

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



**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Nuclear Energy
High-Assay Low-Enriched (HALEU) Nuclear Fuel Supply
Chain Innovative Technology
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003487**

NOFO Type: Initial – December 18, 2024

Amendment 001: January 7, 2025

**Application due: March 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard
Time**

**Final Day for Question Submission: March 2, 2025, 5:00pm
Eastern Standard Time**

Changes:

Amendment 001: This amendment

- 1.) Extends the due date for applications to Wednesday March 12th, 2025, at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.
- 2.) Provides an updated Question and Answer document for this NOFO dated January 6, 2025.

Amendment 002: This amendment

- 1.) Establishes March 2, 2025, at 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time as the final day for question submission.
- 2.) Provides an updated Question and Answer document for this NOFO dated January 8, 2025.

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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 revision 17 October 2024.

I. Basic Information

A. Key Facts

Issuing Agency	Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
Funding Opportunity Title	Nuclear Fuel Supply Chain (NFSC) Innovative Technologies
Announcement Type	This is an original announcement and DOE will only accept new applications under this initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003487
Funding Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Assistance Listing Number	81.121
Funding Opportunity Description	This program will provide funding to improve the domestic enriched uranium supply chain.
Program Goals & Objective(s)	This NOFO seeks applications to address technological advancement across the front-end nuclear fuel cycle to ensure the development of a safe, sustainable and efficient supply chain of enriched uranium, enhancing current processes, and addressing technology gaps.
Topic Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Area 1: Up to two Demonstration Project awards • Topic Area 2: Up to ten Research and Development Project awards
Eligible Applicants	Domestic Entities (Institutes of higher education; for-profit entities; non-profit entities; state and local government entities and Indian Tribes) are eligible to apply as prime applicants and subrecipients. Foreign entities may be eligible to apply as prime applicants and subrecipients (subject to waiver approval). FFRDCs may be eligible to apply as subrecipients but may not apply as prime applicants (subject to Contracting Officer approval).
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

KEY DATES

Notice of Funding Opportunity Issue Date:
December 18, 2025

Application Deadline:
March 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time

Final Day for Question Submission:
March 2, 2025

Anticipated Selection Notification Date:
May 28, 2025

Anticipated Award Date:
June 18, 2025

Estimated Period of Performance:
September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2030

1. Funding Details

Multiple Topic Areas

Approximate total available funding including all topic areas: \$80,000,000.00 over a project period of up to 5 years under this NOFO. DOE intends to initially fully fund its share of each award. However, DOE reserves the right in its sole discretion to add additional funding to an award or make additional awards to applications submitted under this NOFO.

Topic Area 1: Demonstration Projects

- Approximate total available funding: \$40,000,000
- Approximate number of awards: up to 2
- Approximate dollar amount of individual awards: up to \$40,000,000 with DOE contributing up to \$20,000,000 in Federal Funds
- Minimum cost share required: 50% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: up to 60 months
- Anticipated length of individual budget periods: 12 months

Topic Area 2: Research and Development Projects

- Approximate total available funding: \$40,000,000.00
- Approximate number of awards: up to 10
- Approximate dollar amount of individual awards: up to \$5,000,000 with DOE contributing up to \$4,000,000 in Federal Funds
- Minimum cost share required: 20% of total project costs
- Approximate award project period: up to 60 months
- Anticipated length of individual budget periods: 12 months

1. Period of Performance

DOE anticipates making awards, comprised of multiple budget periods. DOE anticipates making one or more awards for Topic Area 1 with a period of performance up to five years, and one or more awards for Topic Area 2 with a period of performance up to two years. Once the period of performance ends (which includes any no-cost extension that DOE has the discretion to grant), there could be a re-competition or a new NOFO based on the program needs at that time. If applicable, project continuation will be contingent upon DOE's Go/No-Go decision. For a complete list and more information on the Go/No-Go review, see the [NOFO Part 2, Award Administration Information](#). Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed.

B. Executive Summary

This NOFO seeks applications to address technological advancement across the front-end of the nuclear fuel cycle to ensure the development of a safe, sustainable and efficient domestic supply chain of

enriched uranium, enhancing current processes, and addressing technology gaps. Applications will address mining/milling, conversion, enrichment, and/or deconversion.

C. Agency Contact Information

Office of *Nuclear Energy*
U.S. Department of Energy – Idaho Operations Office
1955 Freemont Ave
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

For questions relating to this specific NOFO, please send emails to:
Contracting Officer: Mark Payne at paynemb@id.doe.gov
Contracting Specialist: Jeff Rigby at rigbyja@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. 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. Domestic Entities

Domestic entities are eligible to apply as recipients or subrecipients. The following types of domestic entities are eligible to participate as a recipient or subrecipient of this NOFO:

- Institutions of higher education;
- For-profit organization;
- Nonprofit organization;
- State and local governmental entities; and
- Indian Tribes, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. § 5304¹

To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States or under the laws of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States.

2. Foreign Entity Participation

In general, foreign entities are eligible to apply as a prime recipient or as a subrecipient, subject to an approved waiver allowing foreign entity participation. In limited circumstances, DOE may approve a waiver to allow a foreign entity to participate.

A foreign entity may submit an application to this NOFO, but the application must be accompanied by an explicit written waiver request. Likewise, if the applicant seeks to include a foreign entity as a

¹ "Indian Tribe," for the purposes of this NOFO and as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ([25 U.S.C. § 5304](#)), means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ([85 Stat. 688](#)) [[43 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq.](#)], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Federally Recognized Indian Tribes are also considered disadvantaged communities for the purposes of Justice40 requirements in this NOFO per https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/M-23-09_Signed_CEQ_CPO.pdf.

subrecipient, the applicant must submit a separate explicit written waiver request in the application for each proposed foreign subrecipient. Please see *NOFO Part 2, Application Content Requirements* for the requirements for submission of a foreign entity waiver request. Waivers may be submitted any time before the applications is submitted or with the application submission. If a waiver is submitted before an application, the applicant is to document on the waiver, which application the waiver is connected with. The applicant does not have the right to appeal DOE's decision concerning a waiver request.

Recipients must only be legally formed in the United States 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.

Foreign Entity Participation

A foreign entity is eligible to apply for funding as a recipient if it designates in the application a subsidiary or affiliate incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States to be the recipient. The application must state the nature of the corporate relationship between the foreign entity and domestic subsidiary or affiliate.

Foreign entities may request a waiver of the requirement to designate a subsidiary in the United States as the recipient in the application (i.e., a foreign entity may request that it be the recipient). To do so, the applicant must submit an explicit written waiver request in the application.

NOFO Part 2, Application Content Requirements lists the information that must be included in a request to waive this requirement. The applicant does not have the right to appeal DOE's decision concerning a waiver request.

Participant Limitations

Participation of the following entities are limited as follows.

