

**HIGH PERFORMANCE DATA FACILITY (HPDF)
DOE NATIONAL LABORATORY PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER:
LAB 23-3020
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: As a vendor that manufactures original equipment, do we need to wait to engage until the lead laboratory is selected for the HPDF? Or is there an opportunity now to engage the national laboratories who may propose to lead HPDF?

This particular call is focused on determining the lead national laboratory for the HPDF. It is focused on and limited to the Office of Science national laboratories, only. The call does not require the proposers to specify the vendor technologies they would implement – rather it requires them to speak to vision, strategy, and an operations model (very high level expressions at this early stage).

When the HPDF comes to fruition as a project, it will advance to conceptual design, final design, and determination of a project profile. The selected lead national laboratory for HPDF would engage with the vendor community at multiple stages over the project life-cycle, following standard federal procurement norms as we do for all of our major projects.

Q: Which laboratories are qualified to respond to this opportunity? Can any lab respond?

This call is open to the ten Office of Science national laboratories, which are listed at this webpage: <https://science.osti.gov/Laboratories>. The applicant laboratories are strongly encouraged to consult both the merit review criteria (see p: 20-21 of the call) and the program policy factors (see p: 22 of the call) all of which will be used in the selection of the award.

Q: Can you please clarify who is intended to submit letters of intent – is the opportunity only directed to the DOE Office of Science and NNSA national laboratories?

The call is directed to the ten Office of Science national laboratories – they are the only entities who may respond with a Letter of Intent and a proposal.

Q: Can a lab participate as a partner in multiple hub proposals?

As stated on page 6 of the lab program announcement: “At most one award for the HPDF Lead Laboratory (Hub) is expected.” However, we expect that the awarded lab will partner in the award phase and that the proposal “must describe the vision for the HPDF lead laboratory’s strategic partnerships.”

Q: In the Hub-and-Spoke model, how does that work for a multipurpose national laboratory? Is the Spoke the whole lab or could every facility at the lab be a separate Spoke?

The call does not provide specific requirements regarding the location of the Spokes or the resources deployed at the Spokes. This call is soliciting proposals for the Hub only. DOE anticipates that a selection competition for the HPDF Spokes will occur at a later date.

Q: As a DOE national laboratory with multiple user facilities, let's say one of our SC user facilities plays a role in the Hub; would that disqualify our national laboratory from a future Spokes competitive call for proposals, which would be relevant to our other SC user facilities? Or should our lab's response to the Hub (or Spoke) call speak to all of the national laboratories major facilities and unique research infrastructure?

The current call is open to all Office of Science national laboratories. The call does not distinguish between "multi-program" or "single-program" laboratories. A response to this call does not restrict participation to any potential future call for proposals. The DOE Office of Science will not speculate upon or bind itself with respect to any potential future call for proposals.

Q: Can a national laboratory propose more than one lab for the Hub?

As stated on page 6 of the lab program announcement: "At most one award for the HPDF Lead Laboratory (Hub) is expected."

Q: When the total project budget for the full HPDF user facility is described as \$300M (possibly in the future growing to \$500M), is this meant to be the annual budget?

The cost range of \$300M to \$500M is the preliminary Total Project Cost to be spread over multiple years for the HPDF project that was established at Critical Decision-0 (CD-0), Approve Mission Need, subject to future year appropriations. The Total Project Cost is the sum of the funding for the project up to achievement of Critical Decision-4 (CD-4), Approve Project Completion; the Total Project Cost does not include operations costs for activities that occur after CD-4. The call states, "Proposals responding to this call should use a planning assumption of the low end of the total project cost range (\$300 million)."

Q: Is the \$300M budget limited to construction of a building for HPDF?

No, the project budget is not limited to construction activities. The call does not specify requirements or constraints for the scope of the HPDF project. Please refer to page 13 of the call, which provides instructions to proposers to provide a description of the Facility Composition.

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