

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTION AND ANSWER LOG

DE-FOA0003248 - FY24 Research and Development Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO)

For submission questions please contact the EERE Exchange Helpdesk at EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.

Question	Answer
I'd like to know if you will entertain a completely different approach to 'achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector'.	It is the prospective applicant's responsibility to make the determination if their proposed project meets the requirements identified in the FOA/specific Area of Interest. Submittal of a concept paper will result in a recommendation regarding your proposed project.
Is there a plan to provide a Teaming Partner List for this FOA?	At this point in time, DOE does not plan to provide a partner teaming list for this FOA.
I am interested in this funding opportunity for a client I am working with, and I noticed in the guidelines that it says "Applicants may provide graphs, charts, or other data to supplement their Technology Description." Is this in addition to the 3-page limit or should it be within that limit?	Graphs and charts are included in the page limitation.
On the General Application page for this FOA. I'm prevented inserting our UEI number. How should I proceed?	For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.
I am having problems. Downloading the application for your grant.	For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.
We're studying the possibility of submitting a RD project to the call DE-FOA-0003248 but we have some doubts about the eligibility of our company. Can we apply as a Domestic Company, a subrecipient or a Vendor?	See Section III.A.i. and III.A.ii. of the FOA for information regarding eligibility of Domestic Entities and eligibility of Foreign Entities. In accordance with Section III.G. EERE will not make determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this FOA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.
I would like to understand the Required Cost Share for the Na-Ion Battery Seeding Projects for Electric Vehicle Applications. If the required cost share is 25% and the total program cost is \$2 million, does the applicant provide \$500,000?	See Section III.B. and Appendix A of the FOA for Cost Sharing requirements. Cost sharing is calculated as percentage of the Total Project Cost.
My company would like to participate in this FOA as a subcontractor. Is there a teaming partner list or a way to speak to possible applicants that you can connect us to?	At this point in time, DOE does not plan to provide a partner teaming list for this FOA.
For DOE FOA 0003248, what is the definition of "off-road" vehicles? Would aviation be eligible?	It is the prospective applicant's responsibility to make the determination if their proposed project meets the requirements identified in the FOA. Submittal of a concept paper will result in an encourage or discourage recommendation regarding your proposed project as referenced in Section VI.A.ii. The objective of this FOA is for vehicle application.

I was wondering if the proposals can include input/support from our facilities and colleagues from Europe as well or if everything is expected to be completed within the US?	See Section IV.I.iii. And Appendix C of the FOA for Performance of Work in the United States and Foreign Work Waivers.
The solicitation states “none” under teaming arrangements on page 10. I am wondering whether this means that the prime applicant can choose to submit to this project with a subcontractor/partner, or whether teaming/having a subcontractor is not allowed for Topic 2? I would greatly appreciate clarification regarding this matter.	Subrecipients and vendors are allowed for topic area of interest 2. See section III.A Eligible Applicants in the FOA.
Please explain the term “partial charge carbon (PCC)” on p. 8 of the FOA. I do not see this in the USABC Battery Test Manual.	Please see FOA Amendment 000002 for clarification.
I am working on developing a concept paper for opportunity 3248, and it mentions that the proposed technology’s target level of performance should be included. Is there a listing of the various target levels that I can refer to?	See Section IV.C. of the FOA stating applicants should provide technical data or other support to show how the proposed target could be met.
Our lab is working on novel coolign technologies. I wonder how to reach teaming list so we may join a team to work on cool technologies.	At this point in time, DOE does not plan to provide a partner teaming list for this FOA.
We recently came across the FOA and were wondering if we could schedule a 15 minute call with someone on the team before we submit a concept paper with an OEM partner. If possible, could you share some availability later this week?	If, after reviewing the Funding Opportunity Announcement document, you feel that your technology fits the requirements of the announcement, please submit the required documents to the appropriate portals specified in the announcement. DOE will not discuss over the phone or in person.
While recreational vehicles are not specifically mentioned in the FOA I’m writing to see if we would be able to apply for FOA-0003248.	It is the prospective applicant's responsibility to make the determination if their proposed project meets the requirements identified in the FOA/specific Area of Interest. Submittal of a concept paper will result in a recommendation regarding your proposed project.
Do you know whether applicants at non-US universities are eligible to apply under research grant call DE-FOA-0003248?	See section III.A Eligible Applicants in the FOA.
Is the voltage requirement for the Na-ion a fixed requirement? If we are trying to demonstrate Na-ion as comparison to LFP, could we propose a solution with a nominal voltage of 3.0 – 3.2V?	It is acceptable to have a lower cathode nominal voltage as long as the cell specific energy density target of 160 Wh/kg is still met.
Could you help us understand what's meant by "development of planning tools and/or models to identify, quantify and assess the impact of convenience strategies on regions and/or communities... to improve fuel economy and reduce GHG emissions" ? What is meant by 'convenience strategies'?	Please review the topic areas of interest in the FOA to determine if the applicant's technology fits into any of those. The decision whether to submit a concept paper in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.
Is there someone affiliated with the FOA who can help us understand if we fit the intended projects for the Joint Office?	
I am wondering whether the indirect cost from this project can be used for cost share. What kind of indirect cost can be used for cost share?	See Appendix A of the FOA for cost share information.