- DOE FFRDCs² are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as the prime recipient.
- Non-DOE FFRDCs are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as the prime recipient.
- Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are typically not eligible to apply as the prime recipient.
- The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is not eligible for award under this announcement and may not be proposed as a subrecipient on another entity's application. An application that includes NETL as a recipient or subrecipient will be considered non-responsive.

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

² 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/>.

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).

B. Limitation on Number of Applications Eligible for Review

An entity may submit only one application for each topic area contained within this NOFO. If more than one application is submitted for each topic area, DOE will only review the last submission for each topic area. This limitation does not prohibit an applicant from collaborating on other applications (e.g., as a potential subrecipient or partner) so long as the entity is listed as the lead applicant on only one concept paper and one associated application submitted under this NOFO.

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 costs³ for research and development projects and 50% of the total project costs for demonstration and commercial application projects. The cost share must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

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 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 Part 2, Cost Share Calculation Examples.

D. FFRDC Eligibility Criteria

1. DOE and Non-DOE FFRDCs as a Subrecipient

If 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.

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

Applicants may use Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) as subrecipients as part of their proposed projects. If an applicant desires to use an FFRDC, an FFRDC field work proposal is to be completed as part of the application. The FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and the proposed budget for the FFRDC. The FFRDC field work proposal, DOE Order 412.1.A and instructions related to completing the FFRDC field work proposal, can be found in NOFO part 2 section IV.B.9 (Page 21). The DOE funding office will provide funding for any 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.

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. Background and Context

The Office of Nuclear Energy is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Awards made under this NOFO will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). In section 50173 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (117th Congress, H.R. 5376 (2021-2022)), Congress appropriated funding to carry out the Program elements of section 2001 of Energy Act of 2020.

DOE's IRA investments will support efforts to build a clean and equitable energy economy that achieves a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035, and to put the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050⁴ to benefit all Americans.

DOE will invest \$80,000,000 over a five-year period to fulfill DOE-NE's statutory obligations related to enriched uranium production and availability, thus ensuring continuous operation of existing nuclear reactors, facilitating the deployment of advanced nuclear reactors, and re-establishing US leadership in the global uranium fuel market by promoting a robust, sustainable, and resilient domestic commercial uranium fuel supply.

The activities to be funded under this NOFO support BIL sections In section 50173 of IRA (117th Congress, H.R. 5376 (2021-2022)), Congress appropriated funding to carry out the Program elements of section 2001 of Energy Act of 2020 and the broader government-wide approach by upgrading and modernizing infrastructure, including strengthening critical domestic HALEU nuclear manufacturing and ensuring development of a long term safe and sustainable carbon free power supply to 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 Purpose

DOE's investments will support efforts to build a clean and equitable energy economy that achieves a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035, and to put the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050 to benefit all Americans.

The mission of the Office of Fuel Supply Technology (FST) is to ensure that enriched uranium is available to domestic nuclear energy producers and advanced reactor developers at both LEU (<5% U-235) and HALEU (<19.75% U-235) enrichment levels. FST also oversees an R&D program that addresses key technical issues related to HALEU utilization by advanced reactor vendors. Cultivating a secure and resilient, and cost-effective domestic fuel supply for the nuclear energy industry ensures that Americans will continue to have access to clean, reliable, and efficient nuclear power generation sources. FST is responding to multiple legislative directives intended to strengthen the domestic LEU supply market and to establish a domestic HALEU supply and address knowledge gaps related to HALEU utilization.

Recent restrictions on the import of Russian-origin enriched uranium have resulted in a desire to reinforce domestic LEU supply for operating nuclear reactors, with this need codified by the Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (NFSA) (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

⁴ [EO 14008](#), "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," January 27, 2021.

2024 (Public Law 118–31), 42 U.S.C. 16282(c)). This legislation directs DOE to establish a program to increase the production of low-enriched uranium by U.S. nuclear energy companies at a scale sufficient to meet future needs in the event of a supply disruption.

As part of the whole-of-government approach to advance equity and encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining,^{5,6,7} this NOFO and any related activities will seek to encourage meaningful labor, tribal, and community engagement and participation of labor unions, as well as underrepresented persons and groups of persons and disadvantaged communities, including Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Consistent with Executive Order (EO) 14008,⁸ this NOFO is designed to help meet the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities,⁹ and to drive creation of accessible, good-paying jobs with the free and fair chance for workers to join or form a union.

C. Program Goals and Objectives

This NOFO supports the administration goals laid out above by fulfilling DOE-NE’s statutory obligations related to improving enriched uranium production and availability, thus ensuring continuous operation of existing nuclear reactors, facilitating the deployment of advanced nuclear reactors, and re-establishing US leadership in the global uranium fuel market by promoting a robust, sustainable, and resilient domestic commercial uranium fuel supply.

The continuing escalation of cost and time to deliver enriched uranium for new and existing reactors necessitates deployments of enriched uranium supply chain technologies to reduce risk for HALEU/LEU supply chain efforts, communities, site workers, the nation, and the environment. Pursuing these technologies will provide industry additional options with potentially game changing benefits in the buildout of the HALEU/LEU supply chains.

Successful applications will demonstrate an understanding of the baseline technology, provide a description of the improvements the proposed concept offers, and identify the magnitude of improvement the concept may offer for each relevant characteristic. Proposed concepts should include a discussion of economic feasibility and should not include any overt barriers to NRC licensure.

⁵ [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.

⁶ [EO 14025](#), “Worker Organizing and Empowerment,” April 26, 2021.

⁷ [EO 14052](#), “Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” November 18, 2021.

⁸ [EO 14008](#), “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” January 27, 2021.

⁹ Pursuant to [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>.

D. Expected Performance Goals

This NOFO seeks applications to address technological advancement across the front-end nuclear fuel cycle to ensure the development of a safe, sustainable and efficient supply chain of enriched uranium, enhancing current processes, and addressing technology gaps. Applicants will;

1. Validate near term commercial viability of improvements to the domestic enriched uranium supply chain, preferably through project planning and a reasonable business model.
2. Characterize the degree to which a successful application will improve the domestic supply chain including both short term and long-term impacts.
3. Identify risks and any significant obstacles, including design and technology issues, materials or feedstock sourcing, and regulatory hurdles that must be overcome.
4. Describe the availability of facilities, equipment, and other infrastructure necessary for completion of planned project activities as well as the relevance and depth of the team's experience and capabilities as it relates to the likely successful completion of the project activities.
5. Provide project management and tracking systems necessary for the successful completions of performance goals. Scheduling shall include Go/No Go decisions at logical progress points, but no less often than annually.
6. Provide an early Go/No Go decision point to allow DOE to meet its potential obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Work in this first phase may only include scope that would be allowable interim actions under NEPA (see 40 CFR 1502.2(f) and 10 CFR 1021.211). The applicant should also be prepared to provide technical information to DOE during this phase to support a NEPA decision.

