

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**U. S. Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Biological and Environmental Research**

**Bioimaging Research and Approaches for Bioenergy**

**Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0001868  
Announcement Type: Amendment I  
CFDA Number: 81.049**

**Issue Date: 12/22/2017**

**Pre-Application Due Date: 01/19/2018 at 5 PM Eastern Time  
(A Pre-Application is required)**

**Encourage/Discourage Date: 02/02/2018 at 5 PM Eastern Time**

**Application Due Date: 03/16/2018 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

**Amendment I: This amendment is to remove “optional” from the Pre-application Due Date on this cover page. A pre-application is required.**

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## **UPDATES AND REMINDERS**

### RECOMMENDATION

The Office of Science (SC) encourages you to register in all systems as soon as possible. You are also encouraged to submit letters of intent, pre-applications, and applications well before the deadline.

### AVOIDING ERRORS

The following advice is compiled from actual experiences of applicants for SC financial assistance awards.

- Please ensure that the research narrative is comprised of one and only one Portable Document Format (PDF) file, including all appendices, when it is attached to the SF-424(R&R) form.
- When using the SC PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>, please avoid using the back-arrow button in your web browser to navigate.
- Please ensure that the application contains no personally identifiable information (PII).
- Please ensure that the budget is calculated using the applicable negotiated indirect cost and fringe benefit rates.

### GRANTS.GOV WORKSPACE

Applications submitted through Grants.gov at <https://www.Grants.gov> may make use of the new online collaborative tool called “Workspace” to permit teams to simultaneously work on their application. More information is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>.

### DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Applications submitted under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) are subject to the SC Statement on Digital Data Management, published at <https://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management/>. Compliance with this statement is detailed in Section IV of this FOA.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FEDERAL SUPPORT

The SC published guidance about how its support should be acknowledged at <https://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/acknowledgements/>.

## **Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

#### **Technical/Scientific Program Contact:**

Dr. Prem Srivastava  
301-903-4071  
Prem.Srivastava@science.doe.gov

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

Public Law 95-91, U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act  
Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005

### **APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, codified at 2 CFR 200  
U.S. Department of Energy Financial Assistance Rules, codified at 2 CFR 910  
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule, codified at 10 CFR 605

### **SUMMARY**

The Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the SC, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) hereby announces its interest in receiving applications to support fundamental research towards enabling new bioimaging capabilities for the study of plant and microbial systems relevant to bioenergy research. New imaging instrumentation is needed to observe and characterize multiple metabolic processes occurring within the living plant and microbial systems relevant to bioenergy and bioproduct production from renewable biomass. These processes include, but are not limited to real-time dynamic imaging of metabolic pathways, the transport of materials within and among cellular organelles including plant-root and organismal interactions, enzyme function and cellular structures. Of interest is the development of multimodal imaging devices constructed by merging new, innovative and/or transformational improvements to existing capabilities which will enable simultaneous observations in synergistic combination with correlated structural and/or chemical imaging to interpret biological function in and among whole microbial or plant cells.

This FOA is envisioned as a multidisciplinary research endeavor involving expertise from different disciplines of physical sciences and biology. This will require a multidisciplinary team effort from imaging and physical scientists, plant biologists, microbiologists, and engineers in conceptualizing interdisciplinary approaches and leveraging tools and resources (including those available at the DOE National Laboratories and national scientific user facilities) to advance the development of novel bioimaging capabilities from proof of principle to common research practice.

The FOA solicits applications from individual investigators and research partnerships that may include the BER structural biology capabilities at the DOE Synchrotron Light and Neutron Sources.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The BER supports fundamental research to advance a predictive understanding of complex biological and environmental systems relevant to DOE energy missions. Starting with the genetic potential encoded by organisms' genomes, BER-supported programs seek to define the principles that guide the translation of the genetic code into functional metabolism to understand, predict, manipulate and design biological processes for beneficial bioenergy and bioproduct production. BER's Mesoscale to Molecules activity supports these efforts through basic research to enable the development of bioimaging capabilities for *in situ* visualization of the spatial and temporal distributions of key molecules, metabolites, enzymes and cellular structures in plant and microbial systems relevant to bioenergy research.

The program is developing new and improved instrumentation to create a versatile toolbox for bioimaging and characterization of biological processes relevant to bioenergy research. The current program focuses on a range of optical systems configured with multifunctional techniques to nondestructively image biological processes *in vivo*. These efforts include, but are not limited to, multimodal optical, fluorescence, Raman-based and other microscopy capabilities for *in vivo* analysis of plant and microbial systems. Additional functionality could be enhanced through judicious probe and/or biomarker development targeted to specific processes and/or metabolic pathways of interest in these systems. Combining probes and/or biomarkers in association with imaging techniques would help further define specific biochemical steps and/or substrates, metabolites, enzymes, and regulatory molecules within a biological process or metabolic pathway of interest. This information is often crucial for validating hypotheses of cellular metabolism or engineered pathway optimization. Furthermore, these techniques could be complemented by innovative applications of X-ray and neutron-based techniques at DOE-sponsored user facilities to further resolve key structures and configurations of biomolecules and cellular structures impacting processes of relevance to BER. For example, different biological macromolecules catalyzing metabolic and/or transport reactions exist in spatially defined or membrane-bound regions within the cell. A major challenge is to understand how metabolic pathways are organized within topological constraints at the subcellular scale within living systems. Techniques to understand the structure, function and location of these macromolecules is key towards developing a better understanding of the spatiotemporal dependence of metabolic processes in biological systems at cellular and subcellular levels.

This FOA requests the development of new or improved bioimaging capabilities to dynamically image and characterize metabolic processes in living plant and microbial systems of relevance to BER bioenergy and environmental research goals. It is anticipated that the research accomplishments made during the course of this research will broaden a set of bioimaging and characterization techniques to enable an improved understanding of the spatial/temporal relationships, physical connections, and chemical exchanges that facilitate the flow of information and materials across membranes and between intracellular partitions. These

techniques are envisioned to enable testing and validation of hypothesized cellular processes and/or genome-based models of cellular metabolism.

Applicants need to be aware that BER has particular interests in understanding plant metabolic processes impacting cell wall composition, synthesis and deconstruction for dedicated bioenergy biomass crop development, and engineering microbial pathways for production of fuels and chemicals from renewable biomass. A compendium of the latest abstracts of research projects in bioenergy and environmental research sponsored by BER is available at: <http://genomicscience.energy.gov/pubs/2017abstracts/index.shtml>.

This FOA will support multidisciplinary research endeavors in bioimaging approaches within BER's mission. Partnering with BER-supported structural biology facilities at the DOE Synchrotron Light and Neutron sources is encouraged but not required. Applications that offer a clear vision towards development of new innovative and/or multifunctional bioimaging capabilities from proof of principle to potential application in BER-relevant systems biology research are of primary interest. The emphasis should be on new innovative bioimaging approach research. Improvements to existing instrumentation, tools, and approaches, which yield transformational (not incremental) impact will be considered. **However, applications that offer existing approaches for specific uses merely to promote new research and applications, with no potential for innovation, will not be given priority. The intent of this FOA is not to support new systems biology research to promote, involve or utilize existing imaging approaches available independently or through collaborations.**

BER encourages the submission of innovative "high-risk/high-reward" research applications that address new imaging and characterization challenges with a potential for high impact. The probability of success and the risk-reward balance will be considered when making funding decisions.

This FOA encourages the development of new bioimaging approaches and demonstration of their utility for imaging biological systems of relevance to bioenergy and environmental research. Potential applicants should address the topic outlined below, from prototype development to performance testing.

**Development of new innovative and/or significantly improved instrumentation and imaging approaches:** New imaging approaches enabling visualization and quantitative characterization of subcellular macromolecules and their dynamic role in carrying out intracellular metabolic processes and cellular function over a wide range of dimensions, time scales and environmental perturbations. Also included are improvements to existing approaches (e.g. microscopies), which will yield transformational impact in the field, and multimodal synergy for simultaneous observations for correlative structural and chemical imaging and the interpretation of biological function. Where needed, selective, non-perturbative probes and/or biomarkers, and/or contrasting techniques to measure key biochemical processes, concentration profiles of nutrients, metabolites, signaling molecules, extracellular matrices and other biomolecules in plant and/or microbial cells relevant to BER's bioenergy and environmental research are also of interest. (Stand-alone probe development projects will not be given consideration under this FOA).

Performance of the new bioimaging approach developed under this FOA must be tested against at least one of the listed biological imaging targets of relevance to BER's efforts in bioenergy and environmental research including:

**Imaging lignocellulosic biomass deconstruction** – BER bioenergy research efforts seek ways to efficiently deconstruct plant biomass either enzymatically and/or via physical/chemical means to liberate sugars and other components that can be biologically converted to fuels and chemicals. Biomass deconstruction is a major cost driver for biofuel production and gaining a basic understanding of this process is crucial to designing more cost efficient methods. New and/or improved imaging and characterization techniques are needed to visualize biomass breakdown processes. These techniques, combined with innovative probes, biomarkers or contrasting methods are needed to provide the ability to track and understand biomass deconstruction processes, the mechanisms of enzymatic deconstruction (e.g. cellulases, hemicellulases, and lignin-modifying enzymes) of lignocellulose and predict lignin's amenability to structural modifications, enzymatic cleavage and degradation.

**Imaging metabolic pathways** – BER bioenergy and environmental programs seek to understand and design new microbial metabolic pathways for use in biofuel and bioproduct production from renewable biomass. These efforts are aided by the ability to visualize and track the spatio-temporal expression patterns of natural or engineered pathways in microorganisms, the distribution of metabolites, and presence of metabolic inhibitors and competitive pathways. Techniques that can be used to dynamically track specific metabolic pathways in microorganisms and/or aid optimization of engineered pathways are needed. Of particular relevance are those pathways involved in biomass deconstruction and conversion of lignocellulosic sugars or lignin components to fuels and chemicals.

**Tracking Pathways of Carbon Fixation in Plants:** Photosynthesis may be diverted away from low-energy sugar production and towards production of higher energy compounds that can be further converted to biofuels and bioproducts. The enzymatic pathways for the production of fatty acids, terpenoids and sugars in plants are well established. However, current research efforts seek to further divert carbon fixation into higher energy compounds for use as biofuels and/or bioproducts in a dedicated bioenergy crop. These efforts will require methods to understand the mechanisms (natural or engineered) to divert the flow of photosynthetic carbon from low energy-content sugars to higher energy content terpenoids or fatty acids. Tracer techniques (e.g. carbon isotopes) in combination with appropriate imaging devices may be used to interrogate the carbon flux pathways proceeding to terpenoid or alkane synthesis, and to understand how to reengineer intermediary metabolic pathways for improved biomass production.

**Imaging rhizosphere processes:** In the rhizosphere, plant roots interact with the soil, altering its physical, chemical and biological properties. The mechanisms controlling the temporal dynamics of structural changes in the rhizosphere, and how rhizosphere structure and chemistry affects water and nutrient fluxes in and around plant roots are poorly understood. New imaging and characterization approaches are needed to accelerate the understanding of rhizosphere processes. Linking the physical heterogeneity of soil to biological processes requires approaches that allow imaging of the spatial and temporal dynamics of the nutrients within the rhizosphere.

These approaches should allow visualization and measurement of nutrient resource capture between competing plant cells and microorganisms, and alterations to nutrient flux in response to external or internal stimuli.

Applicants are encouraged to review key support documents including:

Mesoscale to Molecules: 2016 Principal Investigator Meeting Proceedings (October 2016)  
[https://science.energy.gov/~media/ber/pdf/community-resources/2016\\_Bioimaging\\_Technologies\\_PI\\_Meeting.pdf](https://science.energy.gov/~media/ber/pdf/community-resources/2016_Bioimaging_Technologies_PI_Meeting.pdf)

Grand Challenges for Biological and Environmental Research: Progress and Future Vision (DRADT Report - September 2017)  
<https://science.energy.gov/~media/ber/berac/pdf/Reports/BERAC-Grand-Challenges-Draft-Report.pdf>

Technologies for Characterizing Molecular and Cellular Systems Relevant to Bioenergy and Environment (September 2018)  
<http://genomicscience.energy.gov/technologies/index.shtml>.

**Applicants are encouraged to consider the use of resources provided by DOE Science User Facilities and Community Resources.** These include the DOE Systems Biology Knowledgebase ([www.kbase.us](http://www.kbase.us)), the DOE Joint Genome Institute (<http://www.jgi.doe.gov/>), the DOE Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (<http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/emslweb/>) and DOE Structural Biology Infrastructure Facilities (<http://science.energy.gov/ber/research/bssd/structural-biology/>).

**Annual Principal Investigator (PI) Meeting.** If a project is funded, beginning in the first year of funding, one or more project participants will be required to attend an annual PI meeting, generally held in the Washington, D.C., area. Reasonable travel expenses may be included as part of the project budget.

