

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Genesis Mission: Transforming Science and Energy with AI Notice of Request for Application (RFA): DE-FOA-0003612

This FAQ document will be updated as new questions are submitted to [GenesisMissionNOFO@science.doe.gov](mailto:GenesisMissionNOFO@science.doe.gov). Last updated on 4/20/2026.

## Getting Help

**Q. I have a question that isn't answered in the RFA or this FAQ document. Whom do I contact?**

A. Send your question to [GenesisMissionNOFO@science.doe.gov](mailto:GenesisMissionNOFO@science.doe.gov).

**Q. How can I get help with PAMS?**

A. For help with PAMS, click the "PAMS Help" link on the PAMS website, <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. Help is also available through the question mark ("?") icon at the bottom of every page. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, 9AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, Email: [sc.pamshelpdesk@science.doe.gov](mailto:sc.pamshelpdesk@science.doe.gov).

**[Updated 4/17/26] Q. How can I get help with Grants.gov including accessing or completing an application?**

A. The grants.gov helpdesk can be reached at 1-800-518-4726(U.S.), 1-606-545-5035 (International), or [support@Grants.gov](mailto:support@Grants.gov). Also see Section IX of this RFA for detailed instructions.

## Amended RFA

**[Added 4/10/26] Q. What has changed in the RFA amended on 4/10/2026?**

A. Summary of Changes:

- Added instructions for Phase II LOIs.
- Changed LOI responses from "not provided" to "at the discretion of DOE".
- Added instructions for Phase II applications.
- Added a small number of questions for merit reviewers to consider for Phase II applied technology applications.
- Added "per year" to "Envisioned as 3 to 5 times the Phase I award per year" in all cases where it is listed. Previously, it was listed in only one location.
- Added language that clarified that Phase II budgets both above and below the 3 to 5 times the Phase I award are allowed when appropriate.
- Added the possibility of a Phase II midterm review.
- Set a Phase II award start date that applicants can use when preparing budgets.
- Added program policy factor, "Availability of computational resources"

- Removed LM and IRP as participating offices from the following topic areas because they have no associated funding in this solicitation: 6-A, 12-E, 13-A. This resulted in focus area 12-E being removed.
- Added the statement: “Phase II applications will not be accepted in this focus area.” to the following focus areas: 1-D, 1-E, 1-F, 2-E, 3-B, 3-C, 9-A, 10-A, 10-B, 12-F, 12-G, and 21-C.

**[Added 4/10/26] Q. What has been changed in Genesis Mission Phase I Application Template v2.xlsx and Genesis Mission Phase II LOI Template v2.xlsx in the 4/10/2026?**

A. Focus area 12-E was removed from the list of available focus areas. Applicants may submit either the original (Genesis Mission Phase I Application Template v.xlsx or Genesis Mission Phase II LOI Template v.xlsx) or updated (Genesis Mission Phase I Application Template v2.xlsx or Genesis Mission Phase II LOI Template v2.xlsx) versions.

**[Added 4/17/26] Q. What has changed in the RFA amended on 4/17/2026?**

A. Changed the type of application from strongly encourage collaborative applications to very strongly encouraging a single application from a lead institution with proposed subawardee(s).

**[New 4/20/2026] Q. With the strong encouragement to submit prime-and-sub applications, will collaboration applications still be accepted? Are there any penalties to submitting a collaborative application?**

A. Yes, DOE will still accept collaborative applications from teams despite strongly encouraging prime-and-sub applications. DOE will review all complete collaborative applications. There is no penalty to using this application mechanism.

**[Added 4/20/26] Q. What has been changed in the RFA amended on 4/20/2026?**

A. Extended the deadline for FY26 Phase I Applications and FY26 Phase II Letters of Intent to May 1, 2026.

## Phase I and II Awards

**Q. What is a Phase I project?**

A. Phase I projects will design and demonstrate a clear, tangible research workflow that incorporates AI with concrete evaluation of the potential for AI advantage. Projects are from \$500K - \$750K for 9 months. At 6 months, there will be a go/no go decision to determine if the project is eligible to advance to Phase II. Phase I projects may request up to a 3-month extension to the go/no go review date to complete planned tasks, such as experiments.

**Q. What are the goals of a Phase I project?**

A. Phase I projects are expected to provide a quantitative assessment of whether the proposed approach to demonstrating AI advantage in the scientific and/or technical research workflow is on a trajectory to yield a transformative scientific capability or transformative approach to an energy application, thereby justifying consideration for increased investment through a Phase II project.

