

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Research Opportunities in Accelerator Stewardship FOA and LAB Solicitations

What's New in FY 2021?

In FY 2021, the three major changes apply:

- **The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and National Laboratory Program Announcement (LAB) are now unified into a single FOA call.** There is no separate, companion LAB call for proposals—DOE National Laboratory applicant must now read and follow the instructions given in the unified FOA. Note that this means DOE National Laboratories must work with their Business Offices to submit their applications through Grants.Gov. Please allow sufficient time for these additional steps.
- **The Office of Accelerator R&D and Production now administers the Accelerator Stewardship FOA.** From the proposing PI's perspective the change is largely invisible, with the exception that Track 3 has changed significantly.
- **Track 3 has changed significantly.** Please review the instructions carefully before applying as the aims, eligibility, teaming requirements, proposal type, proposal narrative instructions, and review criteria have all changed.

What is a "Stewardship Customer" and what is considered satisfactory "evidence" of the Customer's interest?

As defined in V(A)2, the term "Stewardship customer" is used broadly to organizations with a history of financial, intellectual, or physical support for research in the proposed subject matter. Stewardship customers may be SC programs (e.g., BES, FES, HEP, or NP), other DOE program offices (e.g., NNSA, EERE, ARPA-E), other Federal agencies (e.g., NIH, NSF, DoD, DHS), or industries that use accelerator technology.

Evidence of the Stewardship Customer's interest may be found in advisory committee reports, workshop reports, white papers, or R&D roadmaps issued by the Stewardship Customer that identify the issue as important. More significant evidence is provided by substantial and material participation of the Stewardship Customer in the effort (e.g., by co-funding, cost-sharing, in-kind donation or equipment, or donation of effort).

How can teams apply?

Teams of collaborating institutions are always strongly encouraged to apply.

A single proposal must be submitted by the lead institution, with subawards provided to collaborators if needed. A single award will be issued to the lead institution, which must then write subcontracts to the subawardees to disburse the funds. The sole exception is if a DOE National Laboratory is a subawardee, in which case DOE will provide funds directly to the Lab by field work authorization, per section II(H).

What are you looking for in a “team”?

Teaming is strongly encouraged for proposals to any Track. “Teaming” in the context of this solicitation means the substantial collaboration of two or more institutions to achieve the proposal’s goals. It is a central aim of Accelerator Stewardship that technologies developed for basic research find use in a wealth of other applications, and often an excellent way to achieve this is through teams composed of people with expertise in (1) the accelerator technology, (2) the requirements of the new application, and (3) what’s required to make a viable commercial product. Track 1 proposals (applied R&D) in particular are expected to be from multi-institutional teams. Track 2 proposals (basic R&D) are encouraged to be from teams, but this should be determined by the nature of the work.

In the case of Track 3 proposals, teaming between industrial companies, universities, National Laboratories, and a business school or business consulting firm is necessary to ensure the accelerator sector business plan will be developed with a broad perspective and with the input of a sufficiently broad set of stakeholders. The inclusion of a business school or private consulting firm on the team is highly desirable to (1) engage a disinterested party to guide the business plan towards a balanced sector-wide perspective and (2) to provide an academic perspective on business analysis, somewhat mitigating the difficulties of having any one company reveal its analysis and strategic approach. It would be reasonable to have the business school or consulting firm be the lead institution, but this is not required.

The quality of the team is an explicit review criteria, please see section V(A)2.

What if a DOE National Lab is a collaborator on my proposal? What should the budget include? Who receives the funding, and what does section II(H) mean?

Collaborating with a DOE National Laboratory is much like collaborating with any other institution. However, because DOE already has contracts with the Labs, there are some subtle differences:

What should the budget and budget narrative include?

For all proposals, a single proposal must be filed and the budget and budget narrative should include (and explain) funding requests from **all** participants, **including** any participating DOE National Laboratories.

Who receives the funding, and what does section II(H) mean?

In all cases, funds that are destined for a DOE National Laboratory will be provided directly to the lab through the DOE Field Work Authorization System. This applies even if the Lab is a subawardee. We will provide further instructions during award negotiations.

