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. II'm prevented inseringt 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.

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Question	Answer
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 ıs workıng on novel coolıgn technologıes. I wonder how to reach teamıng lıst so we may joın a team to work on cool technologıes.	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.

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Question	Answer
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'? Is there someone affiliated with the FOA who can help us understand if we fit the intended projects for the Joint Office?	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.
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.
Area of Interest 6: “Cybersecurity for Smart and Secure Electric Vehicle Charging” has 2 subtopics 6a - Enabling Wide-scale, Cybersecure EV/EVSE Aggregation for Grid Services 6b - Tools to Assess EV/EVSE/Charging System Cybersecurity Posture and Compliance with Standards and Protocols for Communications, Controls, and Monitoring Can applicants submit their concept paper for 1 of the 2 subtopics or each submission shall cover both subtopics.	Submissions should be made to 6a or 6b, specifically.
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. 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.	For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.
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?	This FOA area of interest is targeting non-marine, non-aviation and non-rail off road vehicles.
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?	Any and all information may be incorporated directly into the concept paper body, which is limited to three total pages.

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Question	Answer
Need More info related to the announcement listed for the grant above.	Please review the Funding Opportunity Announcement for DE-FOA-0003248 located at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/.
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.	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.
In the "applications specifically not of interest" for area of interest 1, it says that: "Applications that propose development of a blend of cathode active material" are not of interest. 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). 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)?	Because the material is a composite, we would not consider the material a blend.
Are Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs) considered “off-road” for the purposes of AOI 3?	These would not be considered as they do not provide their own means of propulsion.
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. Are we allowed to apply for this FOA? If we request a waiver, that occurs at the full application stage, correct?	See Section III. Eligibility Information of the FOA, and Appendix C. - Waiver Requests For 1. Foreign Entity Participation; and 2. Foreign Work.

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Question	Answer
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? 2.What are you asking regarding confidentiality? We are planning to add our Confidential Watermarks to each page. Is this sufficient?	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, setion IV.C. states each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology. See section VIII.D. of the FOA for Treatment of Application Information.
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? 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?	Each area of interest is limited to a cancept 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, setion IV.C. states each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept or technology.
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.	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.
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. None of the examples in the application announcement include fixed guide way transit such as PRT. Are PRT projects eligible to apply under:	The technology you are describing does not meet the intent of any of the areas of interest in this FOA.

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Question	Answer
We are trying to find our eligibility and are having difficulty. In the Administrative Question and Answer Log. 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? 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. 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? 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?	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. For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.

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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? Also, what materials are expected to be submitted for the first stage? Only a 3-page concept paper?	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.
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?	EERE eXCHANGE has been corrected to allow for two Concept Papers to be uploaded, if necessary; a confidential version and a non-confidential version.

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Question	Answer
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? 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?	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. 2) You only need letters of commitment for the full application phase. Please see Section IV.C. of the FOA for the required Content and Form of the Concept Paper.
Are Metropolitan Planning Organizations eligible to apply?	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.
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?	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.

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Question	Answer
My company is registered to SAM.gov, login.gov, etc., and I'm able to login to https://eere-exchange.energy.gov. 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	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.
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.
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. 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.	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.

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Question	Answer
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.
Unfortunately I still do not have the option to designate one as the confidential version (or as the redacted version).	Please see Section VIII.D., Treatment of Applicaton 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." 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 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?	For problems with EERE Exchange, email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov and include the FOA name and number in the subject line.
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.	You should receive a confirmation email comfirming submission from the system when you hit submit. Please see the Exchange Guide for Applicants.
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.	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.