**Q. What is a Phase II project?**

A. Phase II projects will be conducted by large teams pursuing promising directions identified in the Phase I projects. If a team believes they have already achieved the goals of Phase I projects, they

may apply directly for a Phase II project in FY26. Projects are approximately 3 to 5 times the level of effort of Phase I projects per year for three years. Unlike Phase I projects, Phase II projects that follow a Phase I award in future fiscal years may include multiple Phase I teams, remove Phase I team members, add external researchers, and/or address additional focus areas provided in the RFA.

**Q. How much funding is available?**

A. DOE anticipates a total of \$293.76 million in prior and current fiscal year funds are available to support awards under this RFA. Future year funding depends on future congressional appropriations.

**[New 4/17/26] Q: What is the total budget for a Phase I award?**

A. A team may request a budget of between \$500,000 and \$750,000 in total costs. DOE intends, in most circumstances, to make a single award to the institution leading the team.

**Q. What is the anticipated funding for Phase II awards?**

A. The RFA says that Phase II awards are “approximately 3 to 5 times the level of effort of Phase I awards per year for three years”. Based on funding per time, the minimum is approximately  $\$500,000 * 12 \text{ months} / 9 \text{ month} = \$2 \text{ million per year}$  and the maximum is  $\$750,000 * 12 \text{ months} / 9 \text{ months} = \$5 \text{ million per year}$ , for a total estimated award size range of \$6 million to \$15 million.

**Q. What is the expected distribution of Phase I vs Phase II projects?**

A. It is anticipated that most FY 2026 awards will be Phase I projects.

**Q. How many Phase I projects are expected to transition to Phase II projects in FY 2027?**

A. Only a small fraction of Phase I teams will be selected for Phase II awards. The larger Phase II projects may include multiple Phase I teams, removal of Phase I team members, or additional external researchers.

**Q. What happens to Phase I projects that don't pass the go/no-go decision?**

A. Phase I projects not selected for a Phase II award will end.

**Q. If a Phase I award passes the go/no-go decision, would a Phase II award be for an additional three years?**

A. Yes, it is anticipated that follow-on Phase II awards would be for an additional three years.

**Q. Can institutions apply for both Phase I and Phase II awards using this RFA?**

A. Yes. However, the institution may only submit one Phase I OR one Phase II application as the lead institution per focus area, not both.

**Q. What topics and focus areas are included in this RFA?**

A. The challenge topics are a subset of the [Genesis Mission National Science and Technology Challenges](#) (Topics 1-17) and cross-cutting needs of the Genesis Mission (Topics 18-21). DOE program offices have specific focus areas under each of the topics above.

**Q. Do you expect to issue another Genesis Mission: Transforming Science and Energy with AI funding opportunity in FY 2027?**

A. Yes. In FY 2027, DOE plans to amend the RFA or to issue an alternative funding opportunity to update the topics and focus areas to allow a second competition of Phase I small team applications and Phase II large team applications.

**[Added 04/15/26] Q. Will a team that receives a Phase I award in a focus area that is not accepting Phase II applications in FY 2026 still undergo a go/no go eligibility decision for a Phase II proposal in FY 2027?**

A. Yes. The list of focus areas identified in the amended RFA as not accept applications for Phase II applies only to FY 2026. No decision has been made on the set of focus areas that would be included in the planned FY 2027 solicitation. All Phase I awards made in FY 2026 will undergo a go/no go review for Phase II eligibility no earlier than 6 months after the start of the award term. Please note that eligibility to submit a Phase II application does not guarantee the availability of funds for the relevant focus area in FY 2027, which depends on Congressional appropriations.

**Q. What happens if I miss the application or LOI deadlines?**

A. The RFA will remain open. Additional applications for Phase I and Phase II applications may be submitted after the corresponding deadline listed on the cover of the RFA. However, DOE reserves the right to decline such applications without review. If a Phase II LOI is not submitted by the deadline, DOE may hold any subsequent Phase II application until FY 2027.

**[Updated 4/10/26] Q. When are FY26 Phase I applications due?**

A. May 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET in Grants.gov.

**[Updated 4/10/26] Q. When are FY26 Phase II Letters of Intent (LOI) due?**

A. May 1, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET in PAMS.

**[Updated 4/10/26] Q. When are FY26 Phase II applications due?**

A. May 19, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET in Grants.gov. This is for FY26 Phase II awards without a Phase I award.

