

**Financial Assistance
Notice of Funding Opportunity
Part 1**



**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Nuclear Energy – Idaho Operations Office
Fuel Cycle Research and Development to Assess Options as
Technologies and Economics Evolve
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003364**

Application due: February 19, 2025

Modifications to this NOFO will be posted on Grants.gov. Grants.gov will automatically notify applicants when a NOFO modification is processed. Applicants must be registered to this NOFO in Grants.gov to receive email notifications. See Registration Requirements in Part 2 of this NOFO.

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Before You Begin

Navigating the Notice of Funding Opportunity

The [OMB Memorandum M-24-11](#) directs federal agencies to reduce the burden on applicants in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process and limit the length of the NOFO information requests. With Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 NOFOs, DOE has separated the NOFO into two parts.

The NOFO Part 1 describes the specific DOE programmatic goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components that are specific to each funding opportunity. The NOFO Part 2 includes the fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO, including standard information for the application phase, expectations for award negotiations, and post-award requirements. Applicants must review both the NOFO Part 1 and the NOFO Part 2 prior to applying. To facilitate navigation, you will find links throughout this document to additional information found in Part 2.

There are several required one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these actions may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time to complete them. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. If you have previously completed the necessary registrations, make sure your registration is active and up to date. All registrations are free. Please refer to [NOFO Part 2, Get Registered](#), for additional information.

This announcement is published in conjunction with NOFO Part 2, version 1.

I. Basic Information

A. Key Facts

Issuing Agency	Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy – Idaho Operations Office
Funding Opportunity Title	Fuel Cycle Research and Development to Assess Options as Technologies and Economics Evolve
Announcement Type	Initial Notice of Funding Opportunity
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003364
Funding Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Assistance Listing Number	81.121
Funding Opportunity Description	Support the broader government-wide approach to advance nuclear fuel cycle technologies to promote the nuclear energy portfolio within the U.S..
Program Goals & Objective(s)	The fundamental objective of this NOFO is to engage with the U.S. industry to continue assessing research and development efforts, on a cost-shared basis, to de-risk the technical costs and technology uncertainties of used nuclear fuel recycle processes and technologies and economics under the high standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation.
Eligible Applicants	<p>In accordance with 2 CFR 910.126 - Competition, eligibility for award is restricted to eligible applicants from U.S. owned nuclear industry entities, in accordance with information described in Part III C of this NOFO. The prime recipient may partner with FFRDCs (including National Laboratories)), universities, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations.</p> <p>This financial assistance award is a “covered program” (as defined in 2 CFR 910.124(b)) and must be accomplished in the economic interest of the United States as stated in 2 CFR 910.124. Eligible entities include, but are not limited to, teams, consortia, or other partnership arrangements.</p> <p>FFRDCs are not eligible to participate as a prime applicant. This restriction does not apply to these entities becoming sub-recipients,</p>

KEY DATES

Notice of Funding Opportunity Issue Date:
December 20, 2024

Letter of Intent Deadline:
January 21, 2025

Informational Webinar:
February 4, 2025(Tentative)

Application Deadline:
February 19, 2025, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time

	<p>sub-awardees, vendors, or team members of the prime/lead applicant.</p> <p>Eligible applicants must have or apply for a Facility Clearance in accordance with DEAR 952.204-73.</p>
Grants.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Link: https://grants.gov • HELP: Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4776 or email support@grants.gov. It is advised you retain your ticket number.

B. Checklist for Avoiding Common Errors

Item	Issue
Page Limits	<p>Strictly followed throughout application, including particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Narrative - Career Objective Statement - Endorsement Letter - Vitae
Protected Personally Identifiable Information	None present in the application
Project Abstract	Name of applicant, Principal Investigator (PI), PI's institutional affiliation(s),
Budget	Use current negotiated indirect cost and fringe benefit rates
Budget Justification	Justify all requested costs (Please include quotes and pricing, negotiated rate plans, and/or links to university policy)
Vitae	No page limits
Current and Pending Support	Provide a complete listing of all activities including brief abstract of scope of work for all items listed, regardless of source of funding.
Certifications and Assurances	- Ensure that signatures are completed for both sections of the certifications and assurances documentation
R&R Other Project Information	- If marking proprietary information, clearly mark the sections where proprietary information is in the narrative or other documents using the procedure outlined in the notice of funding opportunity announcement.

Data Management Plans (DMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If referring to an experiment’s DMP, describe the relationship to the proposed research. - Include a DMP even if no experimental data is expected.
Completed SF 328 or documentation of existing Facility Clearance	The applicant shall provide Standard Form 328 in accordance with DEAR 952.204-73 or provide information on existing Facility Clearance.

1. Funding Details

Single Topic Area

DOE anticipates awarding one or more cooperative agreements under this NOFO.

- Approximate total available funding: \$10,000,000
- Approximate number of awards: Multiple - will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.
- Approximate dollar amount of individual awards: Maximum of \$5,000,000
- Minimum cost share required: 20% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: Up to 3 years
- Anticipated length of budget periods: Up to three one-year budget periods. Applicants may propose periods of performance less than 3 years. Performance beyond the award base year is contingent on available appropriation, an evaluation of satisfactory progress during the base year, and DOE’s approval of the yearly continuation application.

2. Period of Performance

DOE anticipates making awards, comprised of multiple budget periods, with a project period of performance of up to 3 years that consist of up to three one-year budget periods. Applicants may propose periods of performance less than 3 years. Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed.

C. Executive Summary

DOE-NE currently supports research and development activities to evaluate the technology options and economics for recycling valuable components of irradiated nuclear fuel. Technical scopes include used nuclear fuel (UNF) from current fleet and advanced reactor designs. The term UNF (or “used fuel”) is synonymous with the term “spent nuclear fuel.” The legal definition of “spent nuclear fuel” is provided by Section 2 (23) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPA). DOE-NE undertakes these activities in support of the Administration’s objectives to regain the U.S.’s technological leadership position in the global nuclear industry and to achieve the United States’ energy security. DOE-NE recognizes that continued efforts in line with NSM-19 policy guidance will be necessary to assure U.S.

leadership in the research, design, and development of advanced recycling technologies, and to assess options as technologies and economics evolve.