E. Topic Areas

The objective of this NOFO is to research, develop, and demonstrate technologies that will prioritize technological advancement across the domestic front-end nuclear fuel cycle to ensure the development of a safe, sustainable, and efficient enriched uranium supply chain. Applications will be accepted for the following Topic Areas:

Topic Area 1: Demonstration projects to be conducted at engineering-scale or pilot scale. These projects are intended to allow developers to gather process and performance data to enable near-term commercial implementation.

Topic Area 2: Applied R&D to be conducted at a laboratory-scale with the intent of process validation and characterization. These projects should rest on a strong scientific basis but may be relatively higher risk given their low level of technological development.

F. 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 [Background and Context](#) above and the [Topic Areas](#) section above.

- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).
- Applications that include a significant effort to support the back end of the enriched uranium supply chain (i.e. not mining/milling, conversion, enrichment, and/or deconversion).

G. 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 may redirect or discontinue funding the project based on the outcome of DOE's evaluation of the project at the Go/No-Go decision point(s).
- D. DOE participates in major project decision-making processes.

Responsibilities for DOE and Recipients are listed below:

- a. Recipient Responsibilities:
 - 1) Performing the activities delineated in this cooperative agreement in accordance with the Project Management Plan, including providing the required personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies and services.
 - 2) Defining and revising technical and managerial approaches and plans, submitting the plans to DOE for review, and incorporating DOE's comments. Note: certain revisions require prior written Contracting Officer approval; the recipient has the responsibility to submit requests for such project revisions and other activities which require DOE prior approval in a timely manner.
 - 3) Managing and conducting Project activities in accordance with established processes and procedures to ensure tasks and subtasks are completed within the schedule and budget constraints defined by the Project Management Plan and the cooperative agreement.
 - 4) Coordinating Project activities with external organizations, including vendors, consultants and DOE M&O contractors (when applicable), to support effective integration of all work elements.
 - 5) Supporting and attending DOE quarterly program review meetings and reporting Project status.
 - 6) Notifying DOE of all planned, in-person meetings (including closed/non-public meetings) associated with the Project.
 - 7) To meet DOE's programmatic needs, and without imposing undue burdens on the Project, providing DOE with information on an as-needed basis to assist with responses to internal and external inquiries regarding Project performance and status. DOE will protect information in accordance with applicable regulations and as set forth in the cooperative agreement.
 - 8) Submitting reports as provided in the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and addressing DOE's comments that may result from its review of these reports.

- 9) Presenting the Project results at appropriate conferences or meetings as requested by the DOE Federal Manager.
- b. DOE Responsibilities. DOE's involvement in the Project will consist of the following normal Federal stewardship responsibilities (see Section 1) below, as well as Substantial Involvement activities (see Section 2 below).
 - 1) Normal Federal Stewardship Activities:
 - a) Approving recipient plans prior to award.
 - b) Providing technical assistance prior to the start of the activity, if requested by the recipient and agreed to by DOE.
 - c) Providing technical assistance to support the correction of deficiencies in Project or financial performance when reports or monitoring indicate the existence of a deficiency.
 - d) Reviewing financial, performance, and audit reports.
 - e) Reviewing performance to ensure that the objectives, terms, and conditions of the award are accomplished.
 - f) Providing general administrative requirements, such as prior approvals required by the financial assistance regulations and/or OMB Circulars.
 - g) Reviewing performance after completion.
 - 2) Substantial Involvement Activities:
 - a) Reviewing Project plans and making recommendations for alternate approaches if the plans do not address critical programmatic issues.
 - b) Conducting quarterly meetings to discuss performance (including a summary analysis of project variance), milestones, accomplishments, issues/challenges, and mitigations.
 - c) Collaboration with Awardee regarding technical progress and recommending alternate approaches or shifting work emphasis, if needed, to adequately address critical Project and/or programmatic issues. The DOE Federal Manager shall have the authority to issue written technical advice shifting the emphasis among different tasks or directing specific lines of inquiry likely to assist in accomplishing programmatic objectives.
 - d) Promoting and facilitating awareness activities, including disseminating, in consultation with the Awardees, project results through presentations and publications.
 - e) Serving as scientific / technical liaison between awardees and other project or industry staff.
 - f) The power to immediately halt funding an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met.
 - g) Participating in Project management planning activities, including risk analysis, to ensure DOE's programmatic requirements or limitations are considered in performance of the work elements.

There are limitations on recipient and DOE responsibilities and authorities in the performance of the project objectives. Performance of the project objectives must be within the scope of the Statement of Objectives, the terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement, and the funding and schedule constraints.

H. Statutory Authority

The programmatic authorizing statute is from the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and section 646 of the Department of Energy Organization Act.

In support of the HALEU Program, in section 50173 of Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), Congress appropriated additional funding to carry out the HALEU Program elements of section 2001 of Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260).

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

I. Community Benefits Plan

DOE is committed to investing in research and development (R&D) of innovations and demonstration projects that deliver benefits to the American public and lead to commercialization of technologies and products that foster sustainable, resilient, and equitable access to clean energy. As part of these efforts, DOE is committed to supporting the development of more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible workplaces to help maintain the nation's leadership in science and technology.

To support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, projects funded under this IRA funded NOFO are expected to (1) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); (2) contribute to the Justice40 Initiative¹⁰ and other considerations linked with energy and environmental justice; and (3) invest in quality jobs. To ensure these objectives are met, applications must include a Research and Development Community Benefits Plan (R&D Community Benefits Plan) that addresses the three objectives stated above.

Each topic area has a separate community Benefits plan to complete as part of their respective applications. Applicants will only have to complete the community benefits plan that is associated with the topic area the applicant is submitting its application for. With topic area 1 Demonstration; applicants will have to complete community Benefits plan for Topic Area 1-Demonstration and Deployment Template. With Topic Area 2 Research and Development, applicants will have to complete the community benefits plan for Topic Area 2-Research and Development template. Both Community benefits templates are available as an attachment within the funding announcement in Grants.gov. See *NOFO Part 2, Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements* for the community benefits plan content requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to submit Community and Labor Partnership Documentation from established labor and community-based organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes that demonstrate the applicant's ability to achieve the above goals as outlined in the Community Benefits Plan. Within the Community Benefits Plan, the applicant is encouraged to provide details on how to ensure the delivery of measurable community and jobs benefits, such as using negotiated agreements

¹⁰ The Justice40 initiative, established by [EO 14008](#), sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Consistent with Justice40 guidance, DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as the census tracts defined and 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.

between the applicant and the community, and/or the applicant and labor unions referred to collectively here as “Workforce and Community Agreements.” These include community benefits agreements, Tribal agreements, community workforce agreements, project labor agreements, and other collective bargaining agreements.

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 the application and reply to reviewer comments.

