

VTO Fiscal Year 2023 Lab Call - Questions/Answers (DE-LC-0000021)

Updated: April 21, 2023

#	Date Asked	Topic	Question	Answer
1	4/4/23	5	AOI5 mentions “Estimated DOE funding per project: \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000” with “fewer, larger projects are encouraged” Since some of the demonstration and deployment tasks are supporting each other, would an integrated concept paper with higher funding request (e.g., \$4M total) be acceptable or is the maximum per concept paper \$2M (and in that case, we would show the linkages across 2 separate concept papers).	The Lab Call language estimates funding per project at \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 for Area of Interest 5, but proposed projects above and below this funding amount are allowed.
2	4/10/23	1	Are National Labs leading a response to AOI 1 able to send federal funding to a cost share partner through a subcontract?	Applicants must make sure their prospective partnership arrangements comply with all DOE directives and conditions and all partnerships between the labs and outside partners must comply with individual lab requirements under their management and operating (M&O) contracts. Please consult your DOE facility legal staff for advice. Additional information about cost share is provided in Appendix A.
3	4/11/23	5	Should concept paper submissions for AOI 5 be listed in the concept paper section or the full proposal section of exchange?	Since there is not an option in Exchange to submit concept papers for this lab call, concept papers for AOI 5 should be uploaded as full proposals. Concept paper projects selected for a full proposal will be provided full proposal submission information.
4	4/14/23	5	Since there isn't a concept paper attachment field for AOI 5 submissions, should labs upload the concept paper in place of the “Technical Volume?”	Please see the response to question #3
5	4/17/23	4	AOI 4 seeks to “expand on high performance processes developed in Phase 1”, which is targeted at lightweighting of the vehicle glider. Thrust 1 of AOI 4 asks for “Fundamental studies of creep and thermo-mechanical fatigue...” Normally creep and elevated temperature performance is not a concern for components or sub-systems that make up the glider. Can you confirm such property performance should be considered for structural castings?	1a. The Office of Vehicle Technologies (VTO) supports the decarbonization of the transportation energy sector including mass transit, heavy freight system, passenger vehicles, and off-highway equipment. The VTO materials program supports this effort for the office, metrics to evaluate success may be limited to one vehicle class or subassembly (such as the glider) but the VTO Material Program research is not limited to the performance metric subassembly. 1b. The LMCP seeks to “expand on the high performance processes developed in phase 1”. The LMCP is Light Metals Core Program and is expanding beyond sheet processing to include alloy development for cast components such as large castings which include multiple functions including crossmember, suspension, and motor cradles (which are part of the glider) where fatigue and creep are common failure mechanisms.
6	4/17/23	4	AOI 4, Thrust 1 notes “Capital Equipment Expected in Year 1.” If proposed, will funding for this investment be allocated separate from the \$1.5M identified for Thrust 1 R&D activities?	The capital equipment listed in the thrust 1 text for year one would be for specialize casting equipment and would be necessary to conduct casting R&D as described in Thrust 1&2. It is part of the \$3.5M identified in thrust 1&2, \$1.5M & \$2.0M respectively. If the proposal can include provide the necessary casting resources without making the capital equipment investment, the \$1M capital equipment funds could be used for R&D instead.
7	4/17/23	4	AOI 4 includes two Thrusts focused on large-scale castings. It is not entirely clear the intended difference in objectives for Thrust 2 versus Thrust 1. Can you confirm Thrust 1 is intended to be about process technologies to address casting flaws, while Thrust 2 focus is to be focused on developing a sustainable, high performing alloy system?	The capital equipment (High Pressure Die Casting) in thrust 1 would be used to produce casting for validation of thrust 1&2 R&D activities: Thrust 1 R&D activities should focus on processing techniques to improve the structural performance of large casting via processing and post processing techniques to address flaws in key locations. Thrust 2 R&D Activities should focus on developing a sustainable, high performance alloy system
8	4/18/23	5	What criteria in the EERE-Exchange Application is required to be completed for AOI5 Concept Paper submissions?	Concept papers should address the criteria outlined under AOI 5-7 Proposal Requirements on page 39 of Lab Call. Applicants should also review the AOI 5 description including the information about partners.