The activities to be funded under this NOFO support the broader government-wide approach to advance nuclear fuel cycle technologies to promote the nuclear energy portfolio within the U.S. which will maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition as the nation works to curb the climate crisis, empower workers, and advance environmental justice.

D. Agency Contact Information

Office of *Nuclear Energy – Idaho Operations Office*
U.S. Department of Energy
1955 N. Freemont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

For questions relating to this specific NOFO, please send emails to Andrew Ford, fordaj@id.doe.gov.

DISCLAIMER: Applicants are discouraged from submitting information considered proprietary unless it is deemed essential for proper evaluation of the application. If the application contains information that the applicant organization considers to be trade secrets, information that is commercial or financial, or information that is privileged or confidential, the pages containing that information must be identified as specified in the application instructions. When such information is included in the application, it will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act, with the understanding that the information will be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. The information contained in the application will be protected by DOE from unauthorized disclosure, consistent with the need for merit review of applications of financial assistance awards to assure the integrity of the competitive process and the accuracy and completeness of the information. If a federal financial assistance award is made as a result of or in connection with an application, the federal government has the right to use or disclose the information to the extent authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the federal government's right to use the information if it is obtained without restriction from another source.

II. Eligibility

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation and ineligible for any award. DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this NOFO must be submitted. The decision whether to apply in response to this NOFO lies solely with the applicant. The information included here is specific to eligibility requirements for this NOFO. For eligibility requirements applicable to all NOFOs, please consult the [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility](#).

A. Eligible Applicants

To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If the application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

1. Restricted Eligibility

In accordance with 2 CFR 910.126, Competition, eligibility for this NOFO is restricted because federally funded research & development centers (FFRDC) are not permitted to be the prime/lead role on applications for this project, as they are not allowed to compete with industry. DOE is restricting eligibility to the entities identified below.

2. Domestic Entities

In accordance with 2 CFR 910.126 - Competition, eligibility for award is restricted to eligible applicants from U.S. owned nuclear industry entities, in accordance with information described in Part III C of this NOFO. The prime recipient may partner with FFRDCs (including National Laboratories), universities, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations.

This financial assistance award is a "covered program" (as defined in 2 CFR 910.124(b)) and must be accomplished in the economic interest of the United States as stated in 2 CFR 910.124. Eligible entities include, but are not limited to, teams, consortia, or other partnership arrangements.

FFRDCs are not eligible to participate as a prime applicant. This restriction does not apply to these entities becoming sub-recipients, sub-awardees, vendors, or team members of the prime/lead applicant.

Eligible applicants must have or apply for a Facility Clearance in accordance with DEAR 952.204-73.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In general, foreign entities are not eligible to apply as either a recipient or subrecipient. In limited circumstances, DOE may approve a waiver to allow a foreign entity to participate as a recipient or subrecipient.

Prime recipients and subrecipients must be legally formed in the United States, have majority domestic ownership and control, and have a physical location for business operations in the United States.

Entities that are organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of the United States or a particular state or territory of the United States and have a physical location for business operations in the United States are eligible to apply for funding as a recipient or subrecipient.

Participant Limitations

Participation of the following entities are limited as follows.

- DOE FFRDCs¹ are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a recipient.
- Non-DOE FFRDCs are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a recipient.
- Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are typically not eligible to apply as a recipient.

Performance of Work in the United States

All work for the awards under this NOFO must be performed in the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, the applicant must submit an explicit waiver request in the application. Absent an approved waiver, such costs will not be allowable under the award. The [NOFO Part 2, Application Content Requirements](#) lists the requirements for submission of a foreign work waiver request.

Ineligible Participants

The following entities are ineligible for participation in this NOFO as a recipient, subrecipient, or subcontractor.

- In accordance with 2 CFR 200.214, entities banned from doing business with the U.S. government such as entities debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs.
- Entities identified on Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control Treasury's Sanctions Program Specially Designated Nationals list are prohibited from doing business with the United States government and are not eligible. See [OFAC - Sanctions List Service \(treas.gov\)](https://www.treas.gov/sanctions).
- Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are not eligible to apply for funding.

Entity of Concern Prohibition

Entities of Concern are prohibited from participating in projects selected under this NOFO (see [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility, Other Eligibility Information, Entity of Concern Prohibition](#) section for details and definitions).

¹ FFRDCs are public-private partnerships that conduct research for the U.S. government. A listing of FFRDCs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.

B. Limitation on Number of Applications Eligible for Review

Applicants may submit one application as a primary applicant under this NOFO. Each application submitted by a single U.S. nuclear industry entity must address a unique project within the scope described in this NOFO, with distinct applicability to industry needs.

C. Cost Sharing

Applicants are expected to follow through on estimated cost share commitments proposed in their applications if selected for award negotiations. Please refer to the [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility](#) for more information on Cost Sharing.

1. Cost Share Requirements

The cost share must be at least 20% of the total project costs² for research and development.³

Applications that do not meet the minimum required cost share will be deemed ineligible during the initial compliance review and will not be further reviewed. The cost share must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

The cost share percentage is calculated by dividing the cost share by the total allowable project costs for the award where the total allowable project costs include government share (including FFRDC costs if applicable) and cost share. To help applicants calculate proper cost share amounts, DOE has included a cost share information sheet and sample cost share calculation in the [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility—Cost Sharing, Cost Share Calculation Examples](#).

2. Unallowable Cost Share Sources, NOFO Specific

The unallowable cost share sources identified here are specific to this announcement. Refer to [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility--Cost Sharing, Unallowable Cost Share Sources](#) for unallowable cost share sources applicable to all NOFOs.

D. FFRDC Eligibility Criteria

1. DOE and Non-DOE FFRDCs as a Subrecipient

As long as they have no conflict, DOE and non-DOE FFRDCs may be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity's application subject to the following guidelines:

Authorization for non-DOE FFRDCs

The federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with its authority under its award.

² Total project costs are the sum of the government share, including FFRDC costs if applicable, and the recipient share of project costs.

³ Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, sec. 988. Also see 2 CFR 200.306 and 2 CFR 910.130 for additional cost sharing requirements.

Authorization for DOE FFRDCs

The cognizant Contracting Officer for the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The following wording is acceptable for this authorization:

Authorization is granted for the Laboratory to participate in the proposed project. The work proposed for the Laboratory is consistent with or complementary to the missions of the Laboratory and will not adversely impact execution of the DOE assigned programs at the Laboratory.

Funding, Cost Share, and Subaward with FFRDCs

The recipient and FFRDC are responsible for entering into an appropriate subaward that will govern, among other things, the funding of the FFRDC portion of the work from the recipient under its DOE award. Such an agreement must be fully executed prior to the FFRDC starting work directly allocable to the FA award. The DOE funding office will provide funding for the [DOE FFRDC or non-DOE FFRDC], participating as a sub awardee under the DOE financial assistance award to the recipient.

The applicant should prepare the budgets using rates appropriate for funding the FFRDCs through subawards. The applicant's cost share requirement will be based on the total cost of the project, including the applicant's, the subrecipient's, and the FFRDC's portions of the project.

C. Responsibility

The recipient will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the recipient and the FFRDC.

Limit on FFRDC Effort

The scope of work to be performed by the FFRDC should not be more significant than the scope of work to be performed by the applicant.

III. Program Description

A. Program Purpose

The National Security Memorandum-19 (NSM-19), issued in March 2023, provided the guidance that “the United States does not encourage commercial reprocessing but will continue research and development to assess options as technologies and economics evolve.” More broadly, the United States has long sought to discourage the spread of reprocessing technologies globally. Consistent with this policy guidance, the Department’s goal is to continue research and development to solve economic and technical challenges of technologies that may support long-term sustainability and efficient waste management and do not contribute to nuclear proliferation.

The primary mission of DOE’s Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) is to advance nuclear power as a resource capable of meeting the Nation’s energy, environmental, and national security needs. This is accomplished by resolving technical, cost, regulatory, and safety issues while ensuring nonproliferation and security through research, development, and demonstration, as appropriate. The development of advanced nuclear reactor technologies and fuel cycles, as well as improvements in the operation of the existing domestic fleet of nuclear power plants, are important aspects of assuring that nuclear power will remain a viable, clean, and sustainable energy option for the United States energy needs for generations to come.

DOE-NE works in concert with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to ensure the safe, secure, and responsible expansion of nuclear power both domestically and around the world. As part of this, the United States works to protect the American people, our allies, and our partners from nuclear and national security threats. Reducing, eliminating, and securing nuclear and radioactive materials is central to U.S. policies, strategies, and programs for preventing their unauthorized acquisition and misuse.

DOE-NE currently supports research and development activities to evaluate the technology options and economics for recycling valuable components of irradiated nuclear fuel. Technical scopes include used nuclear fuel (UNF) from current fleet and advanced reactor designs. The term UNF (or “used fuel”) is synonymous with the term “spent nuclear fuel.” The legal definition of “spent nuclear fuel” is provided by Section 2 (23) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPAA). DOE-NE undertakes these activities in support of the Administration’s objectives to regain the U.S.’s technological leadership position in the global nuclear industry and to achieve the United States’ energy security. DOE-NE recognizes that continued efforts in line with NSM-19 policy guidance will be necessary to assure U.S. leadership in the research, design, and development of advanced recycling technologies, and to assess options as technologies and economics evolve.

The activities to be funded under this NOFO support the broader government-wide approach to advance nuclear fuel cycle technologies to promote the nuclear energy portfolio within the U.S.

which will maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition as the nation works to curb the climate crisis, empower workers, and advance environmental justice.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

Recovering and recycling the remaining fissile content and other valuable components from used fuel has the potential to reduce costs on the front and back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. On the front end, effective recovery and recycle of the fissile content could reduce the need for mined natural uranium. On the back end, effective recovery and reuse of the residual fissile content has the potential to reduce the amount of high-level waste generated. The term “high-level waste” is synonymous with the term “high-level radioactive waste” as defined in section 2(12) of the NWSA.

The fundamental objective of this NOFO is to engage with the U.S. industry to continue assessing research and development efforts, on a cost-shared basis, to de-risk the technical costs and technology uncertainties of used nuclear fuel recycle processes and technologies and economics under the high standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation. The cost-shared, research and development-related fuel cycle projects that will be funded by this NOFO must demonstrate a significant impact on increasing the technical maturity of both the integrated design and radioactive material management plan as well as the secure operation of the applicant’s proposed nuclear fuel recycle process or evaluate and provide the necessary regulatory assistance and framework to successfully meet the licensing requirements to assess options as technologies and economics evolve. Consistent with standing U.S. policy under NSM-19, projects under this NOFO will be strictly limited to R&D related activities.

The Office of Materials and Chemical Technologies in the DOE-NE will be responsible for directing and managing projects supported by this NOFO. Material Recovery and Waste Form Development (MRWFD) program supports research and development (R&D) on advanced fuel recycle technologies that have the potential to improve resource utilization and energy generation, reduce waste generation, and limit proliferation risk. The MRWFD program funds fundamental and applied R&D activities that meet the Office of Nuclear Energy goals of establishing U.S. leadership in nuclear technologies that promote long-term sustainability, efficient waste management, and integrated security. Research efforts include development of simplified chemical and physical recycle processes (e.g., advanced aqueous, fluoride volatility, electrochemical or hybrids) that maximize reuse, minimize waste streams and residual waste materials, and meet the safety, security, and safeguards, and nonproliferation expectations of the United States.

The U.S. Government works to mitigate nuclear risks through an integrated approach that combines efforts to eliminate weapons-usable nuclear material through removal or disposition, the maintenance of robust physical security and nuclear material accountancy for existing materials, efforts to counter the theft, diversion, smuggling, and other illicit use of nuclear materials, and an urgent focus on addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies that may add to the accumulation of weapons usable nuclear materials globally.

Applicants may submit one application under this NOFO as a primary applicant. Each application submitted by a single U.S. nuclear industry entity must describe a unique project within the scope described in this NOFO, with distinct applicability to industry needs.