#### **Potential research partnerships with the BER structural biology capabilities at the DOE Synchrotron Light and Neutron Sources:**

The DOE Structural Biology program currently sponsors X-ray, Infrared and Neutron facilities and capabilities that investigate biosystems across multiple scales. The DOE Bioimaging and Characterization Research for Bioenergy seeks to build new approaches that fill gaps in the spatial, temporal and chemical imaging landscape. Integration of these different approaches to link information of complementary and synergistic nature will yield a more complete understanding of biological system organization and dynamics.

- Coupling DOE sponsored beamlines that provide advanced X-ray and neutron macromolecular crystallography and spectroscopy capabilities with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and Transmission Electron Microscopy approaches can reveal detailed structures and mechanisms of challenging macromolecular complexes and protein interactions important to BER missions such as biofuel production or biogeochemical cycling.

- X-ray, electron, ion, optical and neutron 2D and 3D imaging and spectroscopy capabilities can be harnessed to precisely map the position and state of proteins, molecular probes, elements and isotopes in the whole-cell context to reveal the fate, conversion and flow of materials within single cells or between complex biosystems such as plant-microbe-soil interactions.

- Research efforts assimilating data from available DOE resources with high performance computing to overlay and co-register multimodal datasets of various formats, magnifications, and resolutions from the same sample will be needed to appreciate biosystem architecture and processes across scales.

All applications must include letters of agreement from each sub-awardee/or subcontractor who would receive funding. These letters should specify the contributions the collaborators intend to make if the application is accepted and funded. Applications for multi-investigator projects must present a management structure for integrating collaborating investigators. Involvement of students and post-doctoral scientists is encouraged. The lead submission must include all budgetary information for all funded subawardees. Applications that do not include these required elements will be considered non-responsive and will be declined without review.

## **Collaboration**

Multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations are strongly encouraged. There are no limitations on the types of institutions that may collaborate under this FOA, but there are limitations about roles, allocation of budgets and how collaborators may apply that are applicable to DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and other Federal agency's Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs):

**Roles:** DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs may not serve as the lead institution of a collaborating team.

**Budgets:** DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs are limited to no more than 25% of the total costs of a collaboration. Every collaboration must show clear scientific leadership from the submitting lead institution. Collaborating applications from DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs must reflect specific and unique capabilities/expertise at the collaborating institution.

**Application:** DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs must apply with collaborative applications, not as potential subawards.

## **Collaborative Applications vs. Subawards**

The following points of advice to applicants may be helpful:

1. Both collaborative applications and proposed subawards are methods by which multiple institutions can work together to reach the scientific objectives described in this FOA.
  - a. Collaborative applications are assembled from multiple identical applications submitted by the proposing institution. Such applications may be submitted under this FOA in Grants.gov. The multiple applications will be assembled into one joint collaborative application, which will be merit-reviewed as one application, with recommendations to fund or decline the application made at the level of each independent application.

- b. Subawards exist when multiple institutions work together to submit one application with a designated prime awardee and multiple potential subawardees.
  - c. DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs may not be proposed as subawardees because they cannot be funded as subawardees. DOE will make separate awards to its laboratories and to other agencies and their FFRDCs.
2. Choose the appropriate structure based on the nature of the scientific work being proposed. If multiple institutions will be functioning as a network of peer-level researchers, a collaborative structure would be more appropriate. If multiple institutions will be functioning with leadership and direction coming from one institution, a subaward arrangement would be more appropriate. **For this FOA, collaborators that are not from DOE National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDCs are expected to be under the leadership and direction of a lead institution, making subawards a more appropriate model.**
3. A well-thought-out research plan and its associated budget(s) should leave no confusion about which institution will do which parts of the research.

### **Collaborative Applications**

Collaborative applications submitted from different institutions must clearly indicate they are part of a collaborative project/group. Every partner institution must submit an application through its own sponsored research office. Each collaborative group is only allowed one lead institution. Each application within the collaborative group, including the narrative and all required appendices and attachments, must be identical with the following exceptions:

- Each application must contain a correct SF-424 (R&R) cover page for the submitting institution only.
- Each application must contain a unique budget corresponding to the expenditures for that application's submitting institution only.
- Each application must contain a unique budget justification corresponding to the expenditures for that application's submitting institution only.

Our intent is to create from the various proposals associated with a collaborative group one document for merit review that consists of the common, identical proposal materials combined with a set of detailed budgets from the partner institutions. Thus, it is very important that every proposal in the collaborative group be identical (including the title) with the exception of the budget and budget justification pages.

All entities submitting applications to this FOA must recognize the moral and legal obligations to comply with export controls and policies that relate to the transfer of knowledge that has relevance to the production of special nuclear materials (SNM) and technologies with potential dual use. Please see 10 CFR 810 for further information.

This FOA is to support scientific endeavors that could be described in scholarly publications. Do not submit applications containing restricted data or unclassified nuclear information as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 USC 2011 et seq., 10 CFR 1017, 10 CFR 1045.

## **5Section II – AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT**

DOE anticipates awarding Financial Assistance Grants under this FOA.

### **B. ESTIMATED FUNDING**

It is anticipated that up to \$5 million will be available for multiple awards to be made in Fiscal Year 2018, with an additional \$5 million available per year, up to three years, contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. The number of awards will be contingent on satisfactory peer review, the availability of appropriated funds, and the size of the awards. Multiple year funding is expected. Applications may request project support for up to three years, with future-year support contingent on the availability of funds, progress of the research, and programmatic needs.

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with preparation or submission of applications. Furthermore, DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this FOA.

### **C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE**

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

#### **Ceiling**

\$500,000 per year

#### **Floor**

\$250,000 per year

### **D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS**

The exact number of awards will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

### **E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE**

It is anticipated that award sizes may range from \$250,000 per year to \$500,000 per year.

### **F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

Awards are expected to be made for a period of up to three years as befitting for the research project. It is anticipated that some projects will be forward funded; i.e. receive funding for the full project period in the initial award.

Out-year funding will depend upon suitable progress and the availability of appropriated funds.

## **G. TYPE OF APPLICATION**

DOE will accept new applications under this FOA.

## **H. VALUE/FUNDING FOR DOE/NNSA NATIONAL LABORATORY CONTRACTORS AND NON-DOE/NNSA FFRDC CONTRACTORS**

For Financial Assistance Grant awards, the value of, and funding for, a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory contractor, a non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractor, or another Federal Agency's portion of the work will not be included in the award to the successful applicant. DOE will fund a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory contractor through the DOE fieldwork authorization system or other appropriate process and will fund non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractors and other Federal agencies through an interagency agreement in accordance with the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535, or other statutory authority.

## **I. RESPONSIBILITY**

The successful prime applicant/awardee (lead organization) will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to, disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the applicant and any team member, and/or subawardee.

If an award is made to a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory, all Disputes and Claims will be resolved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the DOE/NNSA National Laboratory's Maintenance & Operations (M&O) contract, as applicable, in consultation between DOE and the prime awardee.

If an award is made to another Federal agency or its FFRDC contractor, all Disputes and Claims will be resolved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the interagency agreement in consultation between DOE and the prime awardee.

## **Section III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

All types of applicants are eligible to apply as the prime applicant (lead institution), except DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, other Federal Agencies, FFRDC Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995.

Synergistic collaborations with researchers in other Federal Agencies and their FFRDC's, including the DOE/NNSA National Laboratories are permitted; but DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDC's are **not** permitted to apply as the lead institution.

DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, other Federal agencies, and their FFRDC's may submit applications in response to this FOA as collaborators to a lead institution's application. Such proposed collaborations should be limited to filling critical voids in expertise and can represent no more than 25 percent of the total budget. Collaborators from DOE/NNSA National Laboratories, other Federal Agencies, or their FFRDC's may not exceed 25 percent of the total budget for the collaborative group.

### **B. COST SHARING**

Cost sharing is not required.

### **C. ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS**

Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) are invited to work with their organizations to develop an application for assistance. Individuals from underrepresented groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for assistance.

## **Section IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE**

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <https://www.grants.gov>, select “Apply for Grants”, and then select “Download Application Package.” Enter the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number (81.049) and/or the FOA (DE-FOA-0001868) shown on the cover of this FOA and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

Applications submitted through [www.FedConnect.net](http://www.FedConnect.net) will not be accepted.

### **B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION**

#### **1. Letter of Intent**

A letter of intent is not required.

#### **2. Pre-application**

PRE-APPLICATION DUE DATE

January 19, 2018, 5:00 pm Eastern Time

ENCOURAGE/DISCOURAGE DATE

February 02, 2018, 5:00 pm Eastern Time

A pre-application is required and must be submitted by January 19, 2018, 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

Pre-applications will be reviewed for responsiveness of the proposed work to the research topics identified in this FOA. DOE will send a response by email to each applicant encouraging or discouraging the submission of a full application by February 02, 2018. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their pre-application by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

**Only those applicants that receive notification from DOE encouraging an application may submit applications.** No other full applications will be considered.

The pre-application attachment should include, at the top of the first page, the following information:

Title of Preapplication  
Principal Investigator Name, Job Title  
Institution  
PI Phone Number, PI Email Address  
Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0001868

This information should be followed by a clear and concise description of the objectives and

technical approach of the proposed research. The pre-application may not exceed two pages, with a minimum text font size of 11 point and margins no smaller than one inch on all sides. Figures and references, if included, must fit within the two-page limit.

The pre-application must also include a list of the names and institutional affiliations of all participating investigators, including collaborators and consultants on the proposed project. For each funded PI, provide a list of collaborative co-PI including co-authors of the past 48 months, co-editors of the past 24 months, graduate and postdoctoral advisors/advisees, and close associations. This list of participants and collaborators will not count toward the page limit for the pre-application.

Those pre-applications that are encouraged will be used to help SC begin planning for the full application peer review process. The intent of the SC in discouraging submission of certain full applications is to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting full applications not responsive to this funding opportunity announcement.

The PI will be automatically notified when the pre-application is encouraged or discouraged. The DOE SC Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) will send an email to the PI from [PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov](mailto:PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov), and the status of the pre-application will be updated at the PAMS website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. Notifications are sent as soon as the decisions to encourage or discourage are finalized.

It is important that the pre-application be a single file with extension .pdf, .docx, or .doc. The filename should not exceed 50 characters. The pre-application must be submitted electronically through the DOE SC PAMS website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. The PI and anyone submitting on behalf of the PI must register for an account in PAMS before it will be possible to submit a pre-application. All PI's and those submitting pre-applications on behalf of PI's are encouraged to establish PAMS accounts as soon as possible to avoid submission delays.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Registering to PAMS is a two-step process; once you create an individual account, you must associate yourself with ("register to") your institution. Detailed steps are listed below.

#### **Create PAMS Account:**

To register, click the "Create New PAMS Account" link on the website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>.

- Click the "No, I have never had an account" link and then the "Create Account" button.
- You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the "Save and Continue" button.
- On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the "Create Account" button.

- Read the user agreement and click the “Accept” button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.

PAMS will take you to the “Having Trouble Logging In?” page. (If you have been an Office of Science merit reviewer or if you have previously submitted an application, you may already be linked to an institution in PAMS. If this happens, you will be taken to the PAMS home page.

### **Register to Your Institution:**

- Click the link labeled “Option 2: I know my institution and I am here to register to the institution.” (Note: If you previously created a PAMS account but did not register to an institution at that time, you must click the Institutions tab and click the “Register to Institution” link.)
- PAMS will take you to the “Register to Institution” page.
- Type a word or phrase from your institution name in the field labeled, “Institution Name like,” choose the radio button next to the item that best describes your role in the system, and click the “Search” button. A “like” search in PAMS returns results that contain the word or phrase you enter; you do not need to enter the exact name of the institution, but you should enter a word or phrase contained within the institution name. (If your institution has a frequently used acronym, such as ANL for Argonne National Laboratory or UCLA for the Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, you may find it easiest to search for the acronym under “Institution Name like.” Many institutions with acronyms are listed in PAMS with their acronyms in parentheses after their names.)
- Find your institution in the list that is returned by the search and click the “Actions” link in the Options column next to the institution name to obtain a dropdown list. Select “Add me to this institution” from the dropdown. PAMS will take you to the “Institutions – List” page.
- If you do not see your institution in the initial search results, you can search again by clicking the “Cancel” button, clicking the Option 2 link, and repeating the search.
- If, after searching, you think your institution is not currently in the database, click the “Cannot Find My Institution” button and enter the requested institution information into PAMS. Click the “Create Institution” button. PAMS will add the institution to the system; associate your profile with the new institution, and return you to the “Institutions – List” page when you are finished.

### **Submit Your Pre-Application:**

- Create your pre-application (called a preproposal in PAMS) outside the system and save it as a file with extension .docx, .doc, or .pdf. Make a note of the location of the file on your computer so you can browse for it later from within PAMS.
- Log into PAMS and click the Proposals tab. Click the “View / Respond to Funding Opportunity Announcements” link and find the current announcement in the list. Click the “Actions/Views” link in the Options column next to this announcement to obtain a dropdown menu. Select “Submit Preproposal” from the dropdown.
- On the Submit Preproposal page, select the institution from which you are submitting this preproposal from the Institution dropdown. If you are associated with only one institution in the system, there will only be one institution in the dropdown.

