 375 projects funded

## *Investing in America's Best and Brightest*

Funding Distribution (Lead Institution)



# Funding Disruptive Approaches to Innovation



# ARPA-E Focused Programs

To date, ARPA-E has invested in 375 energy technology projects across 20 focused programs and 2 OPEN solicitations



## Transportation Energy Technologies



BEEST



Electrofuels



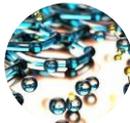
RANGE



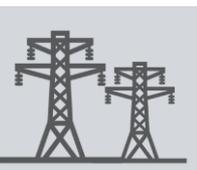
PETRO



MOVE



REMOTE



## Stationary Energy Technologies



Solar  
ADEPT



GRIDS



IMPACCT



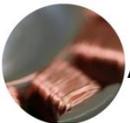
FOCUS



BEETIT



GENI



ADEPT



REBELS

## Transportation and Stationary Technologies

HEATS



AMPED



REACT



SBIR/STTR



METALS



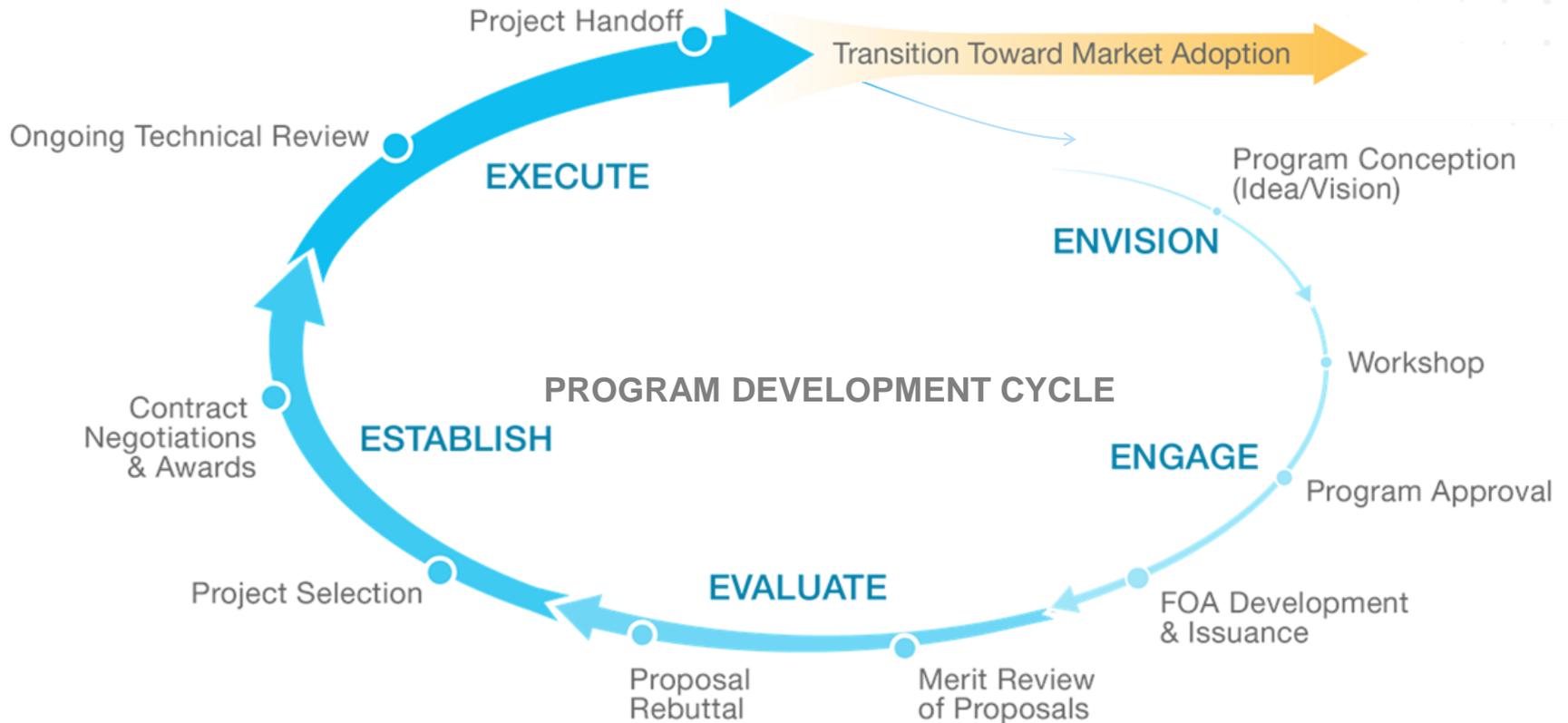
SWITCHES



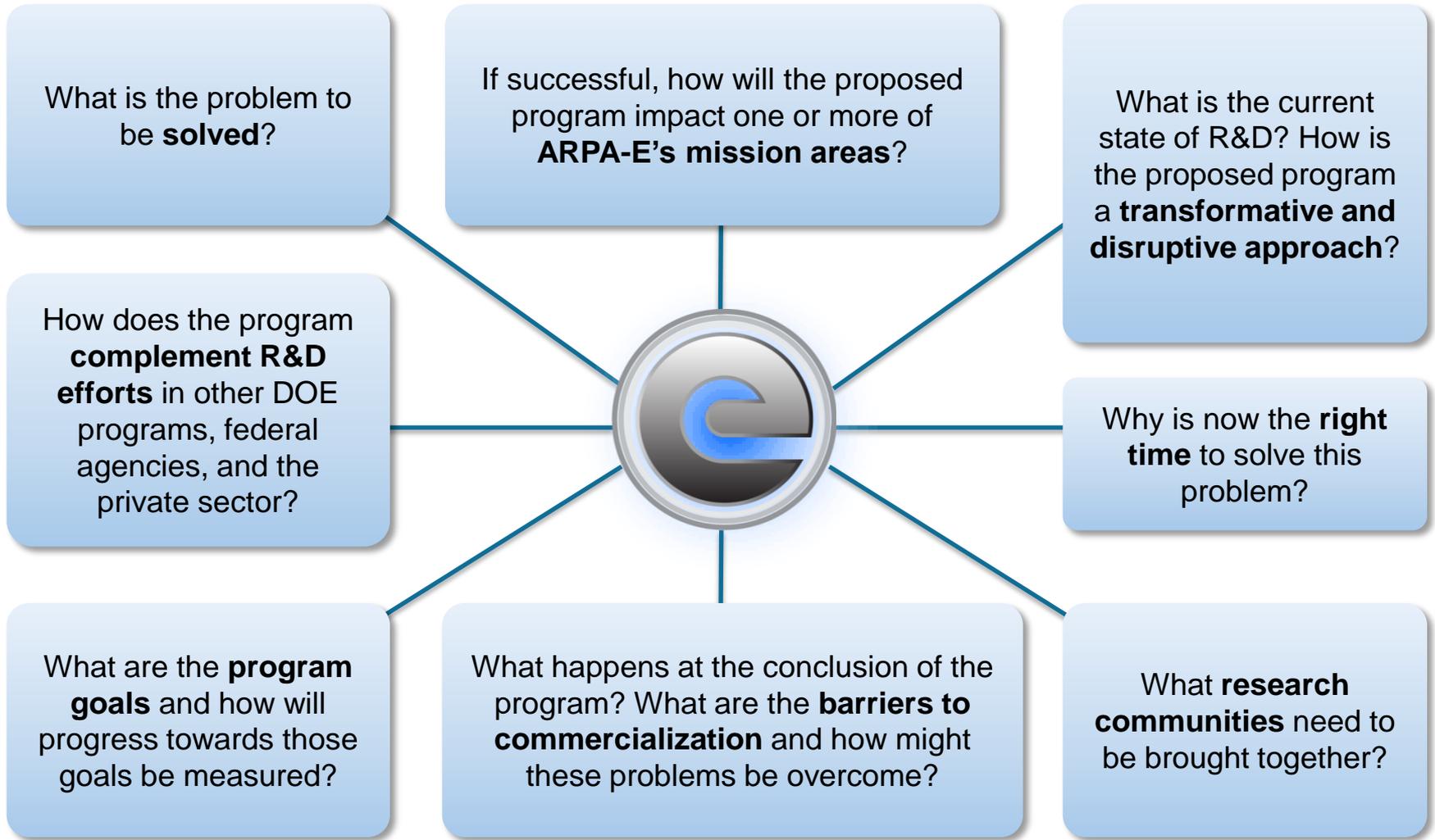
# Developing ARPA-E Programs



ARPA-E Program Directors



# ARPA-E Program Framing Questions

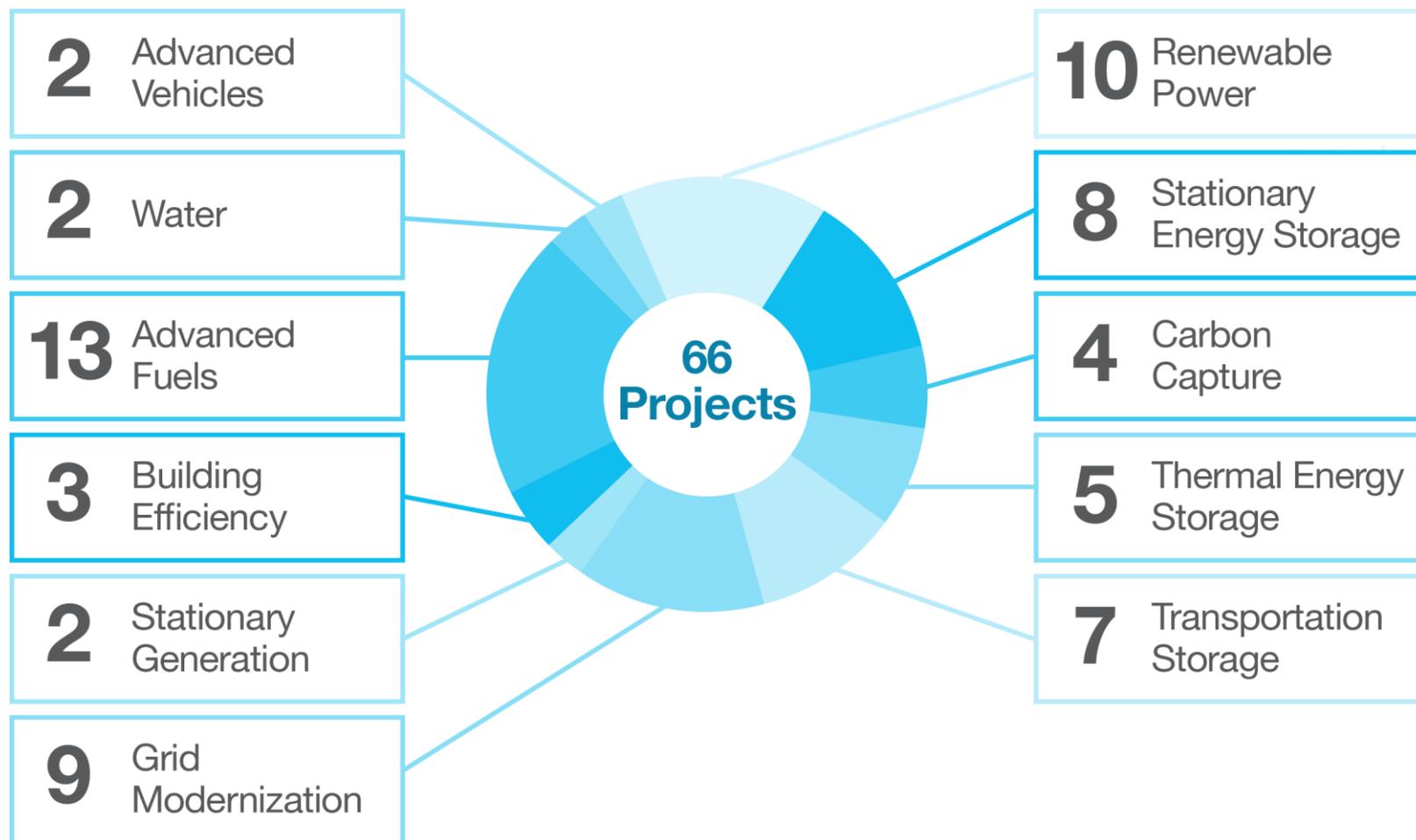




If it works...

***will it matter?***

# OPEN 2012: 66 Projects, 24 States, 11 Areas



# Creating a Successful ARPA-E Project

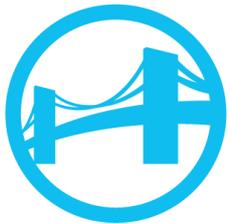
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The ability to make an **IMPACT**



The potential to **TRANSFORM** our energy future



A **BRIDGE** from science to breakthrough technology



A **TEAM** of best-in-class experts

# Top 5 Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal

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- 1 Read the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
- 2 Demonstrate impact
- 3 Describe the technology
- 4 Compare to state of art
- 5 Identify challenges and solutions



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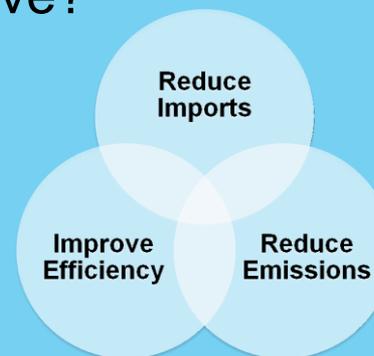
- ▶ Motivation for the program
- ▶ Program objectives
- ▶ Technical categories of interest
- ▶ Technical performance targets

Read the FOA!  
Then read it again, *carefully*.