C. Expected Performance Goals

Applications are expected to lead directly to advances in the innovation and competitiveness of broad options for domestic used nuclear fuel recycling processes. The scope of this NOFO is purposely generic to allow U.S. industry stakeholders to propose well-defined and fully integrated process flowsheets and strategic R&D activities that will assess options as technologies and economics evolve. Awards for these projects will be made in the form of cost-shared cooperative agreements with a nuclear industry partner.

Cost-shared cooperative agreements supporting technology development will be awarded directly to selected U.S. industry applicants to support a broad range of research and development activities including:

- Advancing the technologies and processes with respect to reducing costs including in depth evaluation and innovative strategies that enable reducing the overall technology complexity.
- Implementing process flowsheets and technologies without producing a separated plutonium stream throughout the recycling schemes.
- Increasing the technical readiness level (TRL) of key process operations and interfaces to enable an integrated engineering-scale demonstrations of low-TRL process operations to de-risk the design and operation of an integrated recycle processes.
- Maturing of cross-cutting issues such as de-bundling and de-cladding technologies to accomplish simplified recycling process and off-gas management.
- Accelerating the development of integrated processes to enable quantitative transferring of material between process operations and to reduce the ultimate volume of nuclear waste to be dispositioned.
- Incorporating safety, security and safeguards by design approaches, including to address nuclear material control and accounting challenges.

Applicants should incorporate an integrated (1) near-term materials transportation and storage strategy, and (2) long-term waste disposition options and plan throughout the recycling technologies that are being proposed.

As part of the whole-of-government approach to advance equity and encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining,^{4 5} this NOFO and any related activities will seek to encourage meaningful engagement and participation of workforce organizations, including labor unions, as well as underserved groups and disadvantaged communities, including Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Consistent with Executive Order (EO) 14008,⁶ this NOFO is designed to help meet the goal that 40% of the benefits of the Administration’s investments in clean energy and climate solutions be delivered to disadvantaged communities⁷, as defined pursuant to the Executive Order, and to drive creation of accessible, good-paying jobs with the free and fair chance for workers to join a union.

D. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered (Please also refer to the [Responsiveness Review](#) section below):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in [Program Purpose](#) above and the [Expected Performance Goals](#) section above.
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).

E. Statement of Substantial Involvement

DOE anticipates awarding cooperative agreements under this NOFO, which include a statement of DOE’s “substantial involvement” in the work performed under the resulting awards. For cooperative agreements, DOE does not limit its involvement to the administrative requirements of the award. Instead, DOE has substantial involvement in the direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project. DOE’s substantial involvement in resulting awards may include the following:

- A. DOE shares responsibility with the recipient for the management, control, direction, and performance of the project.
- B. DOE may intervene in the conduct or performance of work under this award for programmatic reasons. Intervention includes the interruption or modification of the conduct or performance of project activities.
- C. DOE participates in major project decision-making processes.

⁴ [EO 13985](#), “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government,” January 20, 2021. [EO 14091](#), “Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government,” February 16, 2023.

⁵ [EO 14025](#), “Worker Organizing and Empowerment,” April 26, 2021.

⁶ [EO 14008](#), “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” January 27, 2021.

⁷ Pursuant to [Executive Order \(EO\) 14008](#), “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” January 27, 2021, and the Office of Management and Budget’s Interim Justice40 Implementation Guidance M-21-28 and Addendum M-23-09, DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as the census tracts identified as disadvantaged by the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), located at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>, as well as all Federally Recognized Tribes (whether or not they have land). See https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/M-23-09_Signed_CEQ_CPO.pdf. DOE’s Justice40 Implementation Guidance is located at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Final%20DOE%20Justice40%20General%20Guidance%20072522.pdf>.

F. Statutory Authority

The programmatic authorizing statute is the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 4366), and § 951 (a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as codified at 42 U.S.C. § 16271(a). Additionally, 42 U.S.C. § 16274 applies.

Awards made under this announcement will fall under the purview of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by 2 CFR Part 910.

G. Energy, Equity and Environmental Justice Considerations

The Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) is committed to advancing environmental justice as a core component of our mission. Executive Order 14096, *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*, underscores our responsibility to integrate environmental justice into every aspect of our work at NE.

As part of our efforts to integrate environmental justice into our work and in compliance with Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which established the [Justice40 Initiative](#),⁸ the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) strives to contribute to the President's goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments – including investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure – flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. The goal is to spur economic development and job creation in disadvantaged communities throughout the U.S., through effective teams and/or partnerships with institutions, located in a disadvantaged community that may receive funding support from the project. In support of the Justice40 Initiative, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) developed the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) tool to identify disadvantaged communities. CEJST can be found at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>.⁹ Applicants are encouraged to use CEJST to illustrate how their project supports disadvantaged communities.

NE also strives to advance energy justice through effective teams and/or partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). Information on MSIs can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/itudes/eligibility.html#tips>. This information predominately covers institutions that have been awarded grants through the Department of Education and does not include all institutions that may meet the definition of an MSI. The Office of Science has compiled a similar list of institutions: <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Applicant-and-Awardee-Resources/Institution->

⁸ Established by [Executive Order 14008](#) on *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, the Justice40 Initiative sets the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments in climate, clean energy, and other areas flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Consistent with Justice40 guidance, [M-21-28](#) and [M-23-09](#), DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as the census tracts defined and identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), located at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>, as well as all Federally Recognized Tribes (whether or not they have land).

⁹ OMB, CEQ, & CPO, M-23-09, *Addendum to the Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative, M-21-28, on using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)* (Jan. 27, 2023), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/M-23-09_Signed_CEQ_CPO.pdf.

Designations. These lists are not meant to represent an exhaustive summary of MSIs but will be used as a starting point for self-identifying MSIs. If applicants believe that their institution qualifies as an MSI and is not identified in either of these lists, please contact neup@inl.gov with an explanation for how the university meets the conditions of being considered an MSI.

Applicants are encouraged to describe how the establishment of their consortia will develop resources and programming that will specifically support disadvantaged communities and/or MSIs.