Application Submission Phase	Eligibility for Submission
Application	Must be submitted by the specified due date and time to be eligible for comprehensive merit review.
Replies to Reviewer Comments	Required to be submitted by the specified due date and time.

B. 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.

2. 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.

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 (i.e. whether the person contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the development or execution of the scope of work). 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 bio sketch/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.

1. Summary of Application Requirements

Component	File Format	Page Limit	File Name
*Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 16)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_SF-424
Technical Volume ** (NOFO Pt. 1 pg. 23)	PDF	50	Lead Applicant Name_Technical Volume
Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation (If applicable) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_Impacted Tribes
*Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	MS Word	5	Lead Applicant Name_SOPO
*Project Management Plan ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	PDF	5	Lead Applicant Name_PMP
*Budget Justification-Applicant ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 21)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_Budget Justification-Applicant
*Budget Justification-Subrecipient (If Applicable) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 21)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name Budget_Justification-Subrecipient Name
*Research and Related Budget – Section A-B Form ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	MS Excel	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_Budget Justification Workbook-Applicant
*Budget Justification workbook-Subrecipient (If Applicable) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	MS Excel	n/a	Lead Applicant Name__Budget Justification Workbook-Subrecipient Name
*Field Work Proposal for FFRDC, (see DOE O 412.1A) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 21)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_FFRDC Work Proposal
Authorization for Non-DOE or DOE FFRDCs ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 21)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_FFRDC Authorization
*Community Benefits Plan: Topic Area 1 Demonstration (If Applicable) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 23) ** (NOFO Pt. 1 pg. 18)	PDF	20	Lead Applicant Name_CBP Topic Area 1
*Community Benefits Plan: Topic Area 2 Research and Development (If Applicable)	PDF	10	Lead Applicant Name_CBP Topic Area 2

** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 28) ** (NOFO Pt. 1 pg. 18)			
Resumes (Research and Development-R&D) (Includes Subrecipients and Consultants) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 30)	PDF	[10]	Lead Applicant Name _Partner Docs
Resumes (Non-Research and Development-R&D) (Includes Subrecipients and Consultants) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 31)	PDF	3 pages each	Lead Applicant Name _Resumes
*Current and Pending Support (for each covered individual) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 32)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name _CPS
Digital Persistent Identifier (for each covered individual) ** (NOFO Pt. 2, pg. 35)	N/A	N/A	Include in Current & Pending Support
Research Security Training Requirement (for each covered individual) ** (NOFO Pt. 2, pg. 35)	N/A	N/A	Include in Current & Pending Support
Transparency of Foreign Connections ** (NOFO Pt. 2, pg. 36)	PDF	n/a	Business Sensitive_ Lead Applicant Name_ TFC
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice ** (NOFO Pt. 2, pg. 38)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_ PDFN
*Location(s) of Work ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 39)	Excel	n/a	Lead Applicant Name _LOW
*Offeror Environmental Report ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 40)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name _Env Sum
*Environmental Impact Checklist ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 40)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name _EIV
*Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable (SF-LLL) – (Two Forms) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 41)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name_ SF-LLL
Certification Regarding Lobbying (use if Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) is not required) ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 41)	PDF	n/a	Lead Applicant Name _ Certification Regarding Lobbying
*Summary for Public Release ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 41)	PDF	2	Lead Applicant Name_ Summary
Summary Slide ** (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 42)	MS Power Point	2	Lead Applicant Name_ Slide

* DOE forms are provided as part of the NOFO solicitation package under *Attachments on Grants.gov*

** These references explain where further information can be found within NOFO Parts 1 or Parts 2 concerning

the application topic

2. Technical Volume

The Technical Volume must conform to the following content and form requirements. This volume must address the technical review criteria as discussed in [Technical Review Criteria](#). Applicants may pick which Topic Area for which they wish to submit an application. Applications will be only accepted from each lead applicant for only one of the Topic Areas. Applicants may participate as a subaward in an unlimited number of applications.

Applicants must provide sufficient citations and references to the primary research literature to justify the claims and approaches made in the Technical Volume. However, DOE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources.

The Technical Volume to the application may not be more than 50 pages, including the cover page, table of contents, and all citations, charts, graphs, maps, photos, or other graphics, and must include all information below. The applicant should consider the weighting of each of the technical review criteria (see [Technical Review Criteria](#)) when preparing the Technical Volume.

Topic Area 1: Demonstration

Technical Volume Content Requirements Overview	
Section	Approximate Percent Content of the Technical Volume
Cover Page	N/A
Project Overview	10%
Technical Approach	20%
Financial and Market Viability	10%
Management and Organization	20%
Project Management Plan	30%
Risk Analysis and Mitigation	10%

Cover Page:

The cover page must include all the following:

- The project title.
- Specific NOFO topic areas (if applicable).
- Technical and business POCs.
- The project team, including recipient name, entity type and names of all team member organizations.
- The project location(s).
- The proposed federal funding level, cost share and period of performance.
- Senior/key personnel and other covered individuals.
- Statements regarding confidentiality.

Project Overview:

This section must include a description of the following:

- The technology solution to be demonstrated.
- The major value proposition of the proposed solution, and the plan to translate pilot demonstration results into a commercial solution.
- The team’s rationale for pursuing this project.
- The high-level objectives and performance targets for the project.
- The demonstration location and why it was chosen.
- The impact of DOE funding and how the DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.
- How the project will enable further replication and/or extension of the project and approach.
- The ways in which the proposed project location and related infrastructure, skilled workforce, community engagement, and others will contribute to the overall project viability and long-term success.

Technical Approach:

This section must include a description of:

- The specific pilot system proposed for this project, including any existing engineering evaluations and design work.
- Operational characteristics and typical system architectures, including a system schematic.
- A justification of the system size chosen, including the relevance of this system size for future commercial operation
- A clear articulation of similarities and differences relative to the anticipated commercial system design.
- Preliminary supply chain assessment for pilot project and future commercial systems, including required critical minerals and raw materials.
- Current manufacturing approaches, comparison to anticipated manufacturing methods for commercial-scale deployments, and a discussion of how the system components will be procured or fabricated for this project.
- Test data and test reports from prior scale and an explanation of a path towards required performance levels.
- Performance Indicators, including
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that include the following: system capital costs, lifetime and degradation, and system physical size for (1) existing systems; (2) planned pilot system in this project; (3) targets for future commercial-scale systems. Discuss sources of lifetime limitations and degradation and how this pilot will mitigate those issues in preparation for future commercial deployment.
 - Any additional metrics and associated target values that will be utilized to establish value of the proposed demonstration.
- Siting and test considerations that include the following:
 - Data and information sharing agreements that will be necessary for the project, including information about which agreements are already in place and steps necessary to obtain the remaining agreements.
 - Identification of key items such as contracts, required permits and other agreements necessary to accomplish the proposed project.
 - Environmental impact of the proposed approach, including emissions changes from current operations and any other local air and water emissions or utilization impacts.