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- ▶ How does it impact ARPA-E mission areas?
- ▶ What problem are you trying to solve?



Your first question should not be  
“will it work?”

“If it works, will it matter?”

# Dos and Don'ts of Demonstrating Impact

## Hydrogel-based super biodegradable diapers

- Exposing diaper to UV light activates ability to fully dissolve in water in 30 s vs. 300 y biodegradation of conventional diapers
- Will save ~18 billion diapers a year from entering US landfills

**Does not address an ARPA-E mission**

## Carbon-reducing biocatalyst for human waste

- Novel carbon reducing biocatalyst reduces human waste to pure carbon and water  
 $(\text{CH}_2)_n + n/2\text{O}_2 = n\text{C(s)} + n\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Technology acts as carbon sink using human waste, potentially reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1 Giga-tonne per year

**Addresses an ARPA-E mission area**



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- ▶ How does it work? Describe with absolutely no jargon.
- ▶ What's new in your approach?
- ▶ Why do you think it will be successful?

# Dos and *Don'ts* of Describing Technology

## Flexible, energy efficient time travel

- 10x more efficient time travel to any date and place in the history of the universe
- Leverages novel proprietary technology from Doc and McFly Industries, Inc.
- Validated at proof-of-concept scale by D&M Industry advisors, including several Nobel laureates



- Next generation flux capacitor based on proprietary hafnium alloy is the key enabling technology
- Capacitor placement within metallic vehicle body perturbs the flux dispersal field, allowing smooth passage through the space-time continuum (see references 3-8)
- Time travel requires 1.21 Gigawatt-hours of electrical power, with allows for 10x efficiency gain as validated via the mass/energy balance outlined in Table 3

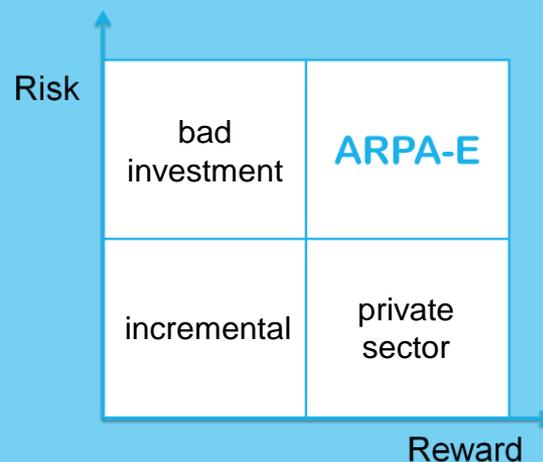
**Too vague, no content**

**Backs up claims, gives specifics**

# Top 5 Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal

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- ▶ How is it done today?
- ▶ Why are today's solutions insufficient?
- ▶ How does your solution represent a dramatic improvement?



# Top 5 Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal

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- 3 Describe technology
- 4 Compare to state of art
- 5 **Identify challenges and solutions**

- ▶ What is the challenge to developing your specific technology? Why is it hard?
- ▶ What approaches will you take to overcoming these challenges?

**Why should we fund you?**

Provide key insight/unique approach to solve a problem where others failed

# Final Remark on Pedigrees

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- ▶ It doesn't matter **who** you are...
  - Nobel prize winner or
  - Founder of a tiny startup company
- ▶ We only care about the **quality of the idea**



If you're really good, let it show through  
in the **quality of your proposal.**

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# Concept Papers and Full Applications

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- ▶ Concept Papers (4 pages)
  - Summarize concept succinctly
  - Describe innovation/impact, proposed work, and team organization/capabilities
- ▶ Full Applications (30 pages for technical section)
  - Detailed description of proposed technology, work plan, and budget
  - Detailed justification of how proposed technology will meet FOA technical targets

***Use templates provided by ARPA-E***

# ARPA-E Resources





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**arpa·e**  
energy innovation summit

February 9–11, 2015  
Gaylord National Convention Center | Washington, D.C.

[www.arpae-summit.com](http://www.arpae-summit.com)  
**Feb. 9-11, 2015 | Washington, D.C.**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

[www.arpa-e.energy.gov](http://www.arpa-e.energy.gov)