What is a Disadvantaged Community?

According to Executive Order 14008, a disadvantaged community is one that has been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care. A community qualifies as “disadvantaged” if the census tract is above the threshold for one or more environmental or climate indicators and the tract is above the threshold for the socioeconomic indicators, or if they are a Federally Recognized Tribe whether or not they have land as defined by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/>.

What is an underrepresented community?

According to the Equity Executive Orders: 13985, 14020, and EO 14091, an “underrepresented” community refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander persons and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; women and girls; LGBTQI+ persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; persons who live in U.S. Territories; persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and individuals who belong to multiple such communities. Further, according to the National Science Foundation's 2023, report titled, Diversity and STEM: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities, (<https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf23315/report>) the U.S. STEM workforce has gradually diversified between 2011 and 2021, with increased representation from these underrepresented communities. However, Hispanic workers represented 15% of the total STEM workforce in 2021, and Asian and Black workers were 10% and 9%, respectively. American Indians and Alaska Natives together made up less than 1% of the U.S. population and STEM workforce in 2021. DOE seeks to inspire underrepresented Americans to pursue careers in energy and support their advancement into leadership positions. (<https://www.energy.gov/articles/introducing-minorities-energy-initiative>).

IV. Application Content and Form

This section includes application information specific to this NOFO Part 1. Refer to the [NOFO Part 2, Application Content and Form](#) for standard information that applies to all DOE NOFOs such as formatting and content requirements, and funding restrictions.

A. Summary

The application process includes multiple submission phases: letter of intent and application.

Application Submission Phase	Eligibility for Submission
Letter of Intent	Required to be submitted by the specified due date and time to be eligible to submit an application.
Application	Must be submitted by the specified due date and time to be eligible for comprehensive merit review.

B. Letter of Intent

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by January 21, 2025. This letter should include the name of the applicant, the title of the project, the name of the Project Manager/Director, estimated project cost, and a one-page project abstract. The required letters of intent will be used by DOE to organize and expedite the merit review selection process. The letter of intent should be sent by email to fordaj@id.doe.gov. In the subject line type: Letter of Intent for DE-FOA-0003364.

The project abstract must contain a one page summary of the proposed activity and be suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant; the project manager(s)/directors/key senior persons; the project title; a list of major deliverables; the scope and objectives of the project; a description of the project, including major tasks (phases, planned approach, etc.) and methods to be employed; the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information, as NE may make it available to the public after awards are made.

C. Application Content Requirements

Each application must be limited to a single concept. Applications must conform to the following requirements and must not exceed the stated page limits. Please refer to the [NOFO Part 2, Application Content and Form](#) for a complete list of application requirements. Detailed guidance on the content and form of NOFO-specific requirements is provided following the [Summary of Application Requirements](#) table below.

1. Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility

Several of the Application Content Requirements listed below and in the NOFO Part 2 are required of covered individuals.

For the purposes of this NOFO, a Covered Individual means an individual who (a) contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the development or execution of the scope of work of a project proposed for funding by DOE, and (b) is designated as a covered individual by DOE.

DOE designates as covered individuals any principal investigator (PI); project director (PD); co-principal investigator (Co-PI); co-project director (Co-PD); project manager; and any individual regardless of title that is functionally performing as a PI, PD, Co-PI, Co-PD, or project manager. Status as a consultant, graduate (master’s or PhD) student, or postdoctoral associate does not automatically disqualify a person from being designated as a “covered individual” if they meet the definition in (a) above.

The applicant is responsible for assessing the applicability of (a) above, against each person listed on the application. Further, the applicant is responsible for identifying any such individual to DOE for designation as a covered individual, if not already designated by DOE as described above.

The applicant’s submission of a current and pending support disclosure and/or biosketch/resume for a particular person serves as an acknowledgement that DOE designates that person as a covered individual.

DOE may further designate covered individuals during award negotiations or the award period of performance.

2. Summary of Application Requirements

Name of Document	Format	Signature Required	Required From
Conflict of Interest Statement Certification Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if applicable) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF		Primary Applicant, must flow down to Sub-recipients
SF-424 Research & Related	Form	Yes	Primary Applicant
Research and Related Other Project Information	Form		Primary Applicant
Project Abstract (1 page) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 7. Project Summary/Abstract)	PDF		Primary Applicant
Project Narrative (20 page limit) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 8. Project Narrative. A separate attachment is not needed for 9. Bibliography & References Cited. This is part of the Project Narrative File.)	PDF		Primary Applicant
Project Management Plan (20 page limit) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF		Primary Applicant
Resumes for Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) (2 page limit each)	PDF		Primary Applicant and Collaborators

Name of Document	Format	Signature Required	Required From
(Attach Resume / Vitae – Technical Expertise and Qualifications to Biographical Sketch field)			
Benefits of Collaboration (4 page limit) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF		Primary Applicant
Capabilities (5 page limit) (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments. Separate attachments for 10. Facilities & Other Resources and 11. Equipment are not needed. These are part of the Capabilities attachment.)	PDF		Primary Applicant
Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed)	PDF		Primary Applicant and Sub-recipient
Work Proposal(Budget) for DOE National Laboratory Contractor or FFRDC, if applicable (If applicable, attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF	Yes	Primary Applicant and Sub-recipient(s)
Budget Justification (Attach to Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed), L. Budget Justification)	PDF		Primary Applicant and Collaborators
Current and Pending Support (5 page limit) (Attach to Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded))	PDF	Yes	Primary Applicants and Collaborators
Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, if applicable (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF	Yes	Primary Applicants and Collaborators
Project/Performance Site Location (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF		All sites performing work
Certification Regarding Lobbying/Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (If applicable, attach to SF 424, 18. SFLLL)	PDF	Yes	Primary Applicant
Certifications and Assurances (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	Form	Yes	Primary Applicant
SF 328 or Evidence of Facility Clearance (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	Form/other	Yes	Primary Applicant and All non-FFRDC
Letters of Support or Commitment (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF	Yes	As Applicable

Name of Document	Format	Signature Required	Required From
Project Commitment to Energy Justice and Energy Equity (Attach to Research and Related Other Project Information, 12. Other Attachments)	PDF		Optional
Transparency of Foreign Connections	PDF		Primary Applicant
Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation	PDF		As Applicable

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS IF SELECTED FOR NEGOTIATIONS:

- Environmental Checklist
- Data Management Plan (DMP)

3. Project Narrative

The project narrative **must not exceed a page limit of 20 pages** of technical information, including title page, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5 x 11 inch) paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The font must not be smaller than 11-point. Merit reviewers will only consider the number of pages within the specified 20 pages. Unlimited references are allowable at the bottom of the narrative beyond the limited 20-page project narrative described above.