## Eligibility

**[Updated 4/10/26] Q. What types of institutions are eligible to submit an application as the lead institution?**

A. U.S. universities, DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, for-profit institutions, and not-for-profit institutions are eligible to serve as lead institutions. Non-DOE/NNSA Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, Other Federal Agencies, and international entities may submit applications as a member of a team but may not be the lead institution. Note that not-for-profit institutions described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1985 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995, are not eligible.

**[New 4/10/26] Q. Are DOE or NNSA sites that are not national laboratories eligible to apply under this RFA?**

A. Yes. Any site holding a management and operating contract (<https://www.energy.gov/management/doennsa-major-site-facility-management-contracts>) will be considered equivalent to a DOE/NNSA national laboratory under this RFA.

**Q. Does an eligible individual submitting an application as the PI or in another role need to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.**

A. No, DOE does not require that individuals submitting an application as the PI or listed in the application in another role be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. However, all personnel working or proposed to work under an award must have the legal right to perform such work in the jurisdiction where the work will be performed.

**Q. Are there limitations on eligibility based on career stage of the applicant?**

A. No, eligible individuals from any career stage may be proposed as a PI as long as they have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

**Q. Are there limitations on the number of applications a PI can submit?**

A. Yes. A PI can be the lead-PI on only one Phase I or Phase II application. However, they may be a senior investigator on an unlimited number of other applications.

**Q. Are there limitations on the type of position a lead PI must be in to apply?**

A. Yes. PIs must be in a permanent or indefinitely extensible position at the lead institution, whether part-time or full-time.

**[Updated 4/10/26] Q; I'm in a joint appointment. Which institution can submit an application with me as a PI?**

A: Individuals in joint appointments are eligible to be proposed as a PI by either institution, except that individuals who receive a majority of their pay and benefits from a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory may only be proposed as a PI from the laboratory. By submitting an application, the applicant institution represents that it has the authority to supervise, manage, and direct the proposed work under the leadership of the proposed PI. Note that there are no restrictions on personnel proposed in any other senior or key role.

**Q. Are there limitations on the number of applications a senior investigator can participate in as a member but not the lead PI?**

A. No, senior investigators can participate in an unlimited number of Phase I or Phase II applications.

**Q. Can a joint appointee whose salary and benefits are paid by the university (with nine months reimbursed by the national lab) serve as the lead PI from the university side?**

A. No. As the RFA states, "Individuals receiving more than half of their salary and benefits from a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory may not be named as the PI in an application submitted by an applicant other than a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory, regardless of any arrangement between the employing Laboratory and the applicant institution." Since the majority of their salary and benefits come from the lab, they can only be a lead PI on the lab application.

**Q. Can I serve as the lead PI if I have never been funded by DOE before?**

A. Yes, anyone who meets the requirements of a lead PI may apply. See section "LIMITATIONS ON PI" in the RFA for a full list of requirements.

**Q. What is the difference between a lead PI, PI, co-PI, or senior/key person?**

A. In the RFA, there is only one PI, the lead PI. All other investigators are a senior/key person. However, outside the RFA it is common to refer to senior/key persons as PIs or co-PIs. For clarity, in some places the PI is referred to as the lead PI in the RFA and this frequently asked questions document. Senior/Key Personnel is defined in the section IX.D Reference Material in the RFA.

**Q. Are there limitations on the number of applications an institution can submit as the lead?**

A. Yes, an institution may only submit one Phase I or Phase II application per focus area.

**Q. Are there limitations on the number of applications an institution can submit as a non-lead?**

A. No, an institution may be a non-lead institution on an unlimited number of applications.

**Q. Are different campuses in a state university system considered separate institutions for this solicitation?**

A. In general, yes. Any institution that has registered with SAM and obtained a different Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is considered a separate institution.

**Q. What is a focus area?**

A. There are 21 topics in the RFA. Under each topic are focus areas. For example, "1. Reenvisioning Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Productivity" is a topic and "A. Agentic AI-Driven Chemical Manufacturing" and "B. AI-Driven Materials Processing" are two different focus areas. The same institution could submit an application to the 1-A focus area and a different application to the 1-B focus area.