Is a Letter of Intent (LOI) required?

No, but a Pre-Application (FOA applicants) or Pre-Proposal (LAB applicants) is required. See the Funding Opportunity Announcement section IV(B) for further details.

Should I submit my proposal to a specific Office of Science accelerator R&D call or to the Accelerator Stewardship solicitation?

If the work you propose predominantly impacts one Office of Science (e.g., BES, FES, HEP, or NP), submit the proposal to the respective Office's accelerator R&D call. If the work you propose is cross-cutting (i.e. impacts several Offices of Science, or several federal agencies' missions, and there is a clear stewardship customer, submit the proposal to the Accelerator Stewardship call. See the Funding Opportunity Announcement section V(A)2 "Merit Review Criteria" for further details.

What if I've submitted a substantially similar proposal to another solicitation at another agency? Am I forbidden from submitting my proposal?

No, but you must list the duplicative proposal in Appendix 2: Current and Pending Support. Concurrent submission of an application to other organizations for simultaneous consideration will not prejudice its review. We will, however, contact the other agency prior to making an award to establish the disposition of the duplicate request.

How many proposals may one PI (or one institution) submit?

There is no limit. However, PIs are strongly encouraged to focus their effort on one proposal where their interests and capabilities align well with the objectives of the solicitation and they can write a strong proposal.

Are letters of endorsement from collaborators helpful?

Endorsement letters are not recommended for pre-proposals, but may be helpful for full proposals.

Can DOE labs apply to Track 2?

No. See the Funding Opportunity Announcement, section III(A), Eligibility.

Can DOE labs apply to Track 3?

Yes.

Can labs apply to the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)?

NEW! Labs must apply to the FOA, which now covers all applicants.

Can Track 2 applications include a DOE Lab as a subaward?

Yes. The university must lead the effort, and such an arrangement must not be used to circumvent the restrictions on Track 2 eligibility. See the Funding Opportunity Announcement, sections II(H) and II(I).

What is the typical award size?

The award size depends on the Track, the topic, the work scope, the available funding, and other factors. Track 1 awards generally average approximately \$2M/3 years, Track 2 awards generally average \$500k/3 years, and Track 3 awards are limited to no more than \$200k/1 year. That said, the requested budget should always be driven by the research goals and proposed work scope, not the other way around.

What is the typical award duration?

The typical award duration is 3 years for Track 1 and Track 2 proposals, and 12 months for Track 3. Exceptions include design studies, for which the award duration is typically limited to 1 year. The duration should be chosen in light of the research goals, proposed work scope, and FOA requirements.

What does the language in section II(B) “Estimated Funding” mean?

Budget numbers listed in section II(B) refer to the specific fiscal year. For example “It is anticipated that approximately \$X,XXX,XXX will be available in FY 20YY” means that the sum of all FY 20YY year obligations incurred as a result of new awards under this solicitation (including awards to all applicants) will not exceed \$X,XXX,XXX. This amount does not include prior-year or subsequent-year obligations, and is subject to appropriated funds being available.

“Total value of awards” refers to value of all grants, inter agency agreements, and laboratory work authorizations awarded under this year’s FOA over the full duration of the award. This number is subject to the availability of appropriated funding in this and future years.

What is the “Full Forward Funding” requirement?

Since 2014, DOE has been required by statute to fully forward fund awards of \$1,000,000 or less in the year in which the award begins. This means, for example, that an award of \$100,000 per year over 3 years must have the total value of \$300,000 set aside in the year the award is made. The PI will receive \$100,000 in the first year, and the balance will be held at headquarters for release in subsequent years. This means the subsequent years of the award are paid for up front, and that the entire value of the proposal then must be obligated from the “Estimated Funding” number listed in II(B).

Can the submitting institution be a foreign organization?

No. See the Funding Opportunity Announcement, section III(A), Eligibility.

Can a subawardee be a foreign organization?

Yes. Per 48 CFR 970.5227-3(f) preference should be given in such a manner as to enhance the accrual of economic and technological benefits to the U.S. domestic economy.

Can a fee be charged?

Yes, per 2 CFR 605.15, a fee may be requested *only* by small business applicants.