Do not include any internet addresses (URLs) that provide supplementary or additional information that constitutes a part of the application. Merit reviewers are not required to access internet sites; however, internet publications in a list of references will be treated identically to print publications.

The project narrative must include:

- 1) Narrative Cover Page which must indicate:
 - a) The name and type of organization;
 - b) The NOFO number;
 - c) The project title;
 - d) The technical and business points of contact for the applicant, denoting the names, titles, addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers, and electronic mail addresses (see Attachment C: Point of Contact Sheet);
 - e) Project Manager’s/Director’s name, telephone number, facsimile number, e-mail address, and organization name/unit; and
 - f) Names of team/partnership/consortium members and funding split;
- 2) Project Objectives. This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project and a concise description on the proposed project. The project objectives must clearly map to the Objectives and Background defined in Part I of this NOFO.
- 3) Merit Review Criterion and Program Policy Selection Factors Discussion: This section should be formatted to address each of the merit review criterion and sub-criterion listed in Part V,

Section A, as well as each Program Policy Selection Factors. In addressing the merit review criterion and sub-criterion, applicants are encouraged to reference any correlation between the responses provided under this item and the responses provided for other information requests, including Technical Concept Descriptions (item 4 below) and applicable elements of the technical description as discussed below. Applicants shall provide enough information so that reviewers will be able to evaluate the application in accordance with these merit review criteria and program policy factors. DOE WILL EVALUATE AND CONSIDER ONLY THOSE APPLICATIONS THAT ADDRESS SEPARATELY EACH OF THE MERIT REVIEW CRITERION AND SUB-CRITERION AND PROGRAM POLICY FACTORS.

4) Technical Concept Description:

The application should provide a clear description of how the proposed technical and regulatory tasks meet the DOE-NE MRWFD program goals described in Part I of this NOFO. The cost shared activities envisioned under this NOFO will provide support industry through technical studies cooperative agreements for developing advanced fuel recycling technologies and to enable effective Materials and Accounting implementation for the used fuel recycling technologies for the future potential Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing applications. Applicants should incorporate an integrated (1) safeguards- and security -by-design approaches including to address nuclear material control and accounting challenges; (2) near term materials transportation and storage strategy, and (3) long-term waste disposition options and plan throughout the recycling technologies that are being proposed.

- 5) Relevance and Outcomes/Impacts: Should explain the relevance of the project and expected outcomes and/or impacts. The justification for the proposed project should include a clear statement of the importance of the project in terms of the utility of the outcomes. The degree to which this project would advance nuclear fuel cycle technologies to promote the nuclear energy portfolio within the United States must also be described.
- 6) Roles of Participants and Key Personnel: Describe the roles and the work to be performed by each organization (including estimates of percentages of total project effort to be accomplished by each participant), business agreements between the applicant and participants, and how the various efforts will be integrated and managed. This will include identification of work to be accomplished by National Laboratories and indication of which National Laboratories will be used, if applicable.
- 7) If applicable, Multiple Principal Investigators (PI)/Technical Leads: The applicant, whether a single organization or team/partnership/consortium, must indicate if the project will include multiple PIs/Technical leads. While the Department of Energy is requiring a single Project Manager/Director to be specified in this application, the decision to have one or more PIs/Technical Leads designated for specific technical study areas is solely the responsibility of the applicant. Having multiple PIs/Technical Leads specified will not affect the selection for award of applications submitted in response to this NOFO.

The application must provide a "Coordination and Management Plan" that describes the organization structure of the project as it pertains to the designation of PIs/Technical Leads. This plan, at a minimum, will include:

- a. process for making decisions on scientific/technical direction;
 - b. publications;
 - c. intellectual property issues;
 - d. communication plans;
 - e. procedures for resolving conflicts; and
 - f. PIs/Technical Lead’s roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project.
- 8) **Facilities and Other Resources:** Identify the facilities and resources (e.g., office, laboratory, computer, testing, etc.) to be used at each performance site listed and, if appropriate, indicate capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work.
- 9) **Equipment:** List critical items of equipment (e.g., items involved in key test programs or important long-lead procurements) required for successful completion of this project and identify whether the item of equipment is already available or proposed for acquisition, the pertinent capabilities of each, the location of available equipment and the estimated acquisition cost of equipment proposed for acquisition.
- 10) **Statement of Project Objectives:** The project narrative must contain a single, detailed Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) that addresses how the near-term, short-term, and long-term project objectives will be met. The SOPO must contain a clear, concise description of all activities to be completed during project performance and follow the structure discussed below. The SOPO may be released to the public by DOE in whole or in part at any time. It is therefore required that it shall not contain proprietary or confidential business information.

Applicants shall prepare the SOPO in the following format:

TITLE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

(Insert the title of work to be performed. Be concise and descriptive.)

A. OBJECTIVES

Include one paragraph on the overall objective(s) of the work.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

This section should not exceed one-half page and should summarize the effort and approach to achieve the objective(s) of the work.

C. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

Tasks, concisely written, should be provided in a logical sequence and should be divided into the project phases, as appropriate. This section should provide a brief summary of the planned approach to this project.

D. DELIVERABLES

The periodic, topical, and final reports shall be submitted in accordance with the attached Appendix A, “Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist,” and the instructions accompanying the checklist.

