

Questions and Answers for DE-FOA 0003487

Date Question received	Date Answer Posted	Question	Answer
12/23/2024	12/30/2024	<p>Question #1</p> <p>“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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). <p>This FOA appears to be directed at Topic Areas which only support the enhancement of front-end fuel cycle activities (mining/milling, conversion, enrichment, and/or deconversion) as stated in Section E. Is the above statement in Section F meant to convey this as well? As written, it could be interpreted to mean that these activities are excluded.</p>	<p>The Innovative Technology NOFO is meant to support the enhancement of front-end fuel cycle activities that include mining/milling, conversion, enrichment and/or deconversion activities.</p>
12/26/2024	12/30/2024	<p>Question #2</p> <p>The Notice of Funding Opportunity, Part 1, appears to provide contradictory information on the eligibility for a lead applicant on submitting responses to both Topic Areas. Section B. Limitation on Number of Applications Eligible for Review, page 10, states that “An entity</p>	<p>Yes, the prime applicant may submit one application for each topic area (A maximum of two applications). The prime applicant must ensure each application meets the full scope of work for each topic area</p>

		<p>may submit only <u>one application for each topic area</u> contained within this NOFO.” While Page 22 states “Applicants may pick which Topic Area for which they wish to submit an application. <u>Applications will be only accepted from each lead applicant for only one of the Topic Areas.</u>”</p> <p>Please clarify if a lead applicant can submit a proposal to <u>both</u> Topic Area 1 (Demonstration Projects) and Topic Area 2 (Research and Development Projects) for a combined maximum of two applications. We note that the HALEU Transportation Package FOA (DE-FOA-0002967) Questions and Answers does permit applications for both Topic Areas.</p>	<p>within the Innovative Technology NOFO.</p>
01/01/2025	01/06/2025	<p>Question #3</p> <p>Can the HALEU Innovative Technology FOA due date be extended to March 12, 2025, a 2-week extension request?</p>	<p>Yes, the Due date for applications has been extended to Wednesday March 12, 2025 @ 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time</p>
01/01/2025	01/06/2025	<p>Question #4</p> <p>The FOA mentions that DOE will be involved in the execution of these projects, but for this particular subject the involvement would have to be really extensive, including locating the project either at ORNL or at the Idaho site, and expecting DOE staff to actively assist with the regulatory aspects (a good analogy - Oppenheimer needed Groves to navigate the administrative environment). Would such a project be responsive? Or perhaps there is some more appropriate alternative to applying to DE-FOA-0003487, e.g. working with an established DOE contractor?</p>	<p>An application as described in the question, may be considered responsive. To be considered responsive, an applicant must submit its application no later than the required due date, March 12, 2025, and the applicant must complete all the required documents that are listed in NOFO part 1 and NOFO part 2. Several of the required documents and forms are included with the NOFO announcement in grants.gov. Although not required, an applicant may include one or more federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) as part of its application. Applicants are not required to include an FFRDC in their application.</p>

01/08/2025	01/08/2025	<p>Question #5</p> <p>NOFO Part 1, Pages 20 & 22 and NOFO, Part 2, Page 20. The information provided under <i>Application Content and Form</i> in Part 1 lists a Project Management Plan (5 pages). The pertinent Part 2 instructions suggest using a form available from Grants.Gov to satisfy this requirement. The same <i>Application Content and Form</i> instructions in Part 1 mandate the inclusion of a Project Management Plan in the Technical Volume. The relevant weighting of the evaluation criteria provided on Page 22 of Part 1 suggest this second Project Management Plan to be somewhat more detailed than that which could be communicated on the 5-page Grants.Gov form. It is unclear whether DOE is requesting one or two Project Management Plans. Please clarify this matter.</p>	<p>Each application should contain a single Project Management Plan (PMP). DOE recommends following the guidance outlined in Part 1 on pages 25-26, or use the PMP template that is provided in the “Attachments-HALU Innovative Technology NOFO” package found on grants.gov found under the DE-FOA-0003487 file. This will ensure the information provided in the application package meets the necessary technical requirements (refer to Section 4, Part 2. Technical Volume, starting on page 23).</p>
01/08/2025	01/08/2025	<p>Question #6</p> <p>NOFO Part 1, Page 20. The instructions provided under <i>Application Content and Form</i> in Part 1 list a number of forms and documents, in addition to a Technical Volume. Is it correct to assume the Technical Volume should be submitted electronically as a stand-alone file? Should applicants submit all other forms and documents individually and separately from the Technical Volume? Should all other forms and documents be compiled into a second volume? Please clarify submittal instructions for the Technical Volume and other requested forms and documents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Submit the Technical Volume as its own stand-alone file. 2.) Submit the rest of the required forms and documents individually or compiled into a single volume. If the required forms and documents are submitted as a single volume, ensure all included forms and documents are clearly labeled.
01/08/2025	01/08/2025	<p>Question #7</p> <p>We have an account established on Grants.gov, but cannot find any DOE</p>	<p>In grants.gov, the Innovative Technology NOFO is found under Opportunity Number DE-FOA-0003487. After selecting this</p>

