

FAQs – FY20 Vehicle Technologies Office Lab Call 1

2/24/2020 – (no FAQs received)

2/26/2020 –

Question 1: Does VTO expect the AOI 3 “request for information” submission document to follow the same format requested under the proposal requirements: overview, objectives, management, approach / task?

Answer 1: For AOI 3, the proposer may choose to use a different format / outline if preferred. However, the page limit and other guidelines apply and the concept paper will be evaluated based on the criteria provided.

Question 2: Are applicants expected to fill out an entire application in EERE Exchange for AOI 3?

Answer 2: Yes

Question 3: Will AOI 3 submissions be evaluated based on Technical Review Criteria discussed on page 9?

Answer 3: Yes

Question 4: The Lab Call states that concept papers are requested for AOI 1. The format, content, and submittal process for full proposals is clearly described, it is unclear how concept papers should be formatted and submitted. Where can I find clarifying information?

Answer 4: The concept papers submitted under AOI 1 should follow the same format, content, and submittal process as is outlined for full proposals.

2/28/2020 –

Question 5: AOI 1a is restricted to ANL and LBNL. May other laboratories be a sub (partner) with the lead?

Answer 5: Yes

3/3/2020 –

Question 6: Are universities eligible to apply for AOI 1C: Mobility and Data Research?

Answer 6: Only National Laboratories are eligible to apply to Lab Call Announcements.

3/9/2020 –

Question 7: On AOI 1A, should non-ANL/LBNL concepts be submitted as fully integrated with ANL/LBNL-led concept papers, or should they be submitted in some other manner?

Answer 7: Only concept papers submitted by ANL or LBNL will be accepted under AOI 1A.

3/12/2020 –

Question 8: For proposals submitted in response to the FY20 AOP Lab Call, are letters of support from project team members or collaborators allowed? If so, how should they be submitted?

Answer 8: While not required, proposers may include letters of support in an appendix. This supplemental information does not count toward the 6 page limit.

Question 9: Can we include letters of support in our proposal application, and if so would they count against the 6-page limit if we added them in an appendix?

Answer 9: While not required, proposers may include letters of support in an appendix. This supplemental information does not count toward the 6 page limit.

3/16/2020 –

Question 10: Will the Lab Call submission deadline be extended due to the coronavirus?

Answer 10: The Lab Call submission deadline will not be extended due to the coronavirus. All Lab Call proposals are due 11:59pm ET, March 27, 2020.

3/17/2020 –

Question 11: When loading a new project task into the xCHANGE, the system requires Year-1 “Planned Costs” for each task even if those tasks aren’t scoped to begin or incur any cost during Year-1. So are we to assume VTO is only interested in Year-1 tasks, milestones, etc.?

Answer 11: Per the Lab Call document posted in Exchange, applicants must include all content they wish to have reviewed in the written proposal (maximum length, 6 pages). The proposal reviewers will not review any information provided in Exchange other than the written proposal. The information provided in Exchange is for AOP development. The Project Approach/Tasks section of the written proposal should list the key tasks and provide brief descriptions for each task, including roles and responsibilities of any partners. A cost estimate (total) for each phase should be provided.

3/20/2020 –

Question 12: Would it be permissible to provide a figure illustrating how multiple proposals connect either separately from the individual concept paper submissions or included where applicable alongside the other optional appendix material not counting against the 6-page limit (i.e., references and letters of support)?

Answer 12: Applicants are allowed to include a figure illustrating how multiple proposals connect in an optional appendix. However, the linkages between proposals should be made clear within the 6-page written proposal, as reviewers are not required to review any materials beyond the 6-page written proposal.

3/23/2020 –

Question 13: Is there is a specific template for the VTO lab call? I saw the section guidelines but an EERE Exchange template is mentioned, as well.

Answer 13: There is no template for the 6-page written submission for the VTO Lab Call. The EERE Exchange template that is mentioned in the Lab Call document refers to the tabs and fields that EERE Exchange provides for each submission.

3/24/2020 –

Question 14: Are proposal reviewers only expected and required to review the first six pages of proposal documents, or can submissions include CVs, staff capabilities, and other supplemental information within the first six pages and not count against the limit?

Answer 14: Applicants are allowed to include CVs, staff capabilities, and other supplemental information within the 6-page written proposal or in an optional appendix. However, reviewers are not required to review any materials beyond the 6-page written proposal.

3/26/2020 –

Question 15: The Planned Project Costs in the call are broken out as 2020, 2021, and 2022 with decisions being made by the end of May 2020. Are we correct to interpret the years as calendar years or fiscal years?

Answer 15: All DOE funding is planned on fiscal years (October 1 – September 30).

Question 16: The system is requiring we input an amount into each year even if there are no planned costs for that period. We can put a single \$1 to get through this, but is there another way to work with this?

Answer 16: The EERE Exchange systems allows \$0 entries. However, if it will not accept \$0, you can enter \$1. The entries in EERE Exchange are not final and can be changed prior to finalizing the AOP, if the project is selected for funding.

3/27/2020 – Update

Question 17: What type of information is being looked for as ‘Criteria’ under Project Milestones?

Answer 17: The criteria for each project milestone is the standard that will be used to determine whether or not the milestone has been achieved. The criteria for each milestone should be determined by the project team.

Question 18: Who is eligible to apply for AOI 2?

Answer 18: Only National Laboratories are eligible to apply to Lab Call Announcements. This includes AOI 1, AOI 2, and AOI 3 under Announcement DE-LC-000L078.