**Q. Can an applicant select more than one focus area?**

A. Each applicant must address a topic and focus area specified in the RFA. Phase I applications are limited to a single focus area. Phase II applications must identify a primary focus area but can also address secondary focus areas. The primary focus area will be used for determining limitations on institutional submissions.

**Q. Can a seed team funded as a pilot under the DOE's Transformational AI Models Consortium apply for a Phase I or Phase II award?**

A. Yes.

**[Updated 4/17/26] Q. Can a foreign institution be included as a member of a funded team?**

A. Yes, a foreign institution may be a subrecipient on another organization's prime application or submit a collaborative application as a member of a team but may not be the lead institution. Applicants are advised that successful applications that propose non-domestic entities as subrecipients include a detailed demonstration of how the proposed non-domestic subrecipients possess skills, resources, and abilities that do not exist among potential domestic subrecipients.

**Q. What is a domestic organization?**

A. As stated in the RFA in Section IV.D. Reference Material, *Domestic organization* means a public (including a State or other governmental agency) or private non-profit or for-profit organization that is located in the United States or its territories, is subject to U.S. laws, and assumes legal and financial accountability for awarded funds and for the performance of the grant-supported activities.

## Teaming Requirements

**Q. Is the lead institution considered a partner for determining teaming requirements?**

A. Yes, the lead institution is considered a partner of the team. For example, for a Phase I application, an application with a university (lead) and lab would be eligible. If both institutions were from a lab, it would not be eligible.

**Q. Are there restrictions on teaming for Phase I?**

A. Yes. Applicants for phase I proposals must include partner institutions from at least two of the categories listed in the solicitation: (1) DOE/NNSA National Laboratories or Scientific User Facilities, (2) Industry, and (3) Institutions of Higher Education/Non-profits/other.

**Q. Are there restrictions on teaming for Phase II?**

A. Phase II applicants must propose larger teams and include at least one partner from categories (1) and (2). The inclusion of a lead or partner institution from category (3) is strongly encouraged but not required.

**Q. Do all partners on a proposal need to be funded by DOE?**

A. No. Unfunded partners are eligible to be members of a Phase I or Phase II team. However, to meet partnering requirements described in the RFA, an unfunded partner must provide intellectual contributions to the proposed project that are defined in the proposal.

**Q. Do I need to be a member of the Genesis Mission Consortium to be eligible for a Phase I or Phase II award?**

A. No. Participating institutions do not need to be members of the Genesis Mission Consortium to be eligible for consideration of a Phase I or Phase II award as a lead or partner. However, members of the Consortium are eligible to submit applications or be partners in submitted applications.

**Q. If I received an award under this RFA, will I become a member of the Genesis Mission Consortium?**

A. No, receipt of an award under this RFA does not grant membership or require membership in the Genesis Mission Consortium.

**Q. What is the Genesis Mission Consortium's partnership service?**

A. The Genesis Mission Consortium's partnership service is intended to help members and non-members of the Consortium collaborate for applications related to the DOE Genesis Mission, including this RFA. The Service will help identify high-value partnerships between applicants and consortium members to catalyze data flows and promote novel data applications.

**Q. How do I access the partnership service offered by the Genesis Mission Consortium?**

A. Applicants interested in leveraging the partnership service can do so by contacting the Genesis Mission Consortium. More information on the partnership service can be found on the Consortium website (<https://genesismissionconsortium.org/>).

**Q. Are applicants required to utilize the Genesis Mission Consortium partnership services when establishing a teaming arrangement for their proposal?**

A. No, utilization of the Genesis Mission Consortium partnership service is encouraged, but not required, for team formation.

**Q. What does the “/” mean in "DOE/NNSA National Laboratory"? Is it DOE \*OR\* NNSA national laboratory or does it mean just the NNSA National Laboratories?**

A. The use of the slash is to recognize the NNSA's quasi-autonomous status within the DOE. Our intent is to refer to all 17 national laboratories, including those sponsored by the Office of Science, the NNSA, and other departmental elements.

## Budgets

**Q. Are companies allowed to request funding under this RFA?**

A. Yes. It is envisioned that DOE funding for all participating companies combined could be up to 20% of the total requested budget for specific project-relevant research efforts.

**Q. Are there cost share requirements for funded awards?**

A. Unless otherwise specified, cost share is not required for basic and applied R&D under this RFA except for-profit entities. For-profit entities, whether prime recipients or sub-recipients, are required to provide not less than 20% cost share for basic and applied R&D, and not less than 50% of total project costs for demonstration and commercial application tasks. Applicants should review the focus area aligned with their application for any additional cost share requirements.