		<p>forms included in the NOFO solicitation package as stated. There are no documents listed under the “Package” tab. Instead, it only states, “There are currently no Opportunity Packages available for submission through Grants.gov. Please refer to the Synopsis tab and Related Documents tab for additional information about this Opportunity.” However, the bid documents are listed under the Synopsis tab. Can you please provide a link to the location of the required DOE forms? They are not in the location specified in Part 1 of the NOFO solicitation, which states, “*DOE forms are provided as part of the NOFO solicitation package under Attachments on Grants.gov. *”</p>	<p>opportunity, the forms and documents are accessed by clicking the blue tab titled “RELATED DOCUMENTS”. Then click the File Name “DE-FOA-0003487 (BASE).zip”. This zip file includes four volumes. One of these volumes is titled “Attachments-HALU Innovative Technology NOFO”. This volume includes 15 forms and documents required as part of the application submission. For all other required forms or documents not included in the “Attachments-HALU Innovative Technology NOFO” volume refer to the NOFO Part 2 document for instructions on where to locate each specific form or document. The NOFO Part 2 document also explains how to complete each application form or application document.</p>
1/08/2025	1/08/2025	<p>Question #8</p> <p>What is the last day to submit NOFO questions to DOE?</p>	<p>The last day to submit NOFO questions to DOE is March 02, 2025.</p>
1/14/2025	1/14/2025	<p>Question #9</p> <p>Where do applicants submit their applications?</p>	<p>Submit applications via email to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary Application Submission: Jeff Rigby-Email: rigbyja@id.doe.gov 2. Secondary Application Submission: Mark Payne-Email: paynemb@id.doe.gov
1/15/2025	1/15/2025	<p>Question #10</p> <p>With the requirement to submit applications by email, is there a maximum file size for email submission</p>	<p>The maximum email size for individual email submission is 22MB. If needed, Applications can be submitted using multiple emails.</p>
01/20/2025	01/21/2025	<p>Question #11</p> <p>Can DOE provide an update on the impact that these Executive Orders will have on the NOFO? Is DOE considering</p>	<p>As of today, the NOFO has not been affected by recent Presidential Executive Orders. Also, the application due date remains the same – March 12, 2025. Updates</p>

		pausing or extending the due date until this information is developed and any modifications to the NOFO are made?	will be posted on Grants.gov should DOE receive any required changes for the NOFO.
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #12 Will DOE consider extending the due for applications?	DOE is still evaluating if the application due date extension will be needed. If DOE decides to grant the application due date extension, a NOFO amendment will be posted ASAP after the decision is made.
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #13 Per the Part 1 requirements is the ARPA-E Attachment intended as guidance for the applicant or are we required to complete and submit the ARPA-E Budget Justification Form Workbook? If the latter, how does that applicant assign each Phase of the project, annually, quarterly?	A completed budget justification workbook is required to be completed and submitted as part of the application package. The budget justification workbook is provided with the NOFO announcement on grants.gov. In the budget workbook budgets should be filled out on an annual basis.
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #14 Will recipients be required to follow the ARPA-E requirements for submitting invoicing packages?	Yes
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #15 Will subcontractors and subrecipients be required to follow the ARPA-E requirements for invoicing backup data?	Yes
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #16 Will recipients be allowed the option to invoice quarterly?	Prime awardees normally submit invoices to DOE monthly. If the prime applicant wishes to invoice with a longer period than monthly, then after the award starts, the awardee will need to work with the contracting officer concerning invoice submittal details.
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	Question #17 With the change to email submittal, are applicants required to submit individual files for all items listed as Required Application Documents in NOFO Part 1?	All documents required for application submission must be emailed to the email address listed on NOFO part 1, page 6, no later than March 12, 2025. The application documents may be emailed individually, or as a group