- Note that you must select one and only one PI per preproposal; to do so, click the “Select PI” button on the far right side of the screen. Find the appropriate PI from the list of all registered users from your institution returned by PAMS. (Hint: You may have to sort, filter, or search through the list if it has multiple pages.) Click the “Actions” link in the Options column next to the appropriate PI to obtain a dropdown menu. From the dropdown, choose “Select PI.”
- If the PI for whom you are submitting does not appear on the list, it means he or she has not yet registered in PAMS. For your convenience, you may have PAMS send an email invitation to the PI to register in PAMS. To do so, click the “Invite PI” link at the top left of the “Select PI” screen. You can enter an optional personal message to the PI in the “Comments” box, and it will be included in the email sent by PAMS to the PI. You must wait until the PI registers before you can submit the preproposal. Save the preproposal for later work by clicking the “Save” button at the bottom of the screen. It will be stored in “My Preproposals” for later editing.
- Enter a title for your preproposal.
- Select the appropriate technical contact from the Program Manager dropdown.
- To upload the preproposal file into PAMS, click the “Attach File” button at the far right side of the screen. Click the “Browse” (or “Choose File” depending on your browser) button to search for your file. You may enter an optional description of the file you are attaching. Click the “Upload” button to upload the file.
- At the bottom of the screen, click the “Submit to DOE” button to save and submit the preproposal to DOE.
- Upon submission, the PI will receive an email from the PAMS system <[PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov](mailto:PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov)> acknowledging receipt of the preproposal.

You are encouraged to register for an account in PAMS at least a week in advance of the preproposal submission deadline so that there will be no delays with your submission.

For help with PAMS, click the “External User Guide” link on the PAMS website, <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, from 9 AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, email: [sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov](mailto:sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov). All submission and inquiries about this FOA should reference **DE-FOA-0001868**.

Pre-applications submitted outside PAMS will not be considered. Pre-applications may not be submitted through Grants.gov or [www.FedConnect.net](http://www.FedConnect.net).

## **C. GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT PROCEDURES**

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for applications to SC. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely:

### **1. Electronic Delivery**

The SC is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. The SC requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

## **2. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov**

a. Instructions: Read the instructions below about registering to apply for SC funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

If individual applicants are eligible to apply for this grant funding opportunity, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/individual-registration.html>

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number: All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Applicants must enter the DUNS number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the SF-424 (R&R) form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a DUNS number, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

2) Register with the System for Award Management (SAM): In addition to having a DUNS number, organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. All organizations must register with SAM in order to apply online. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

3) Create a Grants.gov Account: The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Applicants must know their organization's DUNS number to complete this process. Completing this process automatically triggers an email request for applicant roles to the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) for review. The EBiz POC is a representative from your organization who is the contact listed for SAM. To apply for grants on behalf of your organization, you will need the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-3-username-password.html>

4) Authorize Grants.gov Roles: After creating an account on Grants.gov, the EBiz POC receives an email notifying them of your registration and request for roles. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online anytime after you have been approved as an AOR.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-4-aor-authorization.html>

5) Track Role Status: To track your role request, refer to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-5-track-aor-status.html>

b. Electronic Signature: When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as an AOR; this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

### **3. How to Submit an Application to the Office of Science via Grants.gov**

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each FOA, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>

1) Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

2) Complete a Workspace: Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.

a. Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

b. Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.

c. Complete SF 424 (R&R) Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 (R&R) information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

3) Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

4) Track a Workspace: After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist the Office of Science with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

#### **4. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission**

Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When SC successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of

the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by SC.

Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

## **D. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS**

### APPLICATION PREPARATION

You must download the application package, application forms and instructions, from Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/>. Additional instructions are provided in [Section IV, Part C](#) of this FOA.)

You are required to use the compatible version of Adobe Reader software to complete a [Grants.gov](#) Adobe application package. To ensure you have the [Grants.gov](#) compatible version of Adobe Reader, visit the software compatibility page at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>.

You must complete the mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms (e.g., Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement. Attached PDF files must be plain files consisting of text, numbers, and images without editable fields, signatures, passwords, redactions, or other advanced features available in some PDF-compatible software. Do not use PDF portfolios or binders.

Please note the following restrictions that apply to the names of all files attached to your application:

- Please limit file names to 50 or fewer characters
- Do not attach any documents with the same name. All attachments should have a unique name.
- Please use only the following Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)-8 characters when naming your attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, period, parenthesis, curly braces, square brackets, ampersand, tilde, exclamation point, comma, semi colon, apostrophe, at sign, number sign, dollar sign, percent sign, plus sign, and equal sign. Attachments that do not follow this rule may cause the entire application to be rejected or cause issues during processing.

## LETTERS

Letters of collaboration from unfunded collaborators should also be included, if applicable, and 17 should be placed in Appendix 7 (Other Attachment). These letters should state the intention to participate in the proposed research, with a brief description of the activities to be undertaken by the collaborator. Do not submit general letters of support as these are not used in making funding decisions and can interfere with the selection of peer reviewers.

## RESUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under this FOA may be withdrawn from consideration by using the SC PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>. Applications may be withdrawn at any time between when the applicant submits the application and when DOE makes the application available to merit reviewers. Such withdrawals take effect immediately and cannot be reversed. Please exercise due caution.

After an application is withdrawn, it may be resubmitted, if this FOA is still open for the submission of applications. Such resubmissions will only count as one submission if this FOA restricts the number of applications from an applicant.

Note that there may be a delay between the application's submission in Grants.gov and when it is available to be withdrawn in PAMS. SC will usually consider the last submission, according to its Grants.gov timestamp, to be the intended version. Please consult with your program manager to resolve any confusion about which version of an application should be considered.

## IMPROPER CONTENTS OF APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under this FOA will be stored in controlled-access systems, but they may be made publicly available if an award is made. As such, it is critical that applicants follow these guidelines:

- Do not include information subject to any legal restriction on its open distribution, whether classified, export control, or unclassified controlled nuclear information.
- Do not include sensitive and protected personally identifiable information, including social security numbers, birthdates, citizenship, marital status, or home addresses. Pay particular attention to the content of biographical sketches and curriculum vitae.
- Do not include letters of support from Federal officials.
- Do not include letters of support on Federal letterhead. Letters that are not letters of support (such as letters confirming access to sites, facilities, equipment, or data; or letters from DOE Cognizant Contracting Officers) may be on Federal letterhead.
- Clearly mark all proprietary or trade-secret information.

## CHANGE OF AWARDEE INSTITUTION

If an awardee chooses to relinquish an award made under this FOA to permit the transfer of the award to a new institution, the new institution must submit an application under the then-available SC “annual” or “open” FOA.

### 1. SF-424 (R&R)

Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Complete all the required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 17 is available on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms> under Certifications and Assurances.

### DUNS AND EMPLOYMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) NUMBERS (FIELDS 5 AND 6)

The DUNS and EIN number fields on the SF-424 (R&R) form are used in PAMS to confirm the identity of the individual or organization submitting an application.

- Enter each number as a nine-digit number.
- Do not use hyphens or dashes.
- The Office of Science does not use the twelve-digit EIN format required by some other agencies.
- The Office of Science does not use the DUNS+4 format.

### TYPE OF APPLICATION (FIELD 8)

A **new** application is one in which DOE support for the proposed research is being requested for the first time.

The Office of Science does not make use of the Resubmission, Continuation, or Revision options.

Please answer “yes” to the question “Is this application being submitted to other agencies?” if substantially similar, identical, or closely related research objectives are being submitted to another Federal agency. Indicate the agency or agencies to which the similar objectives have been submitted.

### PUBLIC POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The applicant is made aware of generally applicable public policy requirements, including the following:

Animal Welfare Act	7 USC 2131 et seq.,
Buy American Act	41 USC 10 et seq.
Cargo Preference Act	46 USC 55305, 46 CFR 381.7
Civil Rights Protections	10 CFR 1040

Debarment and Suspension	2 CFR 180, 2 CFR 901
Drug-Free Workplace Act	41 USC 701, 10 CFR 607
Environmental Protections	42 USC 7401, 33 USC 1251, 42 USC 4321
False Claims Act	31 USC 3729, 18 USC 287, 18 USC 1001, 10 CFR 1013
Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act	P.L. 109-282, 2 CFR 170
Fly America Act	49 USC 40118
Hatch Act	5 USC 1501 et seq.
Human Research Subjects Protections	10 CFR 745
Lobbying Disclosure Act	2 USC 1601 et seq.
Lobbying Prohibitions	31 USC 1352, 10 CFR 601
Metric System use	EO 12770
Non-delinquency on Federal Debt	28 USC 3201
Prohibition on benefitting Members of Congress	41 USC 6306
Seat Belt Use	EO 13043
Terrorist Financing	EO 13224, 66 FR 49079
Text Messaging While Driving	EO 13513, 74 FR 51225
Trafficking in Persons	22 USC 7104, 2 CFR 175

## 2. Research and Related Other Project Information

### Note concerning question 4.a. and 4.b.

If any environmental impact, positive or negative, is anticipated, indicate “yes” in response to question 4.a., “potential impact – positive or negative - on the environment.” Disclosure of the impact should be provided in response to question 4.b. First indicate whether the impact is positive or negative and then identify the area of concern (e.g., air, water, exposure to radiation, etc.).

DOE understands the phrase in field 4.a., “potential impact ... *negative*” to apply if the work described in the application could potentially have any of the impacts listed in (1) through (5) of 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, Conditions that Are Integral Elements of the Classes of Action. (<https://www.ecfr.gov>)

Additionally, for actions which could have any other adverse impacts to the environment or have any possibility for adverse impacts to human health (e.g., use of human subjects, Biosafety Level 3-4 laboratory construction/operation, manufacture or use of certain nanoscale materials which are known to impact human health, or any activities involving transuranic or high level radioactive waste, or use of or exposure to any radioactive materials beyond de minimis levels), applicants should indicate a “negative” impact on the environment.

Lastly, if there would be 1) extraordinary circumstances (i.e., scientific or public controversy) related to the significance of environmental effects (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(2)), 2) if the work is connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3)), or 3) if the work is related to other nearby actions with the potential for cumulatively significant impacts (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3)), applicants should indicate a “negative” impact on the environment.

Complete questions 1 through 6 and attach files. The files must comply with the following instructions:

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT (FIELD 7 ON THE FORM)

The project summary/abstract is a summary of the proposed activity suitable for distribution to the public and sufficient to permit potential reviewers to identify conflicts of interest. It must be a self-contained document. Provide the name of the applicant, the project title, the project director/principal investigator(s) (PD/PI) and the PD/PI's institutional affiliation, any coinvestigators and their institutional affiliations, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, and the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes. A sample is provided below:

<p>A Really Great Idea</p> <p>A. Smith, Lead Institution (Principal Investigator) A. Brown, Institution 2 (Co-Investigator) A. Jones, Institution 3 (Co-Investigator)</p> <p>Text of abstract</p>
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The project summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left and right) with font not smaller than 11 point. To attach a Project Summary/Abstract, click "Add Attachment."

If an application is recommended for award, the project summary will be used in preparing a public abstract about the award. Award abstracts and titles form a Government document that describes the project and justifies the expenditure of Federal funds in light of the DOE and SC mission statements at <https://energy.gov/mission> and <https://science.energy.gov/about/>.

- Do not include any proprietary or sensitive business information.
- DOE may use the abstract may to prepare public reports about supported research.

DOE COVER PAGE

(PART OF PROJECT NARRATIVE ATTACHED TO FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

The application narrative should begin with a cover page that will not count toward the project narrative page limitation. The cover page must include the following items:

- The project title:
- Applicant/Institution:
- Street Address/City/State/Zip:
- Postal Address:
- Lead PI name, telephone number, email:
- Administrative Point of Contact name, telephone number, email:

- Funding Opportunity FOA Number: DE-FOA-0001868
- DOE/Office of Science: Biological and Environmental Research
- DOE/Office of Science Program Office Technical Contact: Prem C. Srivastava
- PAMS Preproposal tracking number:

**Important Instructions to the Sponsored Research Office of Submitting Institutions:** The DOE SC requires that you create one single PDF file that contains the DOE Cover Page, project narrative, biographical sketch, current and pending support, bibliography and references cited facilities and other resources, equipment, data management plan, and other attachments. This single PDF file must be attached in Field 8 on the Grants.gov form. Do not attach any of the items listed in this paragraph separately in any other field in Grants.gov. If you do, these additional attachments will not become part of the application in PAMS.

COVER PAGE SUPPLEMENT FOR COLLABORATIONS  
(PART OF PROJECT NARRATIVE ATTACHED TO FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

Collaborative applications submitted from different institutions must clearly indicate they are part of a collaborative project/group. Every partner institution must submit an application through its own sponsored research office. Each collaborative group can have only one lead institution. Each application within the collaborative group, including the narrative and all required appendices and attachments, must be identical with the following exceptions:

- Each application must contain a correct SF-424 (R&R) cover page for the submitting institution only.
- Each application must contain a unique budget corresponding to the expenditures for that application's submitting institution only.
- Each application must contain a unique budget justification corresponding to the expenditures for that application's submitting institution only.