[Note: The Recipient shall provide a list of deliverables other than those identified on the “Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist” that will be delivered, including the expected delivery dates. These reports shall also be identified within the text of the Statement of Project Objectives.] See the following examples:

Name File: Project Narrative; 20-page limit

D. Funding Restrictions

Program-specific funding restrictions applicable to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Standard funding restrictions are described in the [NOFO Part 2, Funding Restrictions](#) section.

Applicable Funding Restrictions		
Title	Location	Additional Information
Allowable Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Pre-Award Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver Requirement)	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Foreign Travel	NOFO Part 2	Foreign Travel is allowed for awards made under this NOFO only with the written prior approval of the contracting officer assigned to the award.
Lobbying	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Equipment and Supplies	NOFO Part 2	Purchasing American-made equipment and supplies is applicable to this award.

V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

There are several one-time actions applicants must take before applying to this NOFO. Some of these may take several weeks, so it is vital applicants build in enough time to complete them. Failure to complete these actions could interfere with application or negotiation deadlines or the ability to receive an award if selected. These requirements are outlined in detail in the [NOFO Part 2, Get Registered](#).

A. Required Registrations

1. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. To register, go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

Each applicant must:

1. Be registered in SAM.gov before submitting an application;
2. Provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier in the application; and
3. Continue to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov with current information at all times during which you have an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal agency.

DOE may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time DOE is ready to make a federal award, the DOE will determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

2. Grants.gov

Register and create an account on the Grants.gov site identified in the [Key Facts](#) section of the NOFO Part 1. This account can be used to apply to open NOFOs in Grants.gov. To view and submit applications to open opportunities under a specific DOE office(s), you must access the applicable instance of the system. You may need to be registered in more than one instance to submit applications for opportunities managed by different DOE offices.

Each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, should use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants must also designate backup points of contact. **This step is required to apply to this NOFO.**

B. Application Package

1. Grants.gov

The application package is available at Grants.gov under NOFO number identified on the NOFO Cover Page. The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must register at: <https://grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration> and set up your Workspace. You cannot submit an application through Grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements carefully and start the process immediately.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://grants.gov/applicants/workspace-overview/>

Note: The maximum file size that can be uploaded to the Grants.gov website is 10MB. Files in excess of 10MB cannot be uploaded, and hence cannot be submitted for review. If a file exceeds 10MB but is still within the maximum page limit specified in the NOFO, it must be broken into parts and denoted to that effect. For example:

Project Part 1
Project Part 2, etc.

DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 10MB.

Electronic Authorization of Applications and Award Documents

Submission of applications and supplemental information under this NOFO through electronic systems used by the DOE, including Grants.gov, constitutes the authorized representative's approval and electronic signature.

C. Submission Date and Times

All required submissions must be submitted to the Grants.gov site identified in the [Key Facts](#) section of NOFO Part 1 no later than 5 p.m. ET on the dates provided on [Key Facts](#) section. There may be more than one deadline, depending on whether a letter of intent is required.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required application documents at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least one hour to submit application documents. Once the application documents are submitted in the Grants.gov site identified in the NOFO Part 1, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit them before the applicable deadline. DOE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

D. Intergovernmental Review

This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Standards for Application Evaluation

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be evaluated in accordance with this NOFO and the guidance provided in the "DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance," effective October 1, 2020, which is available at: <https://energy.gov/management/downloads/merit-review-guide-financial-assistance-and-unsolicited-proposals-current>.

B. Review Criteria

1. Compliance Criteria

All applicant submissions for applications must:

- Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Application Content Requirements and Submission Requirements and Deadlines of the NOFO Part 1 and 2;
- Include all required documents;
- Be uploaded successfully in Grants.gov site indicated in the [Key Facts](#) section above including clicking the “Submit” button; and
- Comply with the submission deadline stated in [Key Facts](#).

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than the Grants.gov site indicated in [Key Facts](#), submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions.

If required in the [Key Facts](#) section, applicants must submit a letter of intent by 5:00 p.m. ET on the due date listed on the [Key Facts](#) section to be eligible to submit an application. If required, applicants who do not submit a letter of intent are not eligible to submit an application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required application documents at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least one hour to submit application documents. Once the application documents are submitted in the Grants.gov site identified in the [Key Facts](#) section, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit them before the applicable deadline. DOE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion.

2. Technical Review Criteria

Applications

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

Review Criterion Overview	
Criterion	Weight
Technical Quality, Projection Description, Technical Approach, Implementation Plan, and Feasibility	30%
Project Team, Capabilities, Facilities, and Industrial Involvement	30%
Technical and Management Capabilities	30%
Regulatory Merit	10%

Criterion 1: Technical Quality, Projection Description, Technical Approach, Implementation Plan, and Feasibility

- Clearly states and explains the significance of goals and provides credible technical plans and credentials for reaching the proposed goals of minimizing residual wastes, reducing the overall recycle and reuse technology cost, and addressing potential safeguards and security concerns.
- Feasibility of the proposed technologies, including adequacy of scope, cost and schedule justifications and the identification of high-risk challenges and mitigation strategies, to meet the goals of the proposal.
- Significantly impacts successful demonstration of key operations and technologies for recycling by increasing the technical design and operations maturity of promising advanced processes that could be considered for pilot scale demonstration.
- Identifies and addresses cross-cutting technical issues and regulatory obstacles.
- Impact - How accomplishments of the proposed work will result in improvements to existing U.S. nuclear capabilities and associated tangible benefits to the public.

Criterion 2: Project Team, Capabilities, Facilities, and Industrial Involvement

- Credentials, capabilities, and experience of key personnel and facilities.
- Broadly and strategically engaged with key labs researchers, management teams and research facilities to enable the success of technologies maturation.
- Closely integrating with potential reactor concepts to credibly prepare and execute for recycling of irradiated fuels.

Criterion 3: Technical and Management Capabilities

- Strength and credentials of the management and research teams to successfully accomplish the project.
- Project management plan – logical progression of work, realistic funding and time allotted for each task.
- Capability and experience to manage nuclear facility and financial investment and commitment in recycling technologies.
- Data Management plan - QA plans, how data and intellectual properties will be retained and controlled, what is openly shared vs. proprietary and export controlled.