<p>Area of Interest 6: “Cybersecurity for Smart and Secure Electric Vehicle Charging” has 2 subtopics</p> <p>6a - Enabling Wide-scale, Cybersecure EV/EVSE Aggregation for Grid Services</p> <p>6b - Tools to Assess EV/EVSE/Charging System Cybersecurity Posture and Compliance with Standards and Protocols for Communications, Controls, and Monitoring</p> <p>Can applicants submit their concept paper for 1 of the 2 subtopics or each submission shall cover both subtopics.</p>	<p>Submissions should be made to 6a or 6b, specifically.</p>
<p>I am writing to bring to your attention an issue I've encountered while attempting to access certain links provided. Regrettably, upon clicking on these links, a window appears that obstructs my access to the intended content.</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate your guidance on how to overcome this obstacle and successfully access the provided links. Any assistance or alternative methods you could suggest would be immensely helpful in resolving this matter promptly.</p>	<p>For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.</p>
<p>Would marine vessels working in industrial applications in the US (such as transport, refuel, and tug operations, etc.) qualify for inclusion as ‘Off-Road Vehicles’ in “Area of Interest 3: Low-GHG Concepts for Off-Road Vehicles”?</p>	<p>This FOA area of interest is targeting non-marine, non-aviation and non-rail off road vehicles.</p>
<p>I know that it is 1 page cover page and 3 page technology description. Can I put addendum as additional pages that describe the involved PIs and facilities? Or do these all have to go into the 3 page technology description?</p>	<p>Any and all information may be incorporated directly into the concept paper body, which is limited to three total pages.</p>
<p>Need More info related to the announcement listed for the grant above.</p>	<p>Please review the Funding Opportunity Announcement for DE-FOA-0003248 located at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/.</p>
<p>My Company is helping preparing an application for DE-FOA-0003248. For this application, my company plans to be the sub applicant. Another company will be the primary applicant/awardee. Therefore, is it necessary for my company to provide the Department of Energy a SAM Number FOR THE CONCEPT PAPER stage or is that only required of the primary applicant/awardee? We do not think we will be able to obtain a SAM number before the concept paper due date. Please advise.</p>	<p>See Registration/Submission Requirements section within the FOA. Subawardees/subrecipients at all tiers must also obtain a UEI from the SAM and provide the UEI to the Prime Recipient before the subaward can be issued.</p>