Each application belonging to a collaborative group should have the same title in Block 11 of the SF 424 (R&R) form.

SC will use the multiple applications associated with a collaborative group to create one consolidated document for merit review that consists of the common, identical application materials combined with a set of detailed budgets from the partner institutions. It is very important that every application in the collaborative group be identical (including the title) with the exception of the budget and budget justification pages.

If the project is a collaboration, provide the following information on a separate page as a supplement to the cover page.

- List all collaborating institutions by name with each institution's PI on the same line.
- Indicate the lead PI who will be the point of contact and coordinator for the combined research activity.
- Provide a statement explaining the leadership structure of the collaboration.
- Include a description of each collaborating institution's facilities, equipment, and resources that will be made available to the collaborative group.

- If applicable, explain how students and junior researchers will be trained and mentored by the collaborators.
- Include a table modeled on the following chart providing summary budget information from all collaborating institutions. Provide the total costs of the budget request in each year for each institution and totals for all rows and columns.

	<b>Names</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Year 1 Budget</b>	<b>Year 2 Budget</b>	<b>Year 3 Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
Lead PI						
Co-PI						
Co-PI						
Co-PI						

Example budget table (\$ in thousands)

\* Note that collaborating applications must be submitted separately.

**PROJECT NARRATIVE (FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)**

The project narrative **must not exceed 12 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5” by 11” paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The font must not be smaller than 11 point. Merit reviewers will only consider the number of pages specified in the first sentence of this paragraph. This page limit does not apply to the Cover Page, Budget Page(s), Budget Justification, biographical material, publications and references, and appendices, each of which may have its own page limit.

Do not include any Uniform Resource Locators (URL’s)/Internet addresses that provide supplementary or additional information that constitutes a part of the application. Merit reviewers are not required to access Internet sites; however, Internet publications in a list of references will be treated identically to print publications. See Section VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. To attach a Project Narrative, click “Add Attachment.”

**Background/Introduction:** Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature.

**Proposed Research and Methods:** Identify the hypotheses to be tested (if any) and details of the methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical and computational research efforts.

**Timetable of Activities:** Timeline for all major activities including milestones and deliverables.

**Project Objectives:** This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.

The Project Narrative comprises the research plan for the project. It should contain enough background material in the Introduction, including review of the relevant literature, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the state of the science. The major part of the narrative should be devoted to a description and justification of the proposed project, including details of the method to be used. It should also include a timeline for the major activities of the proposed project, and should indicate which project personnel will be responsible for which activities. There should be no ambiguity about which personnel will perform particular parts of the project, and the time at which these activities will take place.

## INDIVIDUALS AND NON-DOMESTIC APPLICANTS

Individual applicants or applicants that are not domestic organizations should be advised that:

- Individual applicants are unlikely to possess the skills, abilities, and resources to successfully accomplish the objectives of this FOA. Individual applicants are encouraged to address this concern in their applications and to demonstrate how they will accomplish the objectives of this FOA.
- Non-domestic applicants are encouraged to include a detailed demonstration of how the applicant possesses skills, resources, and abilities that do not exist among potential domestic applicants.

**Do not attach any of the requested appendices described below as files for fields 9, 10, 11, and 12 in Grants.gov. Follow the below instructions to include the information as appendices in the single, bundled project narrative file.**

### APPENDIX 1: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide a biographical sketch for the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and each senior/key person listed in Section A on the R&R Budget form.

- Provide the biographical sketch information as an appendix to your project narrative.
- Do not attach a separate file.
- The biographical sketch appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.
- The biographical information (curriculum vitae) for each person must not exceed two (2) pages when printed on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 11 point and must include:

**Education and Training:** Undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral training, provide institution, major/area, degree and year.

**Research and Professional Experience:** Beginning with the current position list, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description.

**Publications:** Provide a list of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically. Patents, copyrights and software systems developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications.

**Synergistic Activities:** List no more than five (5) professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

**Identification of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Bias in Selection of Reviewers:** Provide the following information in this section:

- **Collaborators and Co-editors:** List in alphabetical order all persons, including their current organizational affiliation, who are, or who have been, collaborators or co-authors with you on a research project, book or book article, report, abstract, or paper during the 48 months preceding the submission of this application. For publications or collaborations with more than 10 authors or participants, only list those individuals in the core group with whom the Principal Investigator interacted on a regular basis while the research was being done. Also, list any individuals who are currently, or have been, co-editors with you on a special issue of a journal, compendium, or conference proceedings during the 24 months preceding the submission of this application. If there are no collaborators or co-editors to report, state "None."
- **Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors and Advisees:** List the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate advisor(s) and principal postdoctoral sponsor(s). Also, list the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

**Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Do not include sensitive and protected personally identifiable information including social security numbers, birthdates, citizenship, marital status, or home addresses. Do not include information that a merit reviewer should not make use of.

#### APPENDIX 2: CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT

Provide a list of all current and pending support (both Federal and non-Federal) for the Project Director/Principal Investigator(s) (PD/PI) and senior/key persons, including subawardees, for ongoing projects and pending applications. List all sponsored activities or awards requiring a measurable commitment of effort, whether paid or unpaid.

For every activity, list the following items:

- The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding
- The award or other identifying number
- The title of the award or activity
- The total cost or value of the award or activity, including direct and indirect costs. For pending proposals, provide the total amount of requested funding.
- The person-months of effort per year being dedicated to the award or activity

Provide the Current and Pending Support as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Concurrent submission of an application to other organizations for simultaneous consideration will not prejudice its review.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.

### APPENDIX 3: BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES CITED

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. For research areas where there are routinely more than ten coauthors of archival publications, you may use an abbreviated style such as the Physical Review Letters (PRL) convention for citations (listing only the first author). For example, your paper may be listed as, “A Really Important New Result,” A. Aardvark et. al. (MONGO Collaboration), PRL 999. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. Provide the Bibliography and References Cited information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.

### APPENDIX 4: FACILITIES & OTHER RESOURCES

This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources, including subawardee resources, available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used (Laboratory, Animal, Computer, Office, Clinical and Other). If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Describe other resources available to the project (e.g., machine shop, electronic shop) and the extent to which they would be available to the project. For proposed investigations requiring access to experimental user facilities maintained by institutions other than the applicant, please provide a document from the facility manager confirming that the researchers will have access to the facility. Please provide the Facility and Other Resource information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.

### APPENDIX 5: EQUIPMENT

List major items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate identify location and pertinent capabilities. Provide the Equipment information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.

### APPENDIX 6: DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) that addresses the following requirements:

1. DMP's should describe whether and how data generated in the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved. If the plan is not to share and/or preserve certain data,

then the plan must explain the basis of the decision (for example, cost/benefit considerations, other parameters of feasibility, scientific appropriateness, or limitations discussed in #4). At a minimum, DMP's must describe how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of results, or how results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved.

2. DMP's should provide a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed research open, machine-readable, and digitally accessible to the public at the time of publication. This includes data that are displayed in charts, figures, images, etc. In addition, the underlying digital research data used to generate the displayed data should be made as accessible as possible to the public in accordance with the principles stated in the Office of Science Statement on Digital Data Management (<https://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management>). This requirement could be met by including the data as supplementary information to the published article, or through other means. The published article should indicate how these data can be accessed.
3. DMP's should consult and reference available information about data management resources to be used in the course of the proposed research. In particular, DMP's that explicitly or implicitly commit data management resources at a facility beyond what is conventionally made available to approved users should be accompanied by written approval from that facility. In determining the resources available for data management at SC User Facilities, researchers should consult the published description of data management resources and practices at that facility and reference it in the DMP. Information about other Office of Science facilities can be found in the additional guidance from the sponsoring program.
4. DMP's must protect confidentiality, personal privacy, Personally Identifiable Information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness; and otherwise be consistent with all applicable laws, and regulations. There is no requirement to share proprietary data.

DMP's will be reviewed as part of the overall SC research proposal merit review process. Applicants are encouraged to consult the SC website for further information and suggestions for how to structure a DMP: <https://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management>

- This appendix should not exceed three (3) pages including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right)
- Do not attach a separate file.
- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.

#### APPENDIX 7: OTHER ATTACHMENT

If you need to elaborate on your responses to questions 1-6 on the "Other Project Information" document, please provide the Other Attachment information as an appendix to your project narrative. Information not easily accessible to a reviewer may be included in this appendix, but do not use this appendix to circumvent the page limitations of the application. Reviewers are not required to consider information in this Appendix.

- Do not attach a separate file.

- This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.
- **Do not attach any of the requested appendices described above as files for fields 9, 10, 11, and 12.**
- **Follow the above instructions to include the information as appendices to the project narrative file.**
- **These appendices will not count toward the project narrative’s page limitation.**
- **Do not attach any files to fields 9, 10, 11, or 12.**

### 3. Research and Related Budget

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form (Activate Help Mode to see instructions) and the following instructions. You must complete a separate budget for each year of support requested. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this FOA (See Section IV, Part G).

The following advice will improve the accuracy of your budget request:

- Funds requested for personnel (senior, key, and other) must be justified as the product of their effort on the project and their institutional base salary.
- Funds requested for fringe benefits must be calculated as the product of the requested salary and, if present, the negotiated fringe benefit rate contained in an institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.
- Funds requested for indirect costs must be calculated using the correct indirect cost base and the negotiated indirect cost rate.
- You are encouraged to include the rate agreement used in preparing a budget as a part of the budget justification.

#### Budget Fields

Section A Senior/Key Person	For each Senior/Key Person, enter the requested information. List personnel, base salary, the number of months that person will be allocated to the project, requested salary, fringe benefits, and the total funds requested for each person. The requested salary must be the product of the base salary and the effort. Include a written narrative in the budget justification that justifies the need for requested personnel.
Section B Other Personnel	List personnel, the number of months that person will be allocated to the project, requested salary fringe benefits, and the total funds requested for each person. Include a written narrative in the budget justification that fully justifies the need for requested personnel.
Section C	For the purpose of this budget, equipment is designated as an item of

Equipment	property that has an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more and an expected service life of more than one year. (Note that this designation applies for proposal budgeting only and differs from the DOE definition of capital equipment.) List <b>each</b> item of equipment separately and justify each in the budget justification section. Do not aggregate items of equipment. Allowable items ordinarily will be limited to research equipment and apparatus not already available for the conduct of the work. General-purpose office equipment is not eligible for support unless primarily or exclusively used in the actual conduct of scientific research.
Section D Travel	For purposes of this section only, travel to Canada or to Mexico is considered domestic travel. In the budget justification, list each trip's destination, dates, estimated costs including transportation and subsistence, number of staff traveling, the purpose of the travel, and how it relates to the project. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). To qualify for support, attendance at meetings or conferences must enhance the investigator's capability to perform the research, plan extensions of it, or disseminate its results. Domestic travel is to be justified separately from foreign travel.
Section E Participant/Trainee Support Costs	If applicable, submit training support costs. Educational projects that intend to support trainees (precollege, college, graduate and post graduate) must list each trainee cost that includes stipend levels and amounts, cost of tuition for each trainee, cost of any travel (provide the same information as needed under the regular travel category), and costs for any related training expenses. Participant costs are those costs associated with conferences, workshops, symposia or institutes and breakout items should indicate the number of participants, cost for each participant, purpose of the conference, dates and places of meetings and any related administrative expenses. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).
Section F Other Direct Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Materials and Supplies:</b> Enter total funds requested for materials and supplies in the appropriate fields. In the budget justification, indicate general categories such as glassware, and chemicals, including an amount for each category (items not identified under "Equipment"). Categories less than \$1,000 are not required to be itemized. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).</li> <li>• <b>Publication Costs:</b> Enter the total publication funds requested. The proposal budget may request funds for the costs of documenting, preparing, publishing or otherwise making available to others the findings and products of the work conducted under the award. In the budget justification, include supporting information. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate</li> </ul>

	<p>(quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultant Services:</b> Enter total funds requested for all consultant services. In the budget justification, identify each consultant, the services he/she will perform, total number of days, travel costs, and total estimated costs. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).</li> <li>• <b>ADP/Computer Services:</b> Enter total funds requested for ADP/Computer Services. The cost of computer services, including computer-based retrieval of scientific, technical and education information may be requested. In the budget justification, include the established computer service rates at the proposing organization if applicable. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).</li> <li>• <b>Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs:</b> Enter total costs for all subawards/consortium organizations and other contractual costs proposed for the project. In the budget justification, justify the details.</li> <li>• <b>Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees:</b> Enter total funds requested for Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees. In the budget justification, identify each rental/user fee and justify. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).</li> <li>• <b>Alterations and Renovations:</b> Enter total funds requested for Alterations and Renovations. In the budget justification, itemize by category and justify the costs of alterations and renovations, including repairs, painting, removal or installation of partitions, shielding, or air conditioning. Where applicable, provide the square footage and costs.</li> <li>• <b>Other:</b> Add text to describe any other Direct Costs not requested above. Enter costs associated with “Other” item(s). Use the budget justification to further itemize and justify.</li> </ul>
Section G Direct Costs	This represents Total Direct Costs (Sections A through F).
Section H Other Indirect Costs	Enter the Indirect Cost information for each field. Only four general categories of indirect costs are allowed/requested on this form, so please consolidate if needed. Include the cognizant Federal agency and contact information if using a negotiated rate agreement.
Section I Total Direct and Indirect Costs	This is the total of Sections G and H.

