

Frequently Asked Questions
FY 2023 Biopreparedness Research Virtual Environment (BRaVE)
Version 1, February 9, 2023

Q1: Do the focus areas separately align with the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR), Basic Energy Sciences (BES), and Biological and Environmental Research (BER) programs?

A1: Focus areas 1-5 represent cross-cutting themes spanning the ASCR, BES, and BER program research priorities. Proposals are highly encouraged to leverage collaborations across the program research areas. The Program Manager listed as the technical contact for each focus area will coordinate with all involved programs (ASCR, BES, BER, and IP).

Q2: Do “multi-institutional” teams only include other national laboratories, or does it also include academic institutions? Also, what is the preferred number of institutions that should be included in a team?

A2: Partners may include national labs, academia, or industry; however, the scope must remain in basic research. There is no preferred number of institutions. You may need to work with your Site Office to ensure that contracting work is properly authorized.

Q3: In Focus Area 5, is there a specific portion of the funding that needs to be specified towards tool development?

A3: There is no required portion of a proposal that must be directed specifically toward tool development. To be judged responsive, proposals must develop new capabilities and/or technologies at ASCR, BES, or BER user facilities and be within the biopreparedness scope of the FOA.

Q4: To apply for Focus Area 5, must a user facility lead the pre-proposal/proposal? Or can another lab lead and collaborate with a user facility?

A4: It is not required that a user facility lead a proposal under Focus Area 5, but proposals must develop capabilities for ASCR, BES, or BER user facilities. Any such proposals are subject to the 2 per lab limit for each Focus Area.

Q5: Is my concept in scope?

A5: Please refer to the solicitation that outlines basic research areas of interest informed by the associated roundtable report from March 2022. The final report is available at <https://science.osti.gov/Initiatives/Biopreparedness/Report-and-Brochure>. We look forward to receiving your pre-proposal and will provide specific feedback once we complete review.

Q6. Does Focus Area 5 target biology (MX, SAXS, etc.) or is it broader, i.e. inclusive of all infrastructure that will ensure that the facilities deliver science during a pandemic?

A6. Focus Area 5 is directed at developing the new experimental and data analysis capabilities needed to address challenges in biopreparedness at DOE's scientific user facilities. It is intended to enable new scientific research for biopreparedness, not to support operations during a pandemic. To be judged responsive, proposals must develop new capabilities at DOE SC experimental and computational user facilities and be within the biopreparedness scope of the FOA.