Financial and Market Viability:

This section must include the following:

- An evaluation the project's commercial adoption readiness using the risk dimensions outlined in DOE's Adoption Readiness Level Framework (ARL)20 or a similar framework. Assessment should include a rating (High / Medium / Low) for each risk dimension and discuss which elements of the application address higher risk dimensions (e.g., Delivered Cost is currently "medium risk," and the Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) demonstrates the cost-curve pathway to "low risk," or cost parity with incumbent solutions).
- A preliminary project finance plan, including total project funding requirements, financial relationship between project members, plan and ability to meet cost share, including other sources of project funding or finance. This plan should also include a project finance diagram.
- A preliminary business plan, including: A TEA of the proposed technology solution, considering both the proposed project and future commercial deployments under selected market conditions.
- Potential sources of cost reductions for future projects and estimates of Nth-of-a-kind costs.
- Strategies and key actions to scale and replicate the proposed solution to commercial scale, including key partnerships, future demonstrations, and similar.

Management and Organization:

This section must include the following:

- Management Plan, including key organizational members and structure, project partners roles and responsibilities, and relevant prior experience. This plan must address any changes to the personnel, approach and/or responsibilities as the project moves from planning to implementation and demonstration.
- Description of the skills and expertise that the Lead Project Manager (LPM) and Project Team have to successfully design, develop, and operate the proposed plan.
- Description of any relevant prior organizational experience, which demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity. If applicable, provide details on the applicant team's prior work together on projects.
- Safety and Occupational Health Plans: Applications should include a brief description of safety culture, including safety and occupational health plan, and available performance history (such as an OSHA 300A form or Experience Modification Rating) of the entities and management involved in the award.
- Time commitment of key roles and personnel: A table showing time commitment (hours per week) of key organizational roles for all project phases and key personnel to fill each role.
- A summary organization chart of the team must be provided. The chart must include identification of any subrecipients or contractors.

Project Management Plan (PMP):

The PMP must include the following:

- Technical Scope Summary, divided by budget periods.
- Proposed Go/No-Go Decision Points for each year.
- Work Breakdown Structure (WBS).
- Integrated Project Schedule (IPS) showing critical path for the entire project, and including task and subtask durations, milestones, Community Benefits Plan, and Go/No-Go decision.

- Task Description Summary, with a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project (including project construction and operations) for each task/subtask. This should include identification of the anticipated Federal, state, and local codes, regulations, and permitting requirements applicable to siting, construction, and operation of the proposed project.
- Buy America Buy America (BABA) Requirements for Infrastructure Projects: The workplan must, include a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, and/or repair of infrastructure in the United States. [Build America, Buy America | Department of Energy](#) for applicable definitions and other information to inform this statement.
- A summary of the End of Project Goal(s).

Risk Analysis and Mitigation:

This section must include an initial Risk Management Plan (RMP) that include the following:

- Identification of technical risks, including technology, systems integration, infrastructure, engineering, scale-up and similar elements.
- Identification of security risks, including cybersecurity, physical security, internal and external threat identification and response, and similar elements.
- Identification of financial risks including project finance, market and regulatory structures, commercial business models, and similar elements.
- Identification of environmental and social risks, including known or potential impacts to disadvantaged communities or Indian Tribes or otherwise related to siting, supply chain and end use, and proposed actions to mitigate risks.
- Identification of organizational risks, including project team, project management structure, and similar elements.
- Identification of execution risks, including engineering, procurement, construction, permitting, safety, testing, and similar elements.
- Assessment of the probability of occurrence of each risk and potential impacts.
- Identification of proposed mitigations for identified risks.

Topic Area 2: R&D-Research and Development

Technical Volume Content Requirements Overview	
Section	Approximate Percent Content of the Technical Volume
Cover Page	N/A
Project Overview	10%
Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact	50%
Workplan in Statement of Project Objectives	40%

Cover Page:

The cover page must include all the following:

- The project title
- Specific NOFO topic areas (if applicable)

- Technical and business POCs
- The project team, including recipient name, entity type and names of all team member organizations
- The project location(s)
- The proposed federal funding level, cost share and period of performance
- Senior/key personnel and other covered individuals
- Statements regarding confidentiality

Project Overview (Approximately 10% of the Technical Volume)

The Project Overview should contain the following information:

- **Background:** The applicant should discuss the background of its organization, including the history, successes, and current research and development status (i.e., the technical baseline) relevant to the technical topic being addressed in the application.
- **Project Goal:** The applicant should explicitly identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal.
- **DOE Impact:** The applicant should discuss the impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.

Technical Description, Innovation, and Impact (Approximately 50% of the Technical Volume)

The Technical Description should contain the following information:

- **Relevance and Outcomes:** The applicant should provide a detailed description of the technology or focus area, including the scientific and other principles and objectives that will be pursued during the project. This section should describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the NOFO, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets or other relevant performance targets. The applicant should clearly specify the expected outcomes of the project.
- **Feasibility:** The applicant should demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed technology and capability of achieving the anticipated performance targets, including a description of previous work done and prior results. This section should also address the project's access to necessary infrastructure (e.g., transportation, water, electricity transmission), including any use of existing infrastructure, as well as to a skilled workforce.
- **Innovation and Impacts:** The applicant should describe the current state-of-the-art in the applicable field, the specific innovation of the proposed technology or focus area, the advantages of proposed technology over current and emerging technologies, and the overall impact on advancing the state-of-the-art/technical baseline if the project is successful.

Workplan (Approximately 40% of the Technical Volume)

The Workplan should include a summary of the Project Objectives, Technical Scope, Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Project Tasks, Milestones, Go/No-Go decision points, and project schedule. A detailed statement of project objectives (SOP) is separately requested as part of the application. The Workplan should contain the following information:

- **Project Objectives:** The applicant should provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.
- **Technical Scope Summary:** The applicant should provide a summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the objective(s). The overall work scope is to be divided by

performance periods that are separated by discrete, approximately annual decision points (see below for more information on Go/No-Go decision points). The applicant should describe the expected result of each performance period, including milestones in the Community Benefits Plan.