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (FIELD K ON THE FORM)

Provide the required supporting information for the following costs (See R&R Budget instructions): equipment; domestic and foreign travel; participant/trainees; materials and supplies; publication; consultant services; ADP/computer services; subaward/consortium/contractual; equipment or facility rental/user fees; alterations and renovations; and indirect cost type. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request. **Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in field K.** The file automatically carries over to each budget year.

You may wish to include the indirect cost rate agreement as a part of the budget justification.

### 4. R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form

**Budgets for Subawardees, other than DOE FFRDC Contractors:** You must provide a separate R&R budget for each subawardee. Download the R&R Budget Attachment from the R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM and e-mail it to each subawardee that is required to submit a separate budget. After the subawardee has e-mailed its completed budget back to you, attach it to one of the blocks provided on the form. Use up to 10 letters of the subawardee's name (plus.pdf) as the file name (e.g., ucla.pdf or energyres.pdf). Filenames should not exceed 50 characters.

If the project involves more subawardees than there are places in the SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM, the additional subaward budgets may be saved as PDF files and appended to the Budget Justification attached to Field K.

Applicants should consult their local Information Technology ("IT") support resources for any necessary assistance in converting the Adobe XML forms downloaded from Grants.gov into plain PDF files that can be combined into one non-Portfolio PDF file (the Budget Justification).

Ensure that any files received from subawardees are the PDF files extracted from the SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM. Errors will be created if a subawardee sends a prime applicant a budget form that was not extracted from the application package.

### 5. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Indicate the primary site where the work will be performed. If a portion of the project will be performed at any other site(s), identify the site location(s) in the blocks provided.

Note that the Project/Performance Site Congressional District is entered in the format of the 2-digit state code followed by a dash and a 3-digit Congressional district code; for example VA-001. Hover over this field for additional instructions.

Use the Next Site button to expand the form to add additional Project/Performance Site Locations.

## 6. Summary of Required Forms/Files

Your application must include the following items:

<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Attach to</b>
<b>SF 424 (R&amp;R)</b>	Form	N/A
<b>RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information</b>	Form	N/A
Project Summary/Abstract	PDF	Field 7
Project Narrative, including required appendices	PDF	Field 8
<b>RESEARCH &amp; RELATED BUDGET</b>	Form	N/A
Budget Justification	PDF	Field K
<b>PROJECT/PERFORMANCE SITE LOCATION(S)</b>	Form	N/A
<b>SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable</b>	Form	N/A

## E. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If selected for award, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to:

- Indirect cost information
- Other budget information
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5)
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable
- Commitment Letter from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing, if applicable
- Environmental Information

## F. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

### 1. Letter of Intent Due Date

A Letter of Intent is not required.

### 2. Pre-application Due Date

January 19, 2018, 5:00 pm Eastern Time

(A pre-application is required)

You are encouraged to submit your pre-application well before the deadline.

### 3. Application Due Date

March 16, 2018, 11:59 pm Eastern Time

You are encouraged to transmit your application well before the deadline.

#### **4. Late Submissions**

Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for award unless it can be shown that an extreme, unpredictable, and unavoidable event prevents timely submission.

Delays in submitting letters of intent, pre-applications, and applications may be unavoidable. DOE has accepted late submissions when applicants have been unable to make timely submissions because of widespread technological disruptions or significant natural disasters. DOE has made accommodations for incapacitating or life-threatening illnesses and for deaths of immediate family members. Other circumstances may or may not justify late submissions. Unacceptable justifications include the following:

- Failure to begin submission process early enough.
- Failure to provide sufficient time to complete the process.
- Failure to understand the submission process.
- Failure to understand the deadlines for submissions.
- Failure to satisfy prerequisite registrations.
- Unavailability of administrative personnel.
- An upper respiratory infection (a “cold”) the week of the deadline.

You are responsible for beginning the submission process in sufficient time to accommodate reasonably foreseeable incidents, contingencies, and disruptions.

Applicants must contact the DOE Program Office/Manager listed in this FOA to discuss the option of a late submission. Contacting the DOE Program Office/Manager after the deadline may reduce the likelihood that a request will be granted.

DOE notes that not all requests for late submission will be approved.

#### **G. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW**

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

#### **H. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS**

Funding for all awards and future budget periods are contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority.

**Cost Principles:** Costs must be allowable, allocable and reasonable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation).

**Pre-award Costs:** Recipients may charge to an award resulting from this FOA pre-award costs that were incurred within the ninety (90) calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award, if the costs are allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation). Recipients must obtain the prior approval of the DOE Contracting Officer for any pre-award costs that are for periods greater than this 90-day calendar period.

Pre-award costs are incurred solely at the applicant's risk. DOE is under no obligation to reimburse such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive an award or if the award is made for a lesser amount than the applicant expected.

## **I. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Systems to Register In**

Applicants must complete a series of registrations and enrollments to submit applications in response to this FOA. Applicants not currently registered with SAM and Grants.gov should allow **at least four (4) weeks** to complete these requirements.

You should start the process as soon as possible.

You may not be able to use your preferred Internet browser: Each system has its own requirements.

Applicants must obtain a DUNS number at <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

Applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/>. If you had an active registration in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), you should have an active registration in SAM. More information about SAM registration for applicants is found at [https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick\\_Guide\\_for\\_Grants\\_Registrations.pdf](https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations.pdf). SAM maintains a complete user guide at [https://www.sam.gov/sam/SAM\\_Guide/SAM\\_User\\_Guide.htm](https://www.sam.gov/sam/SAM_Guide/SAM_User_Guide.htm).

Applicants must provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to complete their registration in SAM.gov. An applicant's TIN is an Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In limited circumstances, a Social Security Number (SSN) assigned by the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be used as a TIN. You may obtain an EIN from the IRS at <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

DOE discourages the use of a SSN as a TIN. You are encouraged to obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using the website listed above.
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Applicants must register with FedConnect at [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net). The full, binding version of assistance agreements will be posted to FedConnect.

Recipients must register with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System at <https://www.fsr.gov>. This registration must be completed before an award may be made: you are advised to register while preparing your application.

## **2. Registering in Grants.gov**

Applicants must register with Grants.gov.

For organizations, please follow the procedures detailed below:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

For individuals, please follow the procedures detailed below:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/individual-registration.html>

## **3. Where to Submit an Application**

Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov to be considered for award.

Applicants must download the application package, application forms and instructions, from Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/> (Additional instructions are provided in Section IV, Part A of this FOA.)

Submit electronic applications through the “Apply for Grants” function at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). If you have problems completing the registration process or submitting your application, call grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or send an email to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Please ensure that you have read the applicable instructions, guides, help notices, frequently asked questions, and other forms of technical support on Grants.gov.

## **4. DOE Office of Science Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS)**

After you submit your application through grants.gov, the application will automatically transfer into the Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) for processing by the DOE Office of Science. Many functions for grants and cooperative agreements can be done in PAMS, which is available at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>.

You will want to “register to” your application: a process of linking yourself to the application after it has been submitted through grants.gov and processed by DOE.

You must register in PAMS to submit a pre-application or a letter of intent.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Notifications sent from the PAMS system will come from the PAMS email address <[PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov](mailto:PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov)>. Please make sure your email server/software allows

delivery of emails from the PAMS email address to yours.

Registering to PAMS is a two-step process; once you create an individual account, you must associate yourself with (“register to”) your institution. Detailed steps are listed below.

#### 1. CREATE PAMS ACCOUNT:

To register, click the “Create New PAMS Account” link on the website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>.

- Click the “No, I have never had an account” link and then the “Create Account” button.
- You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the “Save and Continue” button.
- On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the “Create Account” button.
- Read the user agreement and click the “Accept” button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.
- PAMS will take you to the “Having Trouble Logging In?” page. (If you have been an Office of Science merit reviewer or if you have previously submitted an application, you may already be linked to an institution in PAMS. If this happens, you will be taken to the PAMS home page.)

#### 2. REGISTER TO YOUR INSTITUTION:

- Click the link labeled “Option 2: I know my institution and I am here to register to the institution.” (Note: If you previously created a PAMS account but did not register to an institution at that time, you must click the Institutions tab and click the “Register to Institution” link.)
- PAMS will take you to the “Register to Institution” page.
- Type a word or phrase from your institution name in the field labeled, “Institution Name like,” choose the radio button next to the item that best describes your role in the system, and click the “Search” button. A “like” search in PAMS returns results that contain the word or phrase you enter; you do not need to enter the exact name of the institution, but you should enter a word or phrase contained within the institution name. (If your institution has a frequently used acronym, such as ANL for Argonne National Laboratory or UCLA for the Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, you may find it easiest to search for the acronym under “Institution Name like.” Many institutions with acronyms are listed in PAMS with their acronyms in parentheses after their names.)
- Find your institution in the list that is returned by the search and click the “Actions” link in the Options column next to the institution name to obtain a dropdown list. Select “Add me to this institution” from the dropdown. PAMS will take you to the “Institutions – List” page.
- If you do not see your institution in the initial search results, you can search again by clicking the “Cancel” button, clicking the Option 2 link, and repeating the search.

- If, after searching, you think your institution is not currently in the database, click the “Cannot Find My Institution” button and enter the requested institution information into PAMS. Click the “Create Institution” button. PAMS will add the institution to the system, associate your profile with the new institution, and return you to the “Institutions – List” page when you are finished.

For help with PAMS, click the “External User Guide” link on the PAMS website, <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, from 9AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, email: [sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov](mailto:sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov). All submission and inquiries about this FOA should reference DE-FOA-0001868.

## 5. Viewing Submitted Applications

Each Grants.gov application submitted to the DOE SC automatically transfers into PAMS and is subsequently assigned to a DOE Program Manager. At the time of the DOE Program Manager assignment, the three people listed on the SF-424 (R&R) cover page will receive an email with the subject line, “Receipt of Proposal 0000xxxxxx by the DOE Office of Science.” These three people are the Principal Investigator (Block 14), Authorized Representative (Block 19), and Point of Contact (Block 5). In PAMS notation, applications are known as proposals, the Principal Investigator is known as the PI, the Authorized Representative is known as the Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer (SRO/BO/AO), and the Point of Contact is known as the POC.

There will be a period of time between the application’s receipt at grants.gov and its assignment to a DOE SC Program Manager. Program Managers are typically assigned two weeks after applications are due at grants.gov: please refrain from attempting to view the proposal in PAMS until you receive an email providing the assignment of a DOE Program Manager.

Once the email is sent, the PI, SRO/BO/PO, and POC will each be able to view the submitted proposal in PAMS. Viewing the proposal is optional.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Following are two sets of instructions for viewing the submitted proposal, one for individuals who already have PAMS accounts and one for those who do not.

If you already have a PAMS account, follow these instructions:

1. Log in to PAMS at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>.
2. Click the “Proposals” tab and click “Access Previously Submitted Grants.gov Proposal.”
3. Enter the following information:
  - Proposal ID: Enter the ten-digit PAMS proposal ID, including the leading zeros (e.g., 00002xxxxx). Do not use the Grants.gov proposal number. Use the PAMS number previously sent to you in the email with subject line, “Receipt of Proposal ...”.
  - Email (as entered in Grants.gov application): Enter your email address as it appears on

the SF424(R&R) Cover Page.

- Choose Role: Select the radio button in front of the role corresponding to the SF 424 (R&R) cover page. If your name appears in block 19 of the SF 424 (R&R) cover page as the authorizing representative, select “SRO/BO/AO (Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer).” If your name appears in block 14 of the SF 424 R&R cover page as the PI, select “Principal Investigator (PI).” If your name appears in block 5 of the SF 424 R&R as the point of contact, select “Other (POC).”
4. Click the “Save and Continue” button. You will be taken to your “My Proposals” page. The Grants.gov proposal will now appear in your list of proposals. Click the “Actions/Views” link in the options column next to this proposal to obtain a dropdown list. Select “Proposal” from the dropdown to see the proposal. Note that the steps above will work only for proposals submitted to the DOE SC since May 2012.

If you do not already have a PAMS account, follow these instructions:

1. To register, click the “Create New PAMS Account” link on the website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>.
2. Click the “No, I have never had an account” link and then the “Create Account” button.
3. You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the “Save and Continue” button.
4. On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the “Create Account” button.
5. Read the user agreement and click the “Accept” button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.
6. You will be taken to the Register to Institution page. Select the link labeled, “Option 1: My institution has submitted a proposal in Grants.gov. I am here to register as an SRO, PI, or POC (Sponsored Research Officer, Principal Investigator, or Point of Contact).”
7. Enter the following information:
  - Proposal ID: Enter the ten-digit PAMS proposal ID, including the leading zeros (e.g., 00002xxxxx). Do not use the grants.gov proposal number. Use the PAMS number previously sent to you in the email with subject line, “Receipt of Proposal ...”.
  - Email (as entered in grants.gov proposal): Enter your email address as it appears on the SF 424 (R&R) Cover Page.
  - Choose Role: Select the radio button in front of the role corresponding to the SF 424 (R&R) cover page. If your name appears in block 19 of the SF 424 (R&R) cover page as the authorizing representative, select “SRO/BO/AO (Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer).” If your name appears in block 14 of the SF 424 (R&R) cover page as the PI, select “Principal Investigator (PI).” If your name appears in block 5 of the SF 424 (R&R) as the point of contact, select “Other (POC).”
8. Click the “Save and Continue” button. You will be taken to your “My Proposals” page. The grants.gov proposal will now appear in your list of proposals. Click the “Actions/Views” link in the options column next to this proposal to obtain a dropdown list. Select “Proposal” from the dropdown to see the proposal.