**[Updated 4/17/26; New 4/14/26] Q. How are cost share requirements calculated?**

Per Section II.B of the RFA, for R&D projects, the cost share is based on the total cost (final negotiated budget) of the project ***for the for-profit entity's portion of the project*** (not less than 20% for R&D.) Note that the project budget may change slightly during award negotiations, so the formal cost share requirement will be based on the final negotiated total project cost. An unfunded entity in a team, should not be required to meet the cost share requirement. The total cost share for the R&D project is based off of the total cost of only the for-profit contribution to the entire project. The applicants should decide how to provide and allocate the required cost share amongst themselves, subject to the RFA requirements (e.g., comes from non-federal sources). For the teams, the lead team member/prime recipient is responsible for determining the cost share amount, subject to DOE approval, and ensuring that cost share is satisfied.

***However, please note that there is no cost share waiver for demonstration of commercial application activities regardless of entity type.*** The cost share is 50% for demonstration and commercial application for all entity types, so the cost share amount will be based off of the total project cost per the final negotiated budget.

Consider the following examples.

- For basic and applied research, if the total for-profit budget (not federal budget) proposed by the prime recipient is \$100, that would be at least \$20 cost share (with \$80 being federally funded) to meet a 20% cost share requirement; it is the prime recipient's responsibility to decide amongst themselves and their subrecipients how they will allocate the total \$20 cost share requirement amongst themselves.
- For demonstration and commercial application tasks, if the total budget (not federal budget) proposed is \$100, that would be at least \$50 cost share (with \$50 being federally funded) to meet a 50% cost share requirement; it is the prime recipient's responsibility to decide amongst themselves and their subrecipients how they will allocate the total \$50 cost share requirement amongst themselves.

**Q. How can companies meet the cost share requirements?**

A. Section II.B. of the Request for Applications (RFA) leaves it up to applicants as to how to meet the required cost share commitments. As stated in this section, the 20% and 50% cost sharing funds must originate from non-federal sources.

**[New 4/15/26] Q: Will the awards be required to use the cost principles in 2 C.F.R. § 200?**

A: No, the cost accounting principles used for cost share may be negotiated during the award phase for both reimbursed and milestone OT agreements.

**[New 4/15/26] Q. What can be considered as cost share?**

A. When calculating the amount of the non-Federal contribution, the following costs may be considered allowable in accordance with the applicable cost principles:

- i. Cash
- ii. Personnel costs
- iii. The value of a service, other resource, or third-party in-kind contribution
- iv. Indirect costs or facilities and administrative costs; or
- v. Any funds received under the power program of the Tennessee Valley Authority (except to the extent that such funds are made available under an annual appropriation Act)

It shall not include:

(i) revenues or royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the time considered in the award; (ii) proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity; or (iii) other appropriated Federal funds.

Third-party in-kind contributions means the value of non-cash contributions (*meaning*, property or services) that:

- 1) Benefit a project or program funded by a Federal award; and
- 2) Are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge, to a recipient or subrecipient under a Federal award.

**[New 4/10/26] Q. Can Independent Research and Development (IRAD) funds be used to satisfy the cost share requirement for for-profit entities under this RFA? Specifically, would IRAD funds be considered 'non-federal sources', or would they be considered prohibited as 'other Federal awards' given that IRAD costs may be reimbursed through indirect rates on federal contracts?**

A. Project Teams may not use independent research and development (IR&D) funds to meet their cost share obligations under this RFA.

**Q. Are non-profits allowed to propose Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee or is fee prohibited for this type of award?**

A. “Fee” is not an applicable cost category for non-profits.

Under this RFA, awards will be made using DOE’s “other transaction” authority. Awards will be structured in one of two formats:

1. With payments tied to reaching specific milestones, or
2. On a cost-reimbursement basis similar to research grants under 2 CFR 200.

There will be no cost-plus awards.

**[New 4/17/26] Q: How should in-kind contributions be marked in a budget justification?**

A: In accordance with 2 CFR § 930.125(b)(8), in-kind cost-share or contributions are to be valued **using the usual accounting policies of the awardee** and are **not to exceed the fair market value** (of donated property, equipment, or other capital assets) or the fair rental charge (of leased land, space, or equipment). They must also be **valued in accordance with the appropriate applicable cost principles** (For-Profit awardees: 48 CFR § 31 will generally apply; Other than For-Profit awardees: 2 CFR § 200 will generally apply for states, municipalities, tribal government, and IHEs).