- **WBS and Task Description Summary:** The Workplan should describe the work to be accomplished and how the applicant will achieve the milestones, will accomplish the final project goal(s), and will produce all deliverables. The Workplan is to be structured with a hierarchy of performance period (approximately annual), task and subtasks, which is typical of a standard WBS for any project. The Workplan shall contain a concise description of the specific activities to be conducted over the life of the project. The description shall be a full explanation and disclosure of the project being proposed (i.e., a statement such as “we will then complete a proprietary process” is unacceptable). It is the applicant’s responsibility to prepare an adequately detailed task plan to describe the proposed project and the plan for addressing the objectives of this FOA. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. The SOPO will contain a more detailed description of the WBS and tasks.
- **Milestone Summary:** The SOPO should provide a summary of appropriate milestones throughout the project to demonstrate progress and success. A milestone may be either a progress measure (which can be activity based) or a SMART technical milestone. SMART milestones should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely, and must demonstrate a technical achievement rather than simply completing a task. Unless otherwise specified in the NOFO, the minimum requirement is that each project must have at least one milestone per quarter for the duration of the project with at least one SMART technical milestone per year (depending on the project, more milestones may be necessary to comprehensively demonstrate progress). The applicant should also provide how the milestone will be verified. The summary provided should be consistent with the Milestone Summary Table in the SOPO.
- **Go/No-Go Decision Points:** The applicant should provide a summary of project-wide Go/No-Go decision points at appropriate points in the Workplan. At a minimum, each project must have at least one project-wide Go/No-Go decision point for each budget period (12 to 18-month period) of the project. See the [Key Facts](#) section above for Go/No-Go and budget period information. The applicant should also provide the specific technical and Community Benefits Plan criteria to be used to evaluate the project at the Go/No-Go decision point. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO. Go/No-Go decision points are considered “SMART” and can fulfill the requirement for an annual SMART milestone.
- **End of Project Goal:** The Workplan should include a summary of the end of project goal(s). At a minimum, each project must have one SMART end of project goal. The summary provided should be consistent with the SOPO.
- **Project Schedule (Gantt Chart or similar):** The applicant should provide a schedule for the entire project, including task and subtask durations, any milestones, and any Go/No-Go decision points.
- **Build America Buy America (BABA) Requirements for Infrastructure Projects:** Within the first two pages of the Workplan, include a short statement on whether the project will involve the construction, alteration, maintenance and/or repair of public infrastructure in the United States. See [Build America, Buy America | Department of Energy and 2 CFR 184](#) for applicable definitions and other information regarding Infrastructure Projects and the Buy America Requirement.
- **Project Management:** The applicant should discuss the team’s proposed management plan, including the following:

- The overall approach to and organization for managing the work.
- The roles of each project team member.
- Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among project team members.
- The technical and management aspects of the management plan, including systems and practices, such as financial and project management practices.
- The approach to project risk management, including a plan for securing a qualified workforce and mitigating risks to project performance including but not limited to community or labor disputes or conflicts related to siting.
- Approach to addressing permits and tory approvals, including compliance with any current permits, and any permits and natural or cultural resource issues that could require discretionary permits or approvals.
- A description of how project changes will be handled.
- If applicable, the approach to Quality Assurance/Control.
- How communications will be maintained among project team members.
- A description of the project team’s unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key subrecipients.
- A description of the project team’s existing equipment and facilities, or equipment or facilities already in place on the proposed project site, that will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed project; include a justification of any new equipment or facilities requested as part of the project.
- Relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives.
- The time commitment of the key team members to support the project.
- A description of the technical services to be provided by DOE FFRDCs, if applicable.
- The skills, certifications, or other credentials of the construction and ongoing operations workforce.
- For multi-organizational projects, describe succinctly the following:
 - The roles and the work to be performed by the project manager and Senior/Key Personnel at the recipient and sub levels.
 - Business agreements between the applicant and sub.
 - How the various efforts will be integrated and managed.
 - Process for making decisions on technical direction.
 - Publication arrangements.
 - Intellectual property issues and
 - Communication plans.

C. 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. Foreign travel is not permitted in this NOFO.

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
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.
Davis-Bacon Act Requirements	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO
Construction Signage	NOFO Part 2	Applicable to awards with construction activities made under this NOFO
Build America Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects	NOFO Part 1	Applicable to awards made under this NOFO

3. Build America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects

Pursuant to the Build America Buy America Act, subtitle IX of BIL (Buy America or BABA), and in accordance with 2 CFR Part 184, no funds for federal financial assistance which is subject to BABA requirements may be used for a project unless:

1. All iron and steel used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States;
2. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; and
3. All construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.

Whether a given project must apply this requirement is project-specific and dependent on several factors, such as the recipient’s entity type, whether the work involves “infrastructure,” as defined in Section 70914 of the BIL, and whether the infrastructure in question is publicly owned or serves a public function.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult Appendix D of this NOFO to determine whether their project may have to apply this requirement, both to make an early determination as to the need of a waiver, as well as to determine what impact, if any, this requirement may have on the proposed project’s budget.

BABA requirements apply to DOE recipients that are "non-federal entities." In accordance with OMB Memorandum M-24-02 and 2 CFR 200.1, the term “non-federal entity” includes states, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, Institutes of Higher Education or non-profit organizations. DOE does not apply BABA requirements to for-profit entities. A Program Policy Factor that the Selection Official may consider in determining which applications to select for award negotiations by for-profit entities may be applied pursuant to Other Selection Factors. The relevant Program Policy Factor considers the degree to which the proposed project will employ procurement of U.S. iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials.

Subawards should conform to the terms of the recipient award from which they flow; in other words, for-profit recipients are not required to flow down these Buy America requirements to subrecipients, even if those subrecipients are non-federal entities as defined above. Conversely, recipients which are

non-federal entities must flow the Buy America requirements down to all subrecipients, even if those subrecipients are for-profit entities.

The DOE financial assistance agreement will require each recipient to: (1) fulfill the commitments made in its application regarding the procurement of U.S.-produced products and (2) fulfill the commitments made in its application regarding the procurement of other key component metals and domestically manufactured products that are deemed available in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality at the time of award negotiation. Applicants may seek waivers of these requirements in very limited circumstances and for good cause shown. Further details on requesting a waiver can be found in NOFO Part 2, Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure and the terms and conditions of an award.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult NOFO Part 2, Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure and 2 CFR Part 184 for more information.

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](#).

D. Required Registrations

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

All applicants 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. Instructions for registration in SAM.gov are found in NOFO part II, I. Get Registered (page 6).

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 during the time period you have an active federal award or have 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.**

E. 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 an application 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.

F. Submission Date and Times

All required submissions must be submitted through grants.gov no later than 5 p.m. ET on April 15, 2025.

There may be more than one deadline, depending on whether a letter of intent and a concept paper 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, 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.

G. 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. Responsiveness Review

The following applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered:

- Project applications or approaches not based on established scientific principles.
- Project applications or approaches identified specifically as NOT of interest (see the [Applications Specifically Not of Interest](#) section above).

C. Review Criteria

1. Compliance Criteria

All applicant submissions for concept papers and 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 and
- Comply with the submission deadline stated in [Key Facts](#).