<p>In the "applications specifically not of interest" for area of interest 1, it says that:</p> <p>"Applications that propose development of a blend of cathode active material" are not of interest.</p> <p>My team has a concept wherein the cathode material is a composite. There is no blending involved however some might interpret this as a "blend" (though we believe that it is not).</p> <p>As such, we are asking for a clarification per the wording of the FOA, is what we would like to propose doing a "blend". (and therefore not of interest)?</p>	<p>Because the material is a composite, we would not consider the material a blend.</p>
<p>Are Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs) considered "off-road" for the purposes of AOI 3?</p>	<p>These would not be considered as they do not provide their own means of propulsion.</p>
<p>The company is incorporated in Delaware with multiple places of business in the United States. The work would be done in the United States. However, the company does not have majority domestic ownership and control - our parent company is based in Germany.</p> <p>Are we allowed to apply for this FOA? If we request a waiver, that occurs at the full application stage, correct?</p>	<p>See Section III. Eligibility Information of the FOA, and Appendix C. - Waiver Requests For 1. Foreign Entity Participation; and 2. Foreign Work.</p>
<p>1. We have experience in most of your technical areas of interest. May we submit a concept paper for each? Or do we group together?</p> <p>2. What are you asking regarding confidentiality? We are planning to add our Confidential Watermarks to each page. Is this sufficient?</p>	<p>Submitting a single concept paper to apply to multiple topic areas is not permitted. As stated in section III.F of the FOA, applicants may submit more than one concept paper and full application provided each describes a unique scientifically distinct project. Applying to more than one topic area would require the submission of a unique concept paper for each topic area. Additionally, section IV.C. states each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology.</p> <p>See section VIII.D. of the FOA for Treatment of Application Information.</p>
<p>1) Would you confirm that the Technology Description section of the Concept paper is limited to 3 total pages for Area of Interest 6a or 6b?</p> <p>2) Would you also confirm that if we wanted to submit a Concept paper for both Areas of Interest 6a and 6b that we would be required to submit separate Concept papers for each of these sections?</p>	<p>Each area of interest is limited to a concept paper submission of 3 pages. Submitting a single concept paper to apply to multiple topic areas is not permitted. As stated in section III.F of the FOA, applicants may submit more than one concept paper and full application provided each describes a unique scientifically distinct project. Applying to more than one topic area would require the submission of a unique concept paper for each topic area. Additionally, section IV.C. states each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology.</p>

<p>We would like to apply to this grant as a transit manufacturer without a team. We do not have a specific charging provider but plan to design an adaptable system to work with multiple charging providers. We already have a team that is knowledgeable in communications, controls, standards, and testing of EVs and EVSE. We will adhere to the NISTIR 7628 Rev 1: Guidelines for Smart Grid Cybersecurity.</p>	<p>Review DE-FOA-0003248 and submit a Concept Paper by the due date. Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. EERE will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Full Applications. Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Full Application. See Section VI.A. of the FOA.</p>
<p>We are developing a Personal Rapid Transit system designed to deliver passengers and goods into existing and to be developed large-scale real estate projects.</p> <p>None of the examples in the application announcement include fixed guide way transit such as PRT.</p> <p>Are PRT projects eligible to apply under:</p>	<p>The technology you are describing does not meet the intent of any of the areas of interest in this FOA.</p>
<p>We are trying to find our eligibility and are having difficulty. In the Administrative Question and Answer Log.</p> <p>Question: We're studying the possibility of submitting a RD project to the call DE-FOA-00003248 but have some doubts about the eligibility of our company. Can we apply as a Domestic Company. Can we apply as a Domestic Company, a subrecipient or a vendor?</p> <p>Answer: See Section III.A.i and III.A.ii of the FOA for information Regarding eligibility of Domestic Entities and eligibility of Foreign Entities . Where can we find that? I have looked on every page of the application and cannot find it.</p> <p>Question: I was wondering if the proposals can include input/support from our facilities and colleagues from Europe as well or if everything is expected to be completed within the US?</p> <p>Answer: See Section IV.I.iii and Appendix C of the FOA for Performance of Work in the US and Foreign Work Waivers.</p> <p>Where can I find that?</p>	<p>Please review the document titled Amendment_000002_FOA-DOE-NETL-EERE-DE-FOA-0003248_Final located on NETL Exchange at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/. The Table of Contents will guide you to the applicable sections.</p> <p>For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.</p>