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Question	Answer
For the DOE FOA-0003248 for cost sharing, the topic we will submit today is on AOI #3, or Low GHG Concepts for Off-Road Vehicles. If initially a fuel-injection/engine retrofit kit would cost around $2 million to develop in R&D and testing, does that mean with the 20% R&D Phase Cost share, that we should pay $400,000 of the total budget, while the FOA-0003248 would provide $1,600,000 of the cost? Then after the kit is developed, if we want to put it on the Caterpillar Mining Haul Truck (say 777, the 100 ton truck) in the actual field, and say this costs another $1,000,000 to do the actual deployment/demonstration project, does that mean that we should bear $500,000 of the cost and the FOA-0003248 would provide the other $500,000? Just want to double check my understanding is correct.	Please see Appendix B of the FOA - Sample Cost Share Calculation for Blended Cost Share Percentage.
Should our concepts be approved and we move onto the full submission process, are we able to modify the content and language of the final application to best suit the Topic, or do we need to strictly adhere to the content and language we presented in the concept paper we submitted? Additionally, are we able to apply toward new, additional Topics from the list that we did not, as of today, submit concepts for?	You will be able to modify the content and language in the full application submission to best suit that topic. You will not be able to submit full applications for topics in which you did not submit concept papers. See section III.F. "An entity may submit more than one Concept Paper and Full Application to this FOA, provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project and an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Full Application."
I apologize for this email. It is my first time submitting to EERE and only realized after the deadline that even the concept paper should be submitted through the EERE portal. As it happens, this information came after 5pm today. If there is a chance I can file this concept paper still, I would appreciate it. It is attached here.	See Section IV.A.i. of the FOA - Additional Information on EERE eXCHANGE. Also see Section IV.G. of the FOA - Submission Dates and Times. Section IV.B. of the FOA - Application Forms - specifically states, "DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 50MB." EERE eXCHANGE is designed to enforce the deadlines specified in this FOA. The “Apply” and “Submit” buttons will automatically disable at the defined submission deadlines. Applicants who experience technical difficulties with submission PRIOR to the FOA deadline should contact the EERE eXCHANGE helpdesk for assistance (EERE-eXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov).

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Question	Answer
I submitted the concept paper. One key utility partner has only confirmed to join the team this morning. If possible, could you please use the attached updated concept paper for review?	Once the deadline for the concept papers passes, no further entries can be made. You can include the new partner in your full application.
I tried downloading the FOA but when I try to open the file receive the following error: There was an error opening this document. The file is damaged and could not be repaired. I am using a MacBook Pro and tried with both Chrome and Safari Browsers.	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.
According to our understanding, the Concept Paper (CP) submission deadline was set for May 20, 2024, as indicated in Figure 1 attached below. However, upon reviewing the dates on the EERE Exchange, we noted an inconsistency with an additional deadline listed for May 2, 2024 (refer to Figure 2 attached below). Could you please confirm the accurate submission date for the CP? We appreciate your assistance in clarifying this matter to ensure timely compliance.	The screenshot in your email references FOA 3214, not FOA 3248. The deadline for submission of a Concept Paper to FOA 3248 was 5/2/24 at 5:00pm ET.
Our project team is working on compiling an application for Area of Interest 3: Low-GHG Concepts for Off-Road Vehicles. In the FOA, under the General Requirements for this Area of Interest, could you please explain what is meant by "Include an estimate of the applicability of the proposed technology across the off-road sector?"	Provide an estimate of how broadly the proposal can be applied across the off-road sector.

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Question	Answer
Our company is very much interested and we would like to submit the RFI for - "DE-FOA-0003248: FY2024 VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT" I see that the Initial Submission dates are : •Concept Paper Submission Deadline: 5/2/2024 5:00 PM ET •Full Application Submission Deadline: 6/24/2024 5:00 PM ET Are we too late or can we still submit RFI for this program?	See Section III.C. Compliance Criteria that specifically states: All applicant submissions must: • Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Section IV. of the FOA; • Include all required documents; • Be uploaded and submitted to EERE eXCHANGE https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov; and • Be submitted by the deadline stated in the FOA. EERE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE eXCHANGE, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers and Full Applications at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least one hour to submit a Concept Paper or Full Application. Once the Concept Paper or Full Application is submitted in EERE eXCHANGE, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit the Concept Paper or Full Application before the applicable deadline. EERE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion. Eligibility to submit a Full Application requires a Concept Paper be submitted by the due date on the Funding Opportunity Announcement cover page.