2. Technical Review Criteria

Applications

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

Topic Area 1- Demonstration

Review Criterion Overview	
Criterion	Weight
Technical Merit and Potential Impact	40%
Project Management	30%
Community Benefits Plan	20%
Team Knowledge, Skills, and Capabilities and Project Resources	10%

Criterion 1: Technical Merit and Impact (40%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Background information supports intent of the project (previous test or concepts to build upon).
- Extent to which the proposed technology, process, or project is innovative and meets the goals to demonstrate technologies that will benefit the domestic enriched uranium supply chain.
- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the applicant will improve the domestic enriched uranium supply chain. Quantitative descriptions may be given more consideration as compared to qualitative ones.
- Relevant technical information (chemical equations, process flowsheets, diagrams, measurements, fundamental principles, Quality Assurance, Hazard and Safety issues addressed etc.) to support the proposed approach
- Degree to which key manufacturing and domestic supply chain challenges are considered, as applicable, for viable scale-up.
- Cost for full deployment (cost effectiveness).
- Considers linkages to other decisions or operations (modifications to equipment or flowsheet) for overall success.
- Sufficiency of existing infrastructure to support addition of the proposed demonstration project.
- Extent to which approach is replicable and may lead to future domestic supply chain improvements.
- Technical Objective clearly defined.
- Overall approach appropriate to meeting objectives.

Criterion 2: Project Management (30%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Adequacy of proposed project management systems including the ability to track scope, cost, and schedule progress and changes.
- Reasonableness of budget and spend plan as detailed in the budget justification workbook for proposed project and objectives.
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as periodic Go/No-Go decisions, interim milestones, and metrics to track process.
- Adequacy of the identification of risks and “timely” and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution.
- Soundness of a plan to expeditiously address environmental, siting, and other regulatory requirements for the project.

- Completeness, comprehensiveness, accuracy, and strength of the application deliverables, such that DOE and independent experts will be able to identify project risk.

Criterion 3: Community Benefits Plan: Job Quality and Equity (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors;

Community and Labor Engagement

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates community and labor engagement to date that results in support for the proposed project.
- Extent to which the applicant has a clear and appropriately robust plan to engage—ideally through a clear commitment to negotiate enforceable Workforce & Community Agreements—with labor unions, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities and other affected stakeholders.
- Extent to which the applicant has considered accountability to affected workers and community stakeholders, including those most vulnerable to project activities, with a plan to publicly share SMART Community Benefits Plan commitments and
- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates that community and labor engagement will lead to the delivery of high-quality jobs for local and disadvantaged communities and underrepresented workers, minimal environmental impact, and allocation of project benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Investing in Quality Jobs

- Quality and manner in which the proposed project will create and/or retain high quality, good-paying jobs with employer-sponsored benefits for all classifications and phases of work.
- Extent to which the project provides employees with the ability to organize, bargain collectively, and participate, through labor organizations of their choosing, in decisions that affect them and that contribute to the effective conduct of business and facilitates amicable settlements of any potential disputes between employees and employers, providing assurances of project efficiency, continuity, and multiple public benefits and
- Extent to which applicant demonstrates that they are a responsible employer, with ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled labor, and an effective plan to minimize the risk of labor disputes or disruptions.
- Approach to document the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the workforce required for successful commercial deployment of innovations resulting from this research and

- Likelihood that the plan will result in improved understanding of the workforce implications related to the innovation if successful.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan includes specific and high-quality actions to meet DEIA goals, which may include DEIA recruitment procedures, supplier diversity plans, and other DEIA initiatives.
- Quality of any partnerships and agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment to facilitate participation in the project's construction and operations.
- Extent of engagement of organizations that represent disadvantaged communities or underrepresented populations as a core element of their mission, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), underrepresented businesses, and Tribal, nonprofit, or community-based organizations.

Justice40 Initiative

- Extent to which the Community Benefits Plan identifies the following: specific, measurable benefits for disadvantaged communities, how the benefits will flow to disadvantaged communities, and how negative environmental impacts affecting disadvantaged communities would be mitigated and
- Clear workplan tasks, staffing, research, and timeline for advancing energy justice and engaging communities with environmental justice concerns and/or evaluating the possible near- and long-term implications of the project for the benefit of the American public, including but not limited to public health and public prosperity benefits.
- Description of how the project will advance the Justice40 Initiative's goal of having 40% of the overall benefits of covered investments flow to disadvantaged communities and
- Likelihood that the plan will result in improved understanding of distributional public benefits and costs related to the innovation if successful.

Criterion 4: Team Knowledge, Skills, and Capabilities and Project Resources (10%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following:

- Capability of the project manager(s) and the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success. The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team.
- Diversity of expertise and perspectives of the team and the inclusion of industry partners that will amplify impact.
- Sufficiency of the facilities to support the work.
- Level of participation by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment and how well they are integrated into the Workplan.

- Reasonableness of the project resources for the proposed project and objectives.

Topic Area 2: Research and Development

Review Criterion Overview	
Criterion	Weight
Technical Merit and Potential Impact	40%
Project Management	30%
Community Benefits Plan	20%
Team Knowledge, Skills, and Capabilities and Project Resources	10%

Criterion 1: Technical Merit and Innovation (40%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Background information supports intent of the project (previous tests or concepts to build upon).
- Extent to which the proposed research and development is innovative and meets the goals to develop new technologies for the domestic enriched uranium supply chain.
- Relevant technical information (chemical equations, process flowsheets, diagrams, fundamental principles, quality assurance, hazard and safety issued addressed etc.) to support the proposed approach.
- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the research and development has the potential to improve the domestic enriched uranium supply chain.
- Degree to which key manufacturing and supply chain challenges are considered, as applicable, for viable scale-up and sufficiency of existing infrastructure to support addition of the proposed research and development project.
- Extent to which approach is replicable and may lead to future domestic supply chain improvements.
- Technical Objective clearly defined.
- Overall approach appropriate to meeting objectives.

Criterion 2: Project Management (40%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors;

- Adequacy of proposed project management systems including the ability to track scope, cost, and schedule progress and changes.
- Reasonableness of budget and spend plan as detailed in the budget justification workbook for proposed project and objectives.
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as periodic Go/No-Go decisions, interim milestones, and metrics to track process.
- Adequacy of the identification of risks and “timely” and appropriate strategies for mitigation and resolution.
- Completeness, comprehensive, accuracy, and strength of the application deliverables, such that DOE and independent experts will be able to identify project risk.

Criterion 3: Community Benefits Plan R&D (20%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

- Clear articulation of the project’s goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- Quality of the project’s DEIA goals, as measured by the goals’ depth, breadth, likelihood of success, inclusion of appropriate and relevant SMART milestones, and overall project integration.
- Degree of commitment and ability to track progress toward meeting each of the DEIA goals and
- Extent of engagement of organizations that represent disadvantaged communities or underrepresented populations as a core element of their mission, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), underrepresented businesses, and Tribal, nonprofit, or community-based organizations.