If you were listed as the PI on a prior submission but you have not previously created an account, you may already be listed in PAMS. If this is the case, you will be taken to the PAMS home page after agreeing to the Rules of Behavior. If that happens, follow the instructions listed above under “If you already have a PAMS account...” to access your Grants.gov proposal.

The steps above will work only for proposals submitted to the DOE SC since May 2012.

For help with PAMS, click the “External User Guide” link on the PAMS website, <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, from 9 AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, Email: [sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov](mailto:sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov). All submission and inquiries about this FOA should reference **DE-FOA-0001868**.

## **Section V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **A. CRITERIA**

#### **1. Initial Review Criteria**

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review in accordance with 10 CFR 605.10(b) to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for the award; (2) the information required by the FOA has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement, and (5) the proposed project is not duplicative of programmatic work. Applications that fail to pass the initial review will not be forwarded for merit review and will be eliminated from further consideration.

#### **2. Merit Review Criteria**

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria, listed in descending order of importance as found in 10 CFR 605.10 (d), the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule.

- Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
- Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
- Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
- Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

Note that external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Both Federal and non-Federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

The questions below are provided to the merit reviewers to elaborate the criteria established by regulation:

#### **SCIENTIFIC AND/OR TECHNICAL MERIT OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH**

- What is the scientific innovation of proposed research?
- What is the likelihood of achieving valuable results?
- How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
- How does the proposed work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?
- Is the Data Management Plan (DMP) suitable for the proposed research and to what extent does it support the validation of research results?

#### APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED METHOD OR APPROACH

- How logical and feasible are the research approaches?
- Does the proposed research employ innovative concepts or methods?
- Are the conceptual framework, methods, and analyses well justified, adequately developed, and likely to lead to scientifically valid conclusions?
- Does the applicant recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?

#### COMPETENCY OF APPLICANT'S PERSONNEL AND ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED RESOURCES

- What is the past performance and potential of the Principal Investigator (PI)?
- How well qualified is the research team to carry out the proposed research?
- Are the research environment and facilities adequate for performing the research?
- Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?

#### REASONABLENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET

- Are the proposed budget and staffing levels adequate to carry out the proposed research?
- Is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the scope?

### **B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

#### **1. Merit Review**

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a formal merit review and will be evaluated based on the criteria codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d) in accordance with the guidance provided in the "Office of Science Merit Review System for Financial Assistance," which is available at: <https://science.energy.gov/grants/policy-and-guidance/merit-review-system/>.

#### **2. Program Policy Factors**

The Selection Official may consider any of the following program policy factors in making the selection, listed in no order of significance:

- Availability of funds
- Relevance of the proposed activity to SC priorities
- Ensuring an appropriate balance of activities within SC programs
- Fostering the development of a diverse cadre of supported researchers
- Probability of success and risk-reward balance
- Performance under current awards

#### **3. Selection**

The Selection Official will consider the findings of the merit review and may consider any of the Program Policy Factors described above.

#### **4. Review of Risk**

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.205, DOE will conduct an additional review of the risk posed by applications submitted under this FOA. Such review of risk will include:

- Technical merit of the application,
- Reports and findings from audits performed under 2 CFR 200 or OMB Circular A-133, and
- Systems maintained under 2 CFR 180.

DOE may make use of other publicly available information and the history of an applicant's performance under DOE or other Federal agency awards.

Applicants with no prior performance of DOE awards may be asked to provide information about their financial stability and or their ability to comply with the management standards of 2 CFR 200.

#### **REPORTING OF MATTERS RELATED TO RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 2015)**

DOE, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313); The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM; DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

#### **5. Discussions and Award**

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to the following: (1) the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirement; (2) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (3) the Government needs additional information to determine that the recipient is capable of complying with the requirements in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation); and/or (4) special terms and conditions are required. Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

### **C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES**

It is anticipated that the award selection will be completed by June 2018. It is expected that awards will be made in Fiscal Year 2018.

DOE is interested in seeing projects supported under this FOA begin work by September 1, 2018.

## **Section VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. AWARD NOTICES**

#### **1. Notice of Selection**

**Selected Applicants Notification:** DOE will notify applicants selected for award. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance. (See Section IV, Part G. with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

**Non-selected Notification:** Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected.

#### **2. Notice of Award**

An Assistance Agreement issued by the Contracting Officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes, either as an attachment or by reference, the following items: (1) Special Terms and Conditions; (2) Applicable program regulations, if any; (3) Application as approved by DOE; (4) 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation); (5) National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms; (6) Budget Summary; and (7) Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

For Grants and Cooperative Agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to Title 2 CFR, research awards made under this funding opportunity will be subject to the Government-Wide Research Terms and Conditions published at [https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/rtrtcoverlay\\_march17.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/rtrtcoverlay_march17.pdf) and the DOE Agency Specific Standard Research Terms and Conditions published at [https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/rtrtcoverlay\\_march17.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/rtrtcoverlay_march17.pdf). These Terms and Conditions will be incorporated in the award by reference.

### **B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. Administrative Requirements**

The administrative requirements for DOE Grants and Cooperative Agreements are contained in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation).

#### **NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS REPRESENTATIONS (JUNE 2015)**

In submitting an application in response to this FOA the Applicant represents that:

- (1) It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contractors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.
- (2) It **does not and will not** use any Federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure

and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

a. *“These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”*

b. The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

c. Notwithstanding provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States Government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Additional administrative requirements for DOE Grants and Cooperative Agreements are contained in 2 CFR 25 (See: <https://www.ecfr.gov>). Prime awardees must keep their data at the System for Award Management (SAM) current at <https://www.sam.gov>. SAM is the government-wide system that replaced the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). If you had an active registration in the CCR, you have an active registration in SAM. Subawardees at all tiers must obtain DUNS numbers and provide the DUNS to the prime awardee before the subaward can be issued.

## SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE REPORTING

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE Grants and Cooperative Agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR 170. (See: <https://www.ecfr.gov> ). Prime awardees must register with the new FSRS database and report the required data on their first tier subawardees. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in the System for Award Management (SAM).

## PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY

By accepting funds under this award, you agree that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 USC 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

## 2. Terms and Conditions

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms> under Award Terms.

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to various types of recipients are located at: <https://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>

## 3. National Policy Assurances

The National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms are located at <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms> under Award Terms.

## 4. Additional Conditions

### CONFERENCE SPENDING (FEBRUARY 2015)

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the United States Government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States Government would otherwise exceed \$20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

### CORPORATE FELONY CONVICTION AND FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY REPRESENTATIONS (MARCH 2014)

In submitting an application in response to this FOA the Applicant represents that:

- It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months,
- It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that

is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations the following definitions apply:

- A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

#### PUBLICATIONS

The recipient is expected to publish or otherwise make publicly available the results of the work conducted under any award resulting from this FOA. Publications and other methods of public communication describing any work based on or developed under an award resulting from this FOA must contain an acknowledgment of DOE SC support. The format for such acknowledgments is provided at <https://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/acknowledgements/>. The author's copy of any peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for funding must be announced to DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information and made publicly available in accordance with the instructions contained in the Reporting Requirements Checklist incorporated in all Assistance Agreements.

#### **C. REPORTING**

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement. The checklist is available at <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms> under Award Forms.

## Section VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

### A. QUESTIONS

Questions relating to the Grants.gov registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). DOE cannot answer these questions.

Please only contact the Grants.gov help desk for questions related to Grants.gov.

For help with PAMS, click the “External User Guide” link on the PAMS website, <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, from 9AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, Email: [sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov](mailto:sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov). All submission and inquiries about this FOA should reference **DE-FOA-0001868**.

Please contact the PAMS help desk for technological issues with the PAMS system.

Questions regarding the specific program areas and technical requirements may be directed to the technical contacts listed for each program within the FOA or below.

Please contact the program staff with all questions not directly related to the grants.gov or PAMS systems.

### B. AGENCY CONTACTS

Grants.gov Customer Support	800-518-4726 (toll-free) <a href="mailto:support@grants.gov">support@grants.gov</a>
PAMS Customer Support	855-818-1846 (toll-free) 301-903-9610 <a href="mailto:sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov">sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov</a>
Program Manager Scientific Contact	<b>Program Manager:</b> Dr. Prem C. Srivastava U. S. Department of Energy Biological and Environmental Research <b>Phone:</b> 301-903-4071 <b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:prem.srivastava@science.doe.gov">prem.srivastava@science.doe.gov</a>

## **Section VIII - OTHER INFORMATION**

### **A. MODIFICATIONS**

Notices of any modifications to this FOA will be posted on grants.gov and the FedConnect portal. You can receive an email when a modification or an FOA message is posted by registering with FedConnect as an interested party for this FOA. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any modifications or other FOAs. More information is available at <https://www.fedconnect.net>.

### **B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE**

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this FOA and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

### **C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

(a) A DOE Financial Assistance award is valid only if it is in writing and is signed, either in writing or electronically, by a DOE Contracting Officer.

(b) Recipients are free to accept or reject the award. A request to draw down DOE funds constitutes the Recipient's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Award.

### **D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

“The data contained in pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government’s right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant.”

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

“The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

## **E. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION BY NON-FEDERAL PERSONNEL**

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel as reviewers. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest agreement prior to reviewing an application. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

## **F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM**

**Patent Rights:** The Government will have certain statutory rights in an invention that is conceived or first actually reduced to practice under a DOE award. 42 USC 5908 provides that title to such inventions vests in the United States, except where 35 USC 202 provides otherwise for nonprofit organizations or small business firms. However, the Secretary of Energy may waive all or any part of the rights of the United States subject to certain conditions. (See “Notice of Right to Request Patent Waiver” in paragraph G below.)

**Rights in Technical Data:** Normally, the government has unlimited rights in technical data created under a DOE agreement. Delivery or third party licensing of proprietary software or data developed solely at private expense will not normally be required except as specifically negotiated in a particular agreement to satisfy DOE’s own needs or to insure the commercialization of technology developed under a DOE agreement.

## **G. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER**

Applicants may request a waiver of all or any part of the rights of the United States in inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of an agreement as a result of this FOA, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if such advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver of the rights of the United States in identified inventions, i.e., individual inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of the award. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784. For more information, see <https://energy.gov/gc/services/technology-transfer-and-procurement/office-assistant-general-counsel-technology-transf-1>

Domestic small businesses and domestic nonprofit organizations will receive the patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14, i.e., the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. This clause permits domestic small business and domestic nonprofit organizations to retain title to subject inventions. Therefore, small businesses and nonprofit organizations do not need to request a waiver.

## **H. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

Eligible activities under this program include those, which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those,

which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

#### **I. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

Funds are not presently available for this award. The Government's obligation under this award is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for award purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise until funds are made available to the DOE Contracting Officer for this award and until the awardee receives notice of such availability, to be confirmed in writing by the DOE Contracting Officer.

#### **J. ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY AND HEALTH (ES&H) PERFORMANCE OF WORK AT DOE FACILITIES**

With respect to the performance of any portion of the work under this award, which is performed at a DOE-owned or controlled site, the recipient agrees to comply with all state and Federal ES&H regulations, and with all other ES&H requirements of the operator of such site. The recipient shall apply this provision to all subawardees at any tier.

#### **K. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS**

With respect to the performance of any portion of the work under this award, the recipient agrees to comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal ES&H regulations. The recipient shall apply this provision to all sub awardees at any tier.

#### **L. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) COMPLIANCE**

If question 4.a. on the "Research and Related Other Project Information" document indicates "potential impact on the environment", or if DOE's own review indicates it, DOE may ask the applicant to provide additional information on those impacts in order to prepare an environmental critique/synopsis per 10 CFR 1021.216. Note that this pre-award environmental critique/synopsis process would be separate from the preparation of a NEPA document such as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA). If DOE determines the latter documentation is necessary, this process would need to be completed, funded by and with the participation of the awardee, prior to them taking any action on the proposed project that could have adverse environmental effects or that could limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. The inability to satisfy the NEPA requirements after an award would result in cancellation of the award. Note that in most cases, even where potential impact on the environment exists, preparation of such NEPA documents is rarely necessary, but DOE has the expectation that the Applicant will disclose the potential, which would serve to initiate dialog with DOE if necessary. Should the applicant have any uncertainty, they should check "yes."