<p>We are trying to find our eligibility and are having difficulty. In the Administrative Question and Answer Log.</p> <p>Question: We're studying the possibility of submitting a RD project to the call DE-FOA-00003248 but have some doubts about the eligibility of our company. Can we apply as a Domestic Company. Can we apply as a Domestic Company, a subrecipient or a vendor?</p> <p>Answer: See Section III.A.i and III.A.ii of the FOA for information Regarding eligibility of Domestic Entities and eligibility of Foreign Entities . Where can we find that? I have looked on every page of the application and cannot find it.</p> <p>Question: I was wondering if the proposals can include input/support from our facilities and colleagues from Europe as well or if everything is expected to be completed within the US?</p> <p>Answer: See Section IV.I.iii and Appendix C of the FOA for Performance of Work in the US and Foreign Work Waivers. Where can I find that?</p>	<p>Please review the document titled Amendment_000002_FOA-DOE-NETL-EERE-DE-FOA-0003248_Final located on NETL Exchange at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/. The Table of Contents will guide you to the applicable sections.</p> <p>For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.</p>
<p>I am considering submitting DOE EERE FY2024 Vehicle Technologies Office Research & Development Funding Opportunity Announcement and I have a question about teaming arrangements. As I read team arrangement requirements, it says “Applicant teams must include a local agency or state agency or other entity (e.g., university) with authority to approve an on-road demonstration of the technology.” and do I have to add that or those person/people in the stage of the concept paper?</p> <p>Also, what materials are expected to be submitted for the first stage? Only a 3-page concept paper?</p>	<p>See Section IV.A. of the FOA for the Application Process. See Section IV.C. of the FOA for the required content and form of the Concept Paper.</p>
<p>I am working to upload a concept paper to EERE-Exchange site that contains confidential information. Per the instructions in the FOA, we need to submit both a confidential and non-confidential version. In the Exchange site, there is only a place to upload a single file. Where do we upload the non-confidential version?</p>	<p>EERE eXCHANGE has been corrected to allow for two Concept Papers to be uploaded, if necessary; a confidential version and a non-confidential version.</p>

<p>1) Is it permitted to change the subcontractor after the Concept Paper has been submitted? Can we switch from working with one subcontractor listed on the Concept Paper to working with a different subcontractor after the Concept Paper is submitted? Would we need to list them both as potential subcontractors on the Concept Paper now?</p> <p>2) My client is receiving cost sharing support from a State. Do they need a Letter of Support/Letter of Commitment from the state when submitting this concept paper or is it only needed for the full proposal? If it is required during the Concept Paper submission, there is no place on the submission portal to submit a letter – where would they include it on the portal?</p>	<p>1) Yes, you can change the project team, including subrecipients, contractors, vendors and even national labs, between the Concept Paper and full application phase. You cannot change the prime applicant, however.</p> <p>2) You only need letters of commitment for the full application phase.</p> <p>Please see Section IV.C. of the FOA for the required Content and Form of the Concept Paper.</p>
<p>Are Metropolitan Planning Organizations eligible to apply?</p>	<p>Please see Section III. of the FOA for Eligibility Information. In accordance with Section III.G. EERE will not make determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this FOA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this FOA lies solely with the applicant.</p>
<p>For the Funding Opportunity DE-FOA-0003248, specifically for area of interest number 3 (Low GHG Concepts for Off-Road Vehicles), submitters will work to creating a budget that would cover all the costs of the conceptual project. If there are cost overruns, or some suppliers that end up not working out causing the lead project investigator to have to pivot, who would bear the extra cost? Is it the company/organization submitting to the funding opportunity or does that cost burden get put on the partner listed in the original group of partners/suppliers?</p>	<p>Please see Section III.B. of the FOA for Cost Sharing information. Specifically, Section III.B.i. provides further information on the Legal Responsibility of cost sharing.</p>
<p>My company is registered to SAM.gov, login.gov, etc., and I'm able to login to https://eere-exchange.energy.gov.</p> <p>What is the actual website, navigation, and sub-menu to submit the concept paper for this FOA? I've read the following documents but they leave too much ambiguity: EERE eXCHANGE User Guide for Applicants Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0003248 FOA Type: Initial Which indicates, on p. 35: Be uploaded and submitted to EERE eXCHANGE https://eere-exchange.energy.gov https://eere-exchange.energy.gov</p>	<p>Please see the Registration/Submission Requirements section of the FOA for details. For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.</p>