			of documents attached in a PDF package. Please note the DOE email server can only process emails with a total of 22 MBs or less per email. More than one email submittal may be required to submit your entire application package. Please document your email subject lines accordingly.
01/17/2025	01/21/2025	<p>Question #18</p> <p>Are all items listed in the Summary for Public Release document required for the email submittal? If some of those documents do not apply, how do we handle those submittals?</p>	All documents required for application submittal must be emailed to the email point of contact listed on NOFO part 1, page 6. If there are documents not applicable to a specific application, the applicant must submit a note stating that a specific document is not applicable with a brief statement saying why the specific document is not applicable with the application package.
01/23/2025	01/23/2025	<p>Question #19</p> <p>The description of Topic Area 2 says “Approximate award project period: up to 60 months”, but later in the 1. Period of Performance, it says “... and one or more awards for Topic Area 2 with a period of performance up to two years.” Is the period of performance 60 months or 2 years?</p>	Within the HALEU Innovative Technology NOFO, the period of performance for topic area 1 (Demonstration) is up to 60 months/5 years and the period of performance for topic area 2 (Research & Development) is up to 24 months/2 years.
01/24/2025	01/27/2025	<p>Question #20</p> <p>What are the effects of the executive order that impact DEI initiatives, community benefits plans and Justice40 environmental initiatives? Will community benefits plans, that include DEI and Justice40 initiatives, be removed from the Transportation NOFO?</p>	Yes, in the next NOFO amendment the community benefits plan, DEI initiatives, Justice40, and environmental initiatives are being removed from the NOFO. This NOFO amendment will also revise the scoring criteria of the applications with the above items removed from the NOFO.
01/25/2025	01/27/2025	<p>Question #21</p> <p>The Innovative Technology NOFO requires a 50% cost share and submittal of the SF-424 budget excel file. Are</p>	Submit your application documents, which include the SF424A, with all costs for the project listed on this document. If you have an FFRDC support cost, it doesn’t need to be

		<p>applicants to assume that the total budget submitted in the SF-424 file is divided exactly in half for the federal and cost share applications?</p>	<p>listed on the SF424A document but must be included as part of the total project cost. The cost share requirement is based on 50% of the total project cost, which includes FFRDC cost if applicable. The funds for the FFRDC will not be obligated on the award but will be shown on the DOE budget document as part of the total project cost and as part of the DOE cost share amount.</p>
01/27/2025	01/27/2025	<p>Question #22</p> <p>What is the status of the BIL/IRA funding that the Transportation NOFO is based on?</p>	<p>Executive Order entitled, “Unleashing American Energy”, was signed on January 20, 2025. Section 7(a) of this order directed a pause for the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). DOE has not received specific directions related to this NOFO. Until such direction is provided, DOE will continue through the NOFO process. No awards will be made until DOE has been given approval to disperse funds. If anything should change in the future regarding BIL/IRA funding, DOE will provide an update to this answer.</p>
01/27/2025	01/28/2025	<p>Question #23</p> <p>Section III, D. 6, requires the applicant to “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.”</p>	<p>DOE does not yet know what NEPA documents will be necessary for the Innovative Technology NOFO. DOE will decide which NEPA documents are required based on the Offeror’s Environmental Report received as part of the application package. The HALEU EIS was specifically created for the procurement of HALEU and would not cover this specific action.</p>

		DOE issued a final HALEU Environmental Impact Statement for the Department’s proposed action to acquire HALEU through procurement from commercial sources to facilitate the establishment of commercial HALEU fuel production. Does this review cover this NOFO? Will a separate programmatic NEPA be required, and if so, what is the expected timing for DOE to complete a separate NEPA determination?	
01/29/2025	01/30/2025	<p>Question #24</p> <p>We were also curious if you could provide some clarification on whether the NOFO scope includes fuel fabrication. We initially understood the NOFO to include all steps of the front-end fuel cycle development. However, Section F says, “applications that include significant effort to support the back end of the enriched uranium supply chain (i.e., not mining/milling, conversion, enrichment, and/or deconversion)” is not of interest. Would projects focused on TRISO pebble production then be disqualified?</p>	DOE has a vested interest in all aspects of the front-end cycle, including fuel fabrication though we recognize that fuel fabrication and Mining/Milling could be a lower priority. DOE is looking for applications that address technology gaps, enhance existing processes for producing HALEU, and promote the advancement of new technologies that could reduce risk, increase production, or reduce costs.