**[New 4/17/26] Q. Is a particular form required for budget justifications that indicate cost sharing?**

A: There is no particular form or format for budget justifications. A budget justification indicating the presence of cost sharing, regardless of the amount, should provide sufficient documentation to ensure compliance with the requirement that a specific contribution is not included as a contribution on any other Federal award.

**Q. What award budget period should Phase I applications use?**

A. Applicants for Phase I awards should prepare budgets with a single period that starts on July 1, 2026, and ends on March 31, 2027.

**[New 4/17/26] Q: Since DOE is planning to make a single award to the lead institution, how should we account for indirect costs on subawards if we are submitting collaborative applications?**

A. First of all, DOE strongly encourages the use of a prime-and-sub model rather than submitting collaborative applications. Noting that Other Transaction awards are not subject to the cost principles of 2 CFR 200, lead institutions will be asked to provide a revised budget with non-lead institutions proposed as subawards during award negotiation.

**[New 4/17/26] Q: Are the indicated award sizes direct costs only, or are they total costs (direct and indirect)? And do the award sizes apply to teams or individual applications, if we submit collaborative applications?**

A: The stated award sizes are total costs, including direct and indirect costs. The stated award sizes are for the entire team, regardless of the method of applying for an award. Note that DOE strongly encourages the use of a prime-and-sub model.

## Application Process

### **Q. Can you tell me if idea X is in scope for focus area A, B, ...?**

A. To maintain a fair and transparent process for all applicants, we are not providing feedback to potential applicants on the scope of specific focus areas or the competitiveness of proposed research.

A public webinar was hosted on March 26, 2026, at 3:00PM. We are currently expecting several of the DOE program offices participating in this RFA to host their own webinars to provide greater clarity on their expectations. Registration for all webinars, along with recordings of past webinars, will be available at <https://science.osti.gov/Funding-Opportunities>.

### **Q. Can I use AI when preparing my application?**

The use of AI for preparing applications is discussed on page 68 of the RFA. DOE will apply a “fair-use” concept regarding the use of generative AI to support investigators’ efforts in presenting their intellectual work in an application. Guided by the principles expressed by others (<https://www.acm.org/publications/policies/frequently-asked-questions> and <https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/become-an-ieee-journal-author/publishing-ethics/guidelines-and-policies/submission-and-peer-review-policies/#ai-generated-text>), applicants must disclose the use of any AI tools in applications, unless the tools were used solely for editing an original draft. Submission of a Project Narrative that is not the work of the proposed researchers, including machine-generated Project Narratives, may constitute academic dishonesty or research misconduct.

### **Q. Where can I find the Collaborator Template form?**

A. The Collaborator Template is available at <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Policy-and-Guidance/Agreement-Forms>.

**[Updated 4/15/26] Q. After preparing the required Collaborator table using the Collaborator Template from <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Policy-and-Guidance/Agreement-Forms> satisfy the requirement to provide a “List of Individuals Who Should Not Serve as Reviewers”, should the file remain as an Excel doc or be converted to a pdf file for final submission?**

A. The instructions “10. How to Prepare a List of Individuals Who Should Not Serve as Reviewers” begin on Page 102. As noted on those pages, the Collaborator Template available at <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Policy-and-Guidance/Agreement-Forms> may be used for your convenience. The file should remain as an Excel doc.

**[Updated 4/15/26] Q. Should the “List of Individuals Who Should Not Serve as Reviewers” (i.e., Collaborators table) be separate files and/or tabs for each senior personnel and/or institution?**

A. The collaborator spreadsheets from all participating key personnel and proposed subawards should be consolidated into a single file with two tabs (“Senior-Key Personnel” and “Collaborators”) for submission. If submitting collaborative applications, each application should only list its personnel and those of its proposed subawards. The file should remain as an excel doc.

**Q. The Genesis Mission Phase I Application Template.xlsx spreadsheet appears to be missing the “Phase I Summary”, “Key Investigators”, and “Budget Summary” tabs. What happened?**

A. We apologize for the error. The file was saved on the “Compute Resources” tab. To navigate to other tabs, click on the “<” or “...” in the lower left corner. A new version on Grants.gov and <https://science.osti.gov/Funding-Opportunities> now show the “Phase I Summary” as the first tab on the left.