In uploading our Concept Paper submission there was no option to then upload the redacted version of it. We uploaded the redacted version as a second/seperate upload. Is that acceptable or is there a better practice we should use?	EERE eXCHANGE has been corrected to allow for two Concept Papers to be uploaded, if necessary; a confidential version and a non-confidential version.
I am working to upload a concept paper to EERE-Exchange site that contains confidential information. Per the instructions in the FOA, pasted below, we need to submit both a confidential and non-confidential version, as highlighted below. In the Exchange site, there is only a place to upload a single file. Where do we upload the non-confidential version?	EERE eXCHANGE has been corrected to allow for two Concept Papers to be uploaded, if necessary; a confidential version and a non-confidential version.
<p>To ensure the best possible submission, we were wondering if you could review the attached concept paper and provide feedback on where our efforts may fall short and how we might improve.</p> <p>Additionally, if you could confirm for us the expectations on document format type (.doc, .pdf, etc) and any other submission requirements for the concept paper that we should be aware of, we would greatly appreciate it.</p>	Please see Section IV.C. of the FOA, Content and Form of Concept Paper, and Section VI.A.ii. Of the FOA, Concept Paper Notifications. Concept Papers must be submitted in .pdf format.
We've recently submitted our concept paper for grant DE-FOA-0003248. While we're uncertain if we qualify for the grant, as we're not undertaking a project to install these technologies nor seeking to become manufacturers ourselves, we're interested in selling or licensing our patent for research purposes, then potentially to manufacturers. Please advise if pursuing this grant is our best option or if there are other avenues through which the government could assist us.	Please see Section I.B. of the FOA, Areas of Interest, and Section 1.C. of the FOA, Applications Specifically Not of Interest.
Is it possible to add more team members if we get selected for the full application?	Yes, you can change the project team, including subrecipients, contractors, vendors and even national labs, between the Concept Paper and full application phase. You cannot change the prime applicant, however.

<p>Unfortunately I still do not have the option to designate one as the confidential version (or as the redacted version).</p>	<p>Please see Section VIII.D., Treatment of Application Information. It specifically states, "If an applicant chooses to submit trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, the applicant must provide two copies of the submission (e.g., Concept Paper, Full Application). The first copy should be marked "non-confidential," with the information believed to be confidential deleted. The second copy should be marked "confidential" and must clearly and conspicuously identify the trade secrets or business-sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information and must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The federal government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose as authorized by law."</p> <p>EERE eXCHANGE has been corrected to allow for two Concept Papers to be uploaded, if necessary; a confidential version and a non-confidential version.</p>
<p>I am interested to submit our concept paper for the DE-FOA-0003248. I could not find this call in EERE eXCHANGE. Also when i try to check through grants.gov the apply option is not enabled. Is there any technical issue?</p>	<p>For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.</p>
<p>We uploaded 4 of the 6 concept papers for the grant opportunity DE-FOA-0003248. Would you please kindly confirm that these concept papers have been accepted for the reviewing process.</p>	<p>You should receive a confirmation email confirming submission from the system when you hit submit. Please see the Exchange Guide for Applicants.</p>
<p>I submitted our concept paper for the DE-FOA-0003248 yesterday and attached is the confirmation. I would like to edit this and update the form, but I could not find the submission in my login and also I having trouble finding this call from EERE Exchange. Please let me know how to fix this problem and why It's not showing up in my submission.</p>	<p>For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line. Also please see the Exchange Guide for Applicants.</p>