The Justice 40 Initiative and other considerations linked with energy and/or environmental justice;

- Clear workplan tasks, staffing, research, and timeline for advancing energy justice and engaging communities with environmental justice concerns and/or evaluating the possible near- and long-term implications of the project for the benefit of the American public, including but not limited to public health and public prosperity benefits.
- Approach, methodology, and expertise articulated in the plan for addressing energy and/or environmental justice questions or concerns associated with the technology innovation.
- Description of how the project will advance the Justice40 Initiative’s goal of having 40% of the overall benefits of covered investments flow to disadvantaged communities and

- Likelihood that the plan will result in improved understanding of distributional public benefits and costs related to the innovation if successful.

Quality Jobs;

- Clear and comprehensive workplan tasks, staffing, research, and timeline for engaging workforce participants and/or evaluating the possible near- and long-term implications of the project for the U.S. workforce.
- Approach to document the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the workforce required for successful commercial deployment of innovations resulting from this research. and
- Likelihood that the plan will result in improved understanding of the workforce implications related to the innovation if successful.

Criterion 4: Team Knowledge, Skills, and Capabilities and Project Resources (10%)

This criterion involves consideration of the following:

- Capability of the project manager(s) and the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success. The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team.
- Diversity of expertise and perspectives of the team and the inclusion of industry partners that will amplify impact.
- Sufficiency of the facilities to support the work.
- Level of participation by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment and how well they are integrated into the Workplan.
- Reasonableness of the project resources for the proposed project and objectives.

D. 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;

1. The degree to which the proposed project exhibits technological diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the subject NOFO.
2. The degree to which the proposed project, including proposed cost share, optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives.
3. The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to accelerate demonstration and commercialization and overcome key market barriers.
4. The degree to which the proposed project is likely to lead to increased high-quality employment and manufacturing in the United States.
5. The degree to which the proposed project will accelerate transformational technological advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty.

6. The degree to which the proposed project, or group of projects, represent a desired geographic distribution (considering past awards and current applications).
7. The degree to which the proposed project incorporates applicant or team members from Minority Serving Institutions; and partnerships with businesses majority owned or controlled by underrepresented persons or groups of underrepresented persons or Indian Tribes.
8. The degree to which the proposed project, when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects to be selected from the subject NOFO, contributes to the total portfolio meeting the goals reflected in the Community Benefits Plan criteria and
9. The degree to which the proposed project will employ procurement of U.S. iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials.

VII. Selection and Award Notices

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

Applicants selected for awards are considered a conditional commitment by DOE until DOE has completed all appropriate reviews and negotiations. DOE reserves the right to terminate a conditional commitment at any time.

VIII. Award Administration Information

E. 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
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
Foreign Collaboration Considerations	NOFO Part 2
U.S. Manufacturing Commitments	NOFO Part 2
Subject Invention Utilization Reporting	NOFO Part 2
Intellectual Property Provisions	NOFO Part 2
Go/No-Go Review	NOFO Part 2
Conference Spending	NOFO Part 2
Invoice Review and Approval	NOFO Part 2
Cost-Share Payment	NOFO Part 2

Notice of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law OR Inflation Reduction Act Specific Requirements	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
Construction Workforce Continuity Plan	NOFO Part 2
Operations Workforce Continuity Plan	NOFO Part 2
Construction Signage	NOFO Part 2
Human Subjects Research	NOFO Part 2
Real Property and Equipment	NOFO Part 1
Program Down-Select	NOFO Part 1
Cybersecurity Plan	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).

For resulting awards under this NOFO, the recipients may (1) take disposition action on the real property and equipment consistent with property disposition requirements in 2 CFR §§ 200.311-313 and 2 CFR §§ 910.360; or (2) continue to use the real property and equipment after the conclusion of the award period of performance with Grants Officer approval. The recipient’s written request for Continued Use must identify the property and include: a summary of how the property will be used (must align with the authorized project purposes); a proposed use period, (e.g., perpetuity, until fully depreciated, or a calendar date when the recipient expects to submit disposition instructions); acknowledgement that the recipient shall not sell or encumber the property or permit any encumbrance without prior written DOE approval; current fair market value of the property; and an estimated useful life or depreciation schedule for equipment.

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. In addition, pursuant to the FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 117-328), Division D, Title III, Section 309, at the end of the award period the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, at their discretion, may vest unconditional title or other property interests acquired under this project regardless of the fair market value of the property.

2. Cybersecurity Plan

Applicants selected for award negotiations must submit a cybersecurity plan to DOE prior to receiving funding.¹¹ The Department will use these plans to ensure effective integration and coordination across its research, development, and demonstration programs. A cybersecurity plan is **not** required as part of

¹¹ 42 U.S.C. § 18725

the application submission for this NOFO, but all projects selected under this NOFO will be required to submit a cybersecurity plan during the award negotiation phase.

DOE recommends using open guidance and standards, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) and the DOE Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2).¹² The cybersecurity plan should document any deviation from open standards, as well as the utilization of proprietary standards where the awardee determines that such deviation is necessary.

Please note:

- Cybersecurity plans should be commensurate to the threats and vulnerabilities associated with the proposed efforts and demonstrate the cybersecurity maturity of the project.
- Cybersecurity plans may cover a range of topics relevant to the proposed project—e.g., software development lifecycle, third-party risks, and incident reporting.
- At a minimum, cybersecurity plans should address questions noted in BIL section 40126 (b), Contents of Cybersecurity Plan.¹³

Supplementary guidance on the cybersecurity plan requirement is available at <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-implementation>.

3. 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.

¹² NERC critical infrastructure protection (CIP) standards for entities responsible for the availability and reliability of the bulk electric system. NIST IR 7628: 2 Smart grid cyber security strategy and requirements. NIST SP800-53, Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations: Catalog of security controls in 18 categories, along with profiles for low-, moderate-, and high-impact systems. NIST SP800-82, Guide to Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Security. NIST SP800-39, Integrated Enterprise-Wide Risk Management: Organization, mission, and information system view. AMI System Security Requirements: Security requirements for advanced metering infrastructure. ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 27001, Information Security Management Systems: Guidance on establishing governance and control over security activities (this document must be purchased). IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) 1686-2007, Standard for Substation Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs) Cyber Security Capabilities (this document must be purchased). DOE Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2).

¹³ 42 U.S.C. § 18725

For this NOFO Topic Areas 1 & 2, selectees and recipients may request an extended period of protection (more than 5 years and not to exceed 30 years) if reasonably required for commercialization for specific categories of data first produced under the resulting awards in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 3710a(c)(7)(B)(ii) and the Energy Policy Acts of 1992 and 2005, or 42 U.S.C. § 7256(g)(5) for OTAs, if applicable. Further direction will be provided during the negotiation process upon request.

A. 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 rigbyja@id.doe.gov no later than three (3) 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 grants.gov site. **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.

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.