Criterion 4: Regulatory Merit

- Addresses regulatory gaps in the potential future deployment of used nuclear fuel recycling facilities and proposes resolutions to regulatory gaps.

- Thoroughness of the analysis of specific regulatory/licensing needs and identify potential path forward to address the needs/gaps.

C. Other Selection Factors

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which applications to select for award negotiations:

- Identifies and addresses safety, security, and non-proliferation issues including to incorporate integrated safeguards- and security-by-design approaches and to address nuclear material control and accounting challenges and incorporate intrinsic nuclear material security concepts;
- Degree to which proposed project optimizes/balances/maximizes use of available DOE funding to achieve DOE program goals and objectives, including how projects support DOE research. It may also include research portfolio diversity, geographic distribution and/or how the projects support other complementary efforts that, when taken together, will best achieve program research goals and objectives;
- Application selection may optimize appropriate mix of projects to best achieve DOE goals and objectives;
- Cost/Budget considerations, including availability of funding;
- Demonstrated ability of the applicant to successfully complete projects, including relevant prior projects, and do so within budget and within the specified timeframe of the award;
- Applicability across multiple nuclear fuel forms;
- Potential to enhance U.S. nuclear infrastructure;
- Consistent and conformant work proposed in the application with current NE Congressional appropriations;
- Projects that contribute to energy equity;
- Projects that support the Justice40 Initiative.

Any of the above factors may be independently considered by the Selection Official in determining the optimum mix of applications that will be selected for support. These factors, while not indicators of the application's merit, may be essential to the process of selecting the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives. Such factors are often beyond the control of the applicant.

Applicants should recognize that some very good applications might not receive an award because of program priorities and available funding. Therefore, the above factors may be used by the Selection Official to assist in determining which applications shall receive DOE funding support.

VII. Selection and Award Notices

Please see the [NOFO Part 2, Selection and Award Notices](#) for information on notifications for Applications, Award Negotiations, and Post-Selection Information Requests.

VIII. Award Administration Information

A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

DOE requires all award recipients to follow and accept requirements governed by laws and policies – both federal government-wide and DOE or program specific. These post-award requirements include all National and Administrative Policy Requirements; financial assistance general Certifications and Representations; Build America, Buy America requirements; Davis-Bacon Act requirements; Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Specific Requirements; Fraud, Waste and Abuse requirements; Safety, Security, and Regulatory requirements; and Environmental Review in Accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

Post-Award requirements and administration applicable to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Detailed descriptions of standard funding restrictions are provided in the [NOFO Part 2, Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) section. Detailed descriptions of program specific funding restrictions are provided below the table.

Applicable Post-Award Requirements and Administration	
Title	Location
Award Administrative Requirements	NOFO Part 2
Subaward and Executive Reporting	NOFO Part 2
Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements	NOFO Part 2
Applicant Representations and Certifications	NOFO Part 2
Statement of Federal Stewardship	NOFO Part 2
Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Financing Statements	NOFO Part 2
Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance	NOFO Part 2
Whistleblower Protections	NOFO Part 2
Fraud, Waste, and Abuse	NOFO Part 2
Participants and Collaborating Organizations	NOFO Part 2
Current and Pending Support	NOFO Part 2
Prohibition Related to Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs	NOFO Part 2
Intellectual Property Provisions	NOFO Part 2
Conference Spending	NOFO Part 2
Invoice Review and Approval	NOFO Part 2
Cost-Share Payment	NOFO Part 2

Implementation of Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty	NOFO Part 2
Affirmative Action and Pay Transparency Requirements	NOFO Part 2
Real Property and Equipment	NOFO Part 1
Rights in Technical Data	NOFO Part 1

1. Real Property and Equipment

Real property and equipment purchased with project funds (federal share and recipient cost share) are subject to the requirements at 2 CFR 200.310, 200.311, 200.313, and 200.316 (non-federal entities, except for-profit entities) and 2 CFR 910.360 (for-profit entities).

When the property is no longer needed for authorized project purposes, the recipient must request disposition instructions from DOE. For-profit entity disposition requirements are set forth in 2 CFR 910.360. Property disposition requirements for other non-federal entities are set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316.

Upon completion of the competitive project review (down-selection process), DOE will select which projects will receive federal funding beyond the specified decision point. Due to the availability of funding and program considerations, only a portion of the recipients may be selected to receive funding for project continuation. As a result of this down-select process, certain projects may not receive federal funding beyond the specified decision point even if the project is meeting the predefined metrics.

2. Rights in Technical Data

Data rights differ based on whether data is first produced under an award or instead was developed at private expense outside the award.

“Limited Rights Data”: The U.S. government will not normally require delivery of confidential or trade-secret-type technical data developed solely at private expense prior to issuance of an award, except as necessary to monitor technical progress and evaluate the potential of proposed technologies to reach specific technical and cost metrics.

Government Rights in Technical Data Produced Under Awards: The U.S. government normally retains unlimited rights in technical data produced under government financial assistance awards, including the right to distribute to the public. However, pursuant to special statutory authority, certain categories of data generated under DOE awards under this NOFO may be protected from public disclosure for up to five years after the data is generated (“Protected Data”). For awards permitting Protected Data, the protected data must be marked as set forth in the award’s intellectual property terms and conditions and a listing of unlimited rights data (i.e., non-protected data) must be inserted into the data clause in the award. In addition, invention disclosures may be protected from public disclosure for a reasonable time in order to allow for filing a patent application.

B. Questions and Support

1. Questions

Upon the issuance of a NOFO, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the NOFO except through the established question and answer process described below. Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted to fordaj@id.doe.gov no later than five (5) business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this NOFO will be posted on the www.FedConnect.net and www.Grants.gov sites listed in the [Key Facts](#) section above. **You must first select the NOFO Number to view the questions and answers specific to this NOFO.** DOE will attempt to respond to a question within three (3) business days unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the Grants.gov site listed in the [Key Facts](#) should be submitted to https://gditshared.servicenowservices.com/hhs_grants

2. Support

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

IX. Other Information

Please see the [NOFO Part 2, Other Information](#) for additional information and requirements that apply to all DOE NOFOs.