## Section IX - APPENDICES/REFERENCE MATERIAL

### Glossary of Useful Grants and Cooperative Agreement terms

<b>Acquisition cost</b>	<i>Acquisition cost</i> means the cost of the asset including the cost to ready the asset for its intended use. Acquisition cost for equipment, for example, means the net invoice price of the equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Acquisition costs for software includes those development costs capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in transit insurance, freight, and installation may be included in or excluded from the acquisition cost in accordance with the non-Federal entity's regular accounting practices.
<b>Administrative requirements</b>	<i>Administrative requirements</i> means the general business management practices that are common to the administration of all grants, such as financial accountability, reporting, equipment management, and retention of records.
<b>Advance payment</b>	<i>Advance payment</i> means a payment that a Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity makes by any appropriate payment mechanism, including a predetermined payment schedule, before the non-Federal entity disburses the funds for program purposes.
<b>Allocation</b>	<i>Allocation</i> means the process of assigning a cost, or a group of costs, to one or more cost objective(s), in reasonable proportion to the benefit provided or other equitable relationship. The process may entail assigning a cost(s) directly to a final cost objective or through one or more intermediate cost objectives.
<b>Allocability</b>	<i>Allocability</i> means the principle, which requires that an expense or service charged must directly benefit and be necessary for the performance of the project; when multiple projects are benefited reasonable proportions must be able to be assigned.
<b>Allowable cost</b>	<i>Allowable cost</i> means a cost incurred by a recipient that is: (1) reasonable for the performance of the award; (2) allocable; (3) in conformance with any limitations or exclusions set forth in the Federal cost principles applicable to the organization incurring the cost or in the award documents as to the type or amount of cost; (4) consistent with regulations, policies, and procedures of the recipient that are applied uniformly to both federally supported and other activities of the organization; (5) accorded consistent treatment as a direct or indirect cost; (6) determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; and (7) not included as a cost in any other federally supported award (unless specifically authorized by statute).
<b>Application</b>	<i>Application</i> means a request for financial support of a project or activity submitted to DOE on specified forms and in accordance with DOE instructions. Also known as a proposal
<b>Appropriation Act</b>	<i>Appropriation act</i> means the statute that provides the authority for Federal agencies to incur obligations to and make payments out of the U.S. treasury for specified purposes.
<b>Approved budget</b>	<i>Approved budget</i> means the financial expenditure plan for the grant-supported project or activity, including revisions approved by DOE and permissible revisions made by the grantee. The approved budget consists of Federal (grant) funds and, if required by the terms and conditions of the award, non-Federal participation in the form of matching or cost sharing. The approved budget specified in the award documents may be shown in detailed budget categories or as total costs without a categorical breakout. Expenditures charged to an approved budget that consists of both Federal and non-Federal shares are deemed to be borne by the grantee in the same proportion as the percentage of

	Federal/non-Federal participation in the overall budget.
<b>Assurance</b>	<i>Assurance</i> means a certification by an applicant, normally included with the application or State plan, indicating that the entity is in compliance with, or that it will abide by, a particular requirement if awarded a Federal grant.
<b>Authorized organizational representative</b>	<i>Authorized organizational representative</i> means the individual, named by the applicant organization, who is authorized to act for the applicant and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards.
<b>Award</b>	<i>Award</i> means the provision of funds by DOE, based on an approved application and budget or progress report, to an organizational entity or an individual to carry out a project or activity.
<b>Award documents</b>	<p><i>Award documents</i> means the entirety of the documents describing the legal relationship between DOE and an awardee or recipient. The award documents include an Assistance Agreement and other documents, which may be incorporated by reference or as attachments to the Assistance Agreement. The award documents are the official, legally binding document, signed (or the electronic equivalent of signature) by a contracting officer that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notifies the recipient of the award of a grant;</li> <li>• contains or references all the terms and conditions of the grant and Federal funding limits and obligations; and,</li> <li>• provides the documentary basis for recording the obligation of Federal funds in the DOE accounting system.</li> </ul>
<b>Bayh-Dole Act</b>	<i>Bayh-Doyle Act</i> means a law, which encourages universities and researchers to develop their inventions into marketable products; formal citation is Section 6 of the Patent and Trademark Amendment of 1980, Pub. L 96-517
<b>Budget</b>	<i>Budget</i> means the financial plan for the project or program that the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity approves during the Federal award process or in subsequent amendments to the Federal award. It may include the Federal and non-Federal share or only the Federal share, as determined by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
<b>Budget period</b>	<i>Budget period</i> means the intervals of time (usually 12 months each) into which a project period is divided for budgetary and funding purposes.
<b>Business officer</b>	<i>Business officer</i> means the financial official of the grantee who has primary fiscal responsibility for the grant. Also known as authorized organizational representative.
<b>Capital assets</b>	<p><i>Capital assets</i> means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and</li> <li>(b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance)</li> </ul>
<b>Carryover</b>	<i>Carryover</i> means unobligated Federal funds remaining at the end of any budget period that, with the approval of the contracting officer or under an automatic authority, may be carried forward to another budget period to cover allowable costs of that budget period (whether as an offset or additional

	authorization). Obligated, but unliquidated, funds are not considered carryover.
<b>Change in scope</b>	<i>Change in scope</i> means an activity whereby the objectives or specific aims identified in the approved grant application are significantly changed by the grantee after award. Contracting officer prior approval is required for a change in scope to be allowable under an award.
<b>Closeout</b>	<i>Closeout</i> means the process by which a Federal awarding agency determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work under an award have been completed by the grantee and the Federal awarding agency.
<b>Competitive segment</b>	<i>Competitive segment</i> means the initial project period recommended for support or each extension of a project period resulting from a renewal award.
<b>Conference (domestic or international)</b>	<i>Conference (domestic or international)</i> means a symposium, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting, whether conducted face-to-face or via the Internet, where individuals assemble (or meet virtually) to exchange information and views or explore or clarify a defined subject, problem, or area of knowledge, whether or not a published report results from such meeting.
<b>Consortium or sub-award agreement</b>	<i>Consortium or sub-award agreement</i> means a formalized agreement whereby a research project is carried out by the grantee and one or more other organizations that are separate legal entities. Under the agreement, the grantee must perform a substantive role in the conduct of the planned research and not merely serve as a conduit of funds to another party or parties. These agreements typically involve a specific level of effort from the consortium organization's PD/PI and a categorical breakdown of costs, such as personnel, supplies, and other allowable expenses, including F&A costs. The relationship between the recipient and the collaborating organizations is considered a sub-award relationship.
<b>Consultant</b>	<i>Consultant</i> means an individual who provides professional advice or services for a fee, but normally not as an employee of the engaging party. In unusual situations, an individual may be both a consultant and an employee of the same party, receiving compensation for some services as a consultant and for other work as a salaried employee. To prevent apparent or actual conflicts of interest, grantees and consultants must establish written guidelines indicating the conditions of payment of consulting fees. Consultants also include firms that provide professional advice or services.
<b>Continuation application/award</b>	<i>Continuation application/award</i> means a financial assistance request (in the form of an application or progress report) or resulting award for a subsequent budget period within a previously approved project period for which a recipient does not have to compete with other applicants.
<b>Contract</b>	<i>Contract</i> means a legal instrument by which a non-Federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a Federal award. The term as used in this part does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-Federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or sub-award (see §200.92 Sub-award).
<b>Contractor</b>	<i>Contractor</i> means an entity that receives a contract as defined in §200.22 Contract.
<b>Contract (or Grants Management) officer</b>	<i>Contract (or Grants Management) officer</i> means a DOE official responsible for the business management aspects of grants and cooperative agreements, including review, negotiation, award, and administration, and for the interpretation of grants administration policies and provisions. COs and GMOs are delegated the authority to obligate DOE to the expenditure of funds and permit changes to approved projects on behalf of DOE.
<b>Contract (or Grants Management) specialist</b>	<i>Contract (or Grants Management) specialist</i> means a DOE staff member who works with a contract or grants management officer and is assigned the day-to-day management of a portfolio of grants and/or cooperative agreements. These

	activities include, but are not limited to, evaluating grant applications for administrative content and compliance with statutes, regulations, and guidelines; negotiating grants; providing consultation and technical assistance to grantees; and administering grants after award.
<b>Cooperative agreement</b>	<i>Cooperative agreement</i> means a type of financial assistance used when there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement. Substantial involvement means that, after award, scientific or program staff will assist, guide, coordinate, or participate in project activities.
<b>Cost principles</b>	<i>Cost principles</i> means the government-wide principles, issued by OMB (or, in the case of commercial organizations, the Federal Acquisition Regulation [48 CFR 21], or, in the case of hospitals, 45 CFR 74, Appendix E, “Principles For Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals”), on allowability and unallowability of costs under federally sponsored agreements. As of December 26, 2014, the cost principles will be consolidated in 2 CFR 200.
<b>Cost sharing or matching</b>	<i>Cost sharing or matching</i> means the portion of project costs not paid by Federal funds (unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute). See also §200.306 Cost sharing or matching.
<b>Deadline</b>	<i>Deadline</i> means the published date and/or time that a grant application is to be either postmarked/mailed or electronically submitted to the funding agency.
<b>Debarment and suspension</b>	<i>Debarment and suspension</i> means the actions taken by a debarment official in accordance with OMB guidance at 2 CFR 180, “Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension,” to exclude a person or organization from participating in grants and other non-procurement awards government-wide. If debarred or suspended, the person or organization may not receive financial assistance (under a grant, cooperative agreement, or sub-award, or contract under a grant) for a specified period of time. Debarments and suspensions carried out pursuant to 2 CFR 376 are distinct from post-award suspension action by an awarding agency.
<b>Direct costs</b>	<i>Direct costs</i> means costs that can be identified specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy.
<b>Disallowed costs</b>	<i>Disallowed costs</i> means those charges to a Federal award that the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity determines to be unallowable, in accordance with the applicable Federal statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award.
<b>Domestic organization</b>	<i>Domestic organization</i> 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.
<b>DUNS number</b>	<i>DUNS number</i> means a nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet to uniquely identify a business entity.
<b>Effort</b>	<i>Effort</i> means the amount of time, usually expressed as a percentage of the total, which a faculty member or other employee spends on a sponsored project. No one is allowed to spend more than 100% total commitment on all academic activities, including grant-sponsored research, university-sponsored research, teaching, administration, advising and other contracted duties. Effort is indicated on the budget in units of person-months.
<b>Equipment</b>	<i>Equipment</i> means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. See also §§200.12 Capital assets, 200.20 Computing devices, 200.48

	General purpose equipment, 200.58 Information technology systems, 200.89 Special purpose equipment, and 200.94 Supplies.
<b>Expanded authorities</b>	<i>Expanded authorities</i> means authorization to grantees under certain research grant mechanisms which waives the requirement for prior agency approval for specified actions related to awards. Example: 90-day pre-award spending authority, no cost extensions for up to one additional year, and automatic carryover of unobligated funds from one budget period to the next. The expanded authorities are now contained in the standard terms and conditions for most research grants.
<b>Expiration date</b>	<i>Expiration date</i> means generally, the date signifying the end of the current project period, after which the grantee is not authorized to obligate grant funds.
<b>Facilities and administrative costs</b>	<i>Facilities and administrative costs</i> means costs that are incurred by a grantee for common or joint objectives and that, therefore, cannot be identified specifically with a particular project or program. These costs also are known as indirect costs.
<b>Federal financial report</b>	<i>Federal financial report</i> means submitted on Standard Form (SF) 425, to indicate the status of awarded funds for the period covered. Frequency of reporting is specified in the Reporting Checklist provided as part of the award documents. Replaces the SF-269 Financial Status Report (FSR)
<b>Financial assistance</b>	<i>Financial assistance</i> means transfer by DOE of money or property to an eligible entity to support or stimulate a public purpose authorized by statute.
<b>Financial status report</b>	<i>Financial status report</i> means see Federal Financial Report.
<b>Foreign travel</b>	<i>Foreign travel</i> is meant to include travel outside of the United States and its territories and possessions (Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone) and Canada. A trip is considered foreign travel for all legs of the itinerary if the traveler does not return to his or her post prior to departure for a foreign destination. Costs for foreign travel may be restricted by the language of a Funding Opportunity Announcement.
<b>Funding opportunity announcement (FOA)</b>	<i>Funding opportunity announcement (FOA)</i> means A publicly available document by which a Federal Agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds. Funding opportunity announcements may be known as program announcements, requests for applications, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or other names depending on the Agency and type of program. Funding opportunity announcements can be found at <a href="http://Grants.gov/FIND">Grants.gov/FIND</a> . An FOA may also be known as a solicitation.
<b>Grant agreement</b>	<p><i>Grant agreement</i> means a legal instrument of financial assistance between a Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and a non-Federal entity that, consistent with 31 U.S.C. 6302, 6304:</p> <p>(a) Is used to enter into a relationship the principal purpose of which is to transfer anything of value from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to the non-Federal entity to carry out a public purpose authorized by a law of the United States (see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)); and not to acquire property or services for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity's direct benefit or use;</p> <p>(b) Is distinguished from a cooperative agreement in that it does not provide for substantial involvement between the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and the non-Federal entity in carrying out the activity contemplated by the Federal award.</p> <p>(c) Does not include an agreement that provides only:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Direct United States Government cash assistance to an individual;</li> <li>(2) A subsidy;</li> <li>(3) A loan;</li> <li>(4) A loan guarantee; or</li> <li>(5) Insurance.</li> </ol>