**[Updated 4/17/26] Q. What mechanisms are used by this RFA to support teams of multiple institutions and are applicants required to use a specific mechanism?**

A. There are two different mechanisms used by this RFA to support teams of multiple institutions: collaborative applications wherein each member of the team submits an application, and subawards, wherein all other team members are proposed as subrecipients of the lead institution. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the prime-and-subaward model and to avoid the submission of collaborative applications.

**Q. Is a data management and sharing plan required for this application?**

A. Yes. The requirements for the data management and sharing plan (DMSP) are different for phase I and phase II proposals. For a phase I proposal, the DMSP will be required at the time of the award. For a phase II proposal, the DMSP will be required at the time of the application. For guidance on the requirements of the DMSP, please refer to the RFA.

**Q. Is a letter of commitment required from participating team members?**

A. Yes, a letter of commitment, signed by a person authorized to commit the participating institution to a legally binding agreement, is required from each institution participating as a team member on the proposal. This includes the lead institution. Please refer to the RFA for submission requirements.

**[Updated 4/15/26] Q: Which documents and forms need to be identical from all team members when submitting collaborative applications?**

A: Please see the table below:

Name of Document	Identical or Unique to Applicant
SF 424 (R&R)	Unique to Applicant Institution
RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information	Unique to Applicant Institution
Project Summary/Abstract	May be Unique to Applicant Institution or Identical
Project Narrative, including required appendices	Identical

Name of Document	Identical or Unique to Applicant
Appendix 1: Bibliography & References Cited	Identical
Appendix 2: Facilities & Other Resources	Identical
Appendix 3: Equipment	Identical
Appendix 4: Data Management and Sharing Plan	Not required
Appendix 5: Synergistic Activities (Optional)	Identical
Appendix 6: Transparency of Foreign Connections	Unique to Applicant Institution
Appendix 7: Other Attachments	Letters should be identical
Identification of Merit Review Conflicts	Unique to Applicant Institution
RESEARCH & RELATED Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Unique to all team member applicants Lead <b>must</b> include current and pending support and biosketches for <b>all</b> senior/key personnel at all institutions
RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET	Unique to Applicant Institution
Budget Justification	Unique to Applicant Institution
R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM (if applicable)	Unique to Applicant Institution
Subaward Budget Justification (if applicable)	Unique to Applicant Institution
PROJECT/PERFORMANCE SITE LOCATION(S)	Unique to Applicant Institution
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	Unique to Applicant Institution

Note that the submission of collaborative applications is strongly discouraged.

**[New 4/17/26] Q. The RFA requires that, for collaborative applications, all appendices to a Project Narrative be identical, but this FAQ indicates that Appendix 6, Transparency of Foreign Connections, may be different. Why?**

A. The transparency of foreign connections disclosures might be quite sensitive and we wish to offer maximal protection to business concerns.

**[Added 4/15/26; Updated 4/17/26] Q. My institution and a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory are submitting collaborative applications. Do we need to include a budget for the laboratory as a subaward?**

A. No. Only include a budget for a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory as a subaward if the laboratory is being proposed as a subaward and not through a collaborative application. DOE strongly encourages the use of a prime-and-sub model rather than submitting collaborative applications.

**[New 4/17/26] Q. Are the page limits in the RFA per application or per institution participating in a team?**

A. The page limits are for each application regardless of the number of team members.

**[New 4/17/26] Q. With the strong encouragement to transition from collaborative applications to prime-and-sub applications, how can we do this easily?**

A. If you were planning to propose a non-lead collaborative application, be prepared to send the following documents to the lead institution:

- Detailed budgets and justifications
- Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosures
- Identification of Individuals Who should not Serve as Merit Reviewers (Collaborator Template)

Non-lead applicants should have previously planned to send current and pending support and biosketches to the lead applicant.

If you were planning to submit a lead collaborative application, most of the project narrative will be unchanged. Your institutional budget will need to reflect subawards. You should have previously been planning to submit current and pending support and biosketches for all senior/key personnel in the team. You will need to collect a few additional items:

- Subaward budgets and justifications
- Transparency of Foreign Connections disclosures
- Identification of Individuals Who should not Serve as Merit Reviewers (Collaborator Template)