<b>Grant-supported project or activity</b>	<i>Grant-supported project or activity</i> means those activities specified or described in a grant application or in a subsequent submission that are approved by DOE for funding, regardless of whether Federal funding constitutes all or only a portion of the financial support necessary to carry them out.
<b>Grantee</b>	<i>Grantee</i> means the organization or individual awarded a grant or cooperative agreement by DOE that is responsible and accountable for the use of the funds provided and for the performance of the grant-supported project or activity. The grantee is the entire legal entity even if a particular component is designated in award documents. The grantee is legally responsible and accountable to DOE for the performance and financial aspects of the grant-supported project or activity. Also known as awardee or recipient.
<b>Grants.gov</b>	<i>Grants.gov</i> ( <a href="https://www.grants.gov/">https://www.grants.gov/</a> ) has been designated by the Office of Management and Budget as the single access point for all grant programs offered by 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It provides a single interface for agencies to announce their Grant opportunities and for all applicants to find and apply for those opportunities.
<b>Indirect costs (facilities &amp; administrative)</b>	<i>Indirect (F&amp;A) costs</i> means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. To facilitate equitable distribution of indirect expenses to the cost objectives served, it may be necessary to establish a number of pools of indirect (F&A) costs. Indirect (F&A) cost pools must be distributed to benefitted cost objectives on bases that will produce an equitable result in consideration of relative benefits derived.
<b>Institutional base salary</b>	<i>Institutional base salary</i> means the annual compensation paid by an organization for an employee's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of duties for the applicant/grantee organization. Base salary may not be increased as a result of replacing organizational salary funds with grant funds.
<b>Matching or cost sharing</b>	<i>Matching or cost sharing</i> means the value of third-party in-kind contributions and the portion of the costs of a federally assisted project or program not borne by the Federal government. Matching or cost sharing may be required by statute or program regulation. Costs used to satisfy matching or cost-sharing requirements are subject to the same policies governing allowability as other costs under the approved budget.
<b>Merit (or peer) review</b>	<i>Merit (or peer) review</i> means the process that involves the consistent application of standards and procedures that produce fair, equitable, and objective examinations of applications based on an evaluation of scientific or technical merit or other relevant aspects of the application. The review is performed by experts (reviewers) in the field of endeavor for which support is requested. Merit review is intended to provide guidance and to the DOE individuals responsible for making award decisions.
<b>Monitoring</b>	<i>Monitoring</i> means a process whereby the programmatic and business management performance aspects of a grant are assessed by reviewing information gathered from various required reports, audits, site visits, and other sources.
<b>No-cost extension</b>	<i>No-cost extension</i> means an extension of time to a project period and/or budget period to complete the work of the grant under that period, without additional Federal funds or competition.
<b>Non-Federal share</b>	<i>Non-Federal share</i> means when cost sharing or matching is required as a condition of an award, the portion of allowable project/program costs not borne by the Federal government.

<b>Obligations</b>	<i>Obligations</i> when used in connection with a non-Federal entity's utilization of funds under a Federal award, <i>obligations</i> means orders placed for property and services, contracts and sub-awards made, and similar transactions during a given period that require payment by the non-Federal entity during the same or a future period.
<b>OMB circulars</b>	<i>OMB circulars</i> means government-wide guidance issued to Heads of Federal agencies by the Director of OMB. OMB Circulars directly pertinent to grants include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cost principles (OMB Circular A-21, OMB Circular A-87, and OMB Circular A-122);</li> <li>• uniform administrative requirements (OMB Circular A-102 and OMB Circular A-110);</li> <li>• audit requirements for non-profit organizations (OMB Circular A-133).</li> </ul> Some (but not all) of these OMB Circulars have been reissued in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations. DOE administrative regulations are located in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
<b>Other significant contributors</b>	Other significant contributors means individuals who have committed to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project, but are not committing any specified measurable effort (i.e., person months) to the project. These individuals are typically presented at “effort of zero person months” or “as needed.” Individuals with measurable effort may not be listed as Other Significant Contributors (OSCs). Consultants should be included if they meet this definition.
<b>Program participant</b>	<i>Program participants</i> are the recipients of service or training provided at a workshop, conference, seminar, symposium or other short-term instructional or information-sharing activity funded by an external grant or award, or the training beneficiaries of the project or program funded by an external grant or award. A participant is not involved in providing any deliverable to the grantee or a third party or would not be terminated or replaced for failure to perform.
<b>Participant support costs</b>	<i>Participant support costs</i> means direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.
<b>Person months</b>	<i>Person months</i> is the metric for expressing the effort (amount of time) PD/PI(s), faculty and other senior/key personnel devote to a specific project. The effort is based on the type of appointment of the individual with the organization; e.g., calendar year, academic year, and/or summer term; and the organization’s definition of such. For instance, some institutions define the academic year as a 9-month appointment while others define it as a 10-month appointment.
<b>Pre-application or pre-proposal</b>	<i>Pre-application or pre-proposal</i> means a brief outline or narrative of proposed work and sometimes budget, for informal review by a sponsor to determine whether a full application should be submitted. Three predominant reasons for requiring submission of a preliminary pre-application are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the applicant’s unnecessary effort in proposal preparation when the chance of success is very small. This is particularly true of exploratory initiatives where the community senses that a major new direction is being identified, or competitions that will result in a small number of actual awards.</li> <li>• Increase the overall quality of the full submission.</li> <li>• Distill the number of applications that will be submitted to the agency and the number of anticipated reviewers needed to review.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-award costs</b>	<i>Pre-award costs</i> means any cost incurred prior to the beginning date of the project period or the initial budget period of a competitive segment (under a

	multi-year award), in anticipation of the award and at the applicant's own risk, for otherwise allowable costs.
<b>Prior approval</b>	<i>Prior approval</i> means written approval from the designated contracting officer required for specified post-award changes in the approved project or budget. Such approval must be obtained before undertaking the proposed activity or spending DOE funds
<b>Program Director/ Principal Investigator</b>	<i>Program Director/ Principal Investigator</i> means the individual(s) designated by the applicant organization to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project or program to be supported by the award. The applicant organization may designate multiple individuals as program directors/principal investigators (PD/PIs) who share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. When multiple PD/PIs are named, each is responsible and accountable to the applicant organization, or as appropriate, to a collaborating organization for the proper conduct of the project or program including the submission of all required reports. The presence of more than one PD/PI on an application or award diminishes neither the responsibility nor the accountability of any individual PD/PI.
<b>Program income</b>	<i>Program income</i> means gross income earned by the non-Federal entity that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award during the period of performance except as provided in §200.307 paragraph (f). (See §200.77 Period of performance.) Program income includes but is not limited to income from fees for services performed, the use or rental or real or personal property acquired under Federal awards, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under a Federal award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and principal and interest on loans made with Federal award funds. Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income. Except as otherwise provided in Federal statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award, program income does not include rebates, credits, discounts, and interest earned on any of them. See also §200.407 Prior written approval (prior approval). See also 35 U.S.C. 200-212 "Disposition of Rights in Educational Awards" applies to inventions made under Federal awards.
<b>Program Manager</b>	<i>Program Manager</i> means the DOE official responsible for the programmatic, scientific, and/or technical aspects of a grant. The same role is filled by Program Directors, Program Officers, or Project Directors at other Federal agencies.
<b>Progress report</b>	<i>Progress report</i> means periodic, frequently annual, report submitted by the grantee and used by DOE to assess progress and to determine whether to provide funding for the budget period subsequent to that covered by the report.
<b>Project/performance site</b>	<i>Project/ performance site</i> means location(s) of where the work described in the research plan will be conducted.
<b>Project period</b>	<i>Project period</i> means the total time for which Federal support of a project has been programmatically approved as shown in the award documents; however, it does not constitute a commitment by the Federal government to fund the entire period. The total project period comprises the initial competitive segment, any subsequent competitive segments resulting from a renewal award(s), and extensions.
<b>Proposal</b>	See application.
<b>Re-budgeting</b>	<i>Re-budgeting</i> means reallocation of funds available for spending between budget categories to allow best use of funds to accomplish the project goals.
<b>Recipient</b>	<i>Recipient</i> means the organizational entity or individual receiving a grant or cooperative agreement.
<b>Renewal application</b>	<i>Renewal application</i> means an application requesting additional funding for a

	period subsequent to that provided by a current award. Renewal applications compete for funds with all other peer reviewed applications and must be developed as fully as though the applicant is applying for the first time.
<b>Research</b>	<i>Research</i> means a systematic, intensive study intended to increase knowledge or understanding of the subject studied, a systematic study specifically directed toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need, or a systematic application of knowledge to the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements. Also termed “research and development.”
<b>Research misconduct</b>	Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community in proposing, performing, or reporting research, or in reporting research results; does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.
<b>SAM.gov</b>	<i>SAM.gov</i> is the System for Award Management (SAM) is the Government-wide system that consolidated the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Federal Agency Registration (FedReg).
<b>Scope of work</b>	<i>Scope of work</i> means the aims, objectives, and purposes of a grant; as well as the methodology, approach, analyses or other activities; and the tools, technologies, and timeframes needed to meet the grant’s objectives. This includes the research or training plan included with the original grant application, along with any approved modifications.
<b>Senior/Key Personnel</b>	<i>Senior/Key personnel</i> means the PD/PI and other individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or compensation under the grant. Typically, these individuals have doctoral or other professional degrees, although individuals at the masters or baccalaureate level may be considered senior/key personnel if their involvement meets this definition. Consultants and those with a postdoctoral role also may be considered senior/key personnel if they meet this definition. “Zero percent” effort or “as needed” is not an acceptable level of involvement for Senior/Key Personnel.
<b>Significant re-budgeting</b>	<i>Significant re-budgeting</i> means a threshold that is reached when expenditures in a single direct cost budget category deviate (increase or decrease) from the categorical commitment level established for the budget period by more than 25 percent of the total costs awarded. Significant re-budgeting is one indicator of change in scope.
<b>Small business concern</b>	<i>Small business concern</i> means a business that is independently owned and operated and not dominant in its field of operation; has its principal place of business in the United States and is organized for profit; is at least 51 percent owned, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of its voting stock is owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens; has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees; and meets other regulatory requirements established by the SBA at 13 CFR 121.
<b>Solicitation</b>	See Funding Opportunity Announcement
<b>Sub-award</b>	<i>Sub-award</i> means a legal instrument by which a recipient provides funds (or property in lieu of funds) to an eligible sub-recipient (or a lower-tier transaction) to perform a substantive portion of the grant-supported program or project. The term includes such financial assistance when provided by any legal agreement (even if the agreement is called a contract) but does not include any form of assistance which is excluded from the definition of a grant, including the recipient’s procurement of property or services needed to carry out the project or program. The term includes consortium agreements.

<b>Sub-recipient</b>	<i>Sub-recipient</i> means a non-Federal entity that receives a sub-award from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A sub-recipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency.
<b>Supplement</b>	<i>Supplement</i> means a request for an increase in support during a current budget period for expansion of the project’s scope or to meet increased costs unforeseen at the time of the new or renewal application. A supplement may increase support for future years in addition to the current year. Supplements require applications and are subject to administrative, and merit review.
<b>Terms and conditions of award</b>	<i>Terms and conditions of award</i> means all legal requirements imposed on a grant by DOE, whether based on statute, regulation, policy, or other document referenced in the grant award, or specified by the grant award document itself. The award documents may include both standard and special conditions that are considered necessary to attain the grant’s objectives, facilitate post-award administration of the grant, conserve grant funds, or otherwise protect the Federal government’s interests.
<b>Unallowable costs</b>	<i>Unallowable costs</i> means specific categories of costs that cannot be charged, directly or indirectly, to federally sponsored agreements in accordance with federal regulations or the terms and conditions of the award.
<b>Unliquidated obligation</b>	<i>Unliquidated obligations</i> means, for financial reports prepared on a cash basis, obligations incurred by the non-Federal entity that have not been paid (liquidated). For reports prepared on an accrual expenditure basis, these are obligations incurred by the non-Federal entity for which an expenditure has not been recorded.
<b>Unobligated balance</b>	<i>Unobligated balance</i> means the amount of funds under a Federal award that the non-Federal entity has not obligated. The amount is computed by subtracting the cumulative amount of the non-Federal entity's unliquidated obligations and expenditures of funds under the Federal award from the cumulative amount of the funds that the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity authorized the non-Federal entity to obligate.
<b>Validate</b>	In the context of the data management plan requirements, <i>validate</i> means to support, corroborate, verify, or otherwise determine the legitimacy of the research findings. Validation of research findings could be accomplished by reproducing the original experiment or analyses, comparing and contrasting the results against those of a news experiment or analyses, or by some other means.