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Question	Answer
Q1: As per DOE's regulations that prohibit FFRDCs from lobbying to influence federal officials in connection with the awarding of grants or contracts, I am seeking your confirmation on whether DOE federally owned and operated laboratories are still required to provide a signed "SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" when there's nothing to report. We respect your authority in this matter and look forward to your response. Q2: To whom should DOE FFRDCs address/direct the required "Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs"? Please provide the name, title, and mailing address. Previous funding announcements included information on DOE Grantor Contact/Contract Specialist in the FAQ. Q3: We want to confirm whether VTO considers partnering FFRDCs as sub-recipients for this announcement. Typically, DOE funds partnering FFRDCs independently of the project team rather than funding them through the prime recipient as a project team member/sub-recipient. Q4: Should partnering FFRDCs provide their project lead a completed "Subrecipient Budget Justification" for the Full Application submission if the FFRDCs' proposed federal share exceeds $250K or 25% of the total project costs? Or will the required "Budget for DOE/NNSA FFRDC" be sufficient in place of the sub-recipient budget justification requirement? Q5: Can the "Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs" fulfill the letter of commitment/support requirement for project teams collaborating with DOE FFRDCs?	Q1. See Section IV.D.xiv. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Q2. Please direct this to the "Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, c/o Ashley Reichl, Contracting Officer." This document must be submitted with the application. See Section III.E.i.b. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Q3. DOE/NNSA FFRDCs are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a prime recipient. Non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a prime recipient. See Section III.A.i. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Q4. Applicants must provide a separate budget justification for each subrecipient that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than $250,000 or 25% of the total work efforts, whichever is less. The budget justification must include the same justification information described in the "Budget Justification" section above. See Section IV.D.xi. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Q5. See Section IV.D.v. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
We're trying to access the full application package for DE-FOA-0003248 and can't find a place to "Apply" on EERE eXCHANGE. We submitted a concept paper before the 5/2 deadline. The concept paper is available on the "My Submissions" tab when logged into our account. Will we only have access to the full application package if our concept paper is encouraged?	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.

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
Can someone help me if we can submit this documentation to participate in this subject area? We passed the Concept , we were just aware of this program , we would like to participate , can we still submit the proposal?	See Section III.C. Compliance Criteria that specifically states: All applicant submissions must: • Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Section IV. of the FOA; • Include all required documents; • Be uploaded and submitted to EERE eXCHANGE https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov; and • Be submitted by the deadline stated in the FOA. EERE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE eXCHANGE, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers and Full Applications at least 48 hours in advance of the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), applicants should allow at least one hour to submit a Concept Paper or Full Application. Once the Concept Paper or Full Application is submitted in EERE eXCHANGE, applicants may revise or update that submission until the expiration of the applicable deadline. If changes are made to any of these documents, the applicant must resubmit the Concept Paper or Full Application before the applicable deadline. EERE will not extend the submission deadline for applicants that fail to submit required information by the applicable deadline due to server/connection congestion. Eligibility to submit a Full Application requires a Concept Paper be submitted by the due date on the Funding Opportunity Announcement cover page.
Thank you for the notification. We would like to request a read out on this decision with the aim to learn how we can improve our submissions. Would that be possible?	As stated in the Concept Paper notification, "This letter comprises the sole debriefing the DOE will provide with regard to your Concept Paper."
We participated as a sub-recipient on a concept paper that was encouraged. The prime applicant that submitted the concept paper is asking us to be the prime applicant on the full submission. Is this possible? If so, how would this work in the EERE Exchange Portal since as a sub-recipient we did not submit the concept paper (i.e., we don't have a control number tied to our entity for this application)?	Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
The concept paper is encouraged for full application. I don't find link that allows me to submit documents related to full application.	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.
We missed the deadline for the concept paper. I wonder if we are still qualified to submit the full paper?	Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

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
In response to our concept paper submissions, it was recommended that we do not continue with our full applications to grant DE-FOA-0003248. In order to help us do better and be more successful with applications next time, would it be possible to get some more information about the details of that judgement?	As stated in the Concept Paper notification, "This letter comprises the sole debriefing the DOE will provide with regard to your Concept Paper."
For our concept paper it was noted that the proposed technology of using high pressure direct injection (HPDI) low-carbon intensity natural gas didn't adequately show how the project is unique or innovative. Is it possible for the DOE/NETL to clarify on why then if the market doesn't have an option at all for HPDI on mine-haul trucks, why it wouldn't be considered unique? Secondly, if instead of focusing on using HPDI with LNG/natural gas on mine haul trucks, if we had instead made the focus of the concept paper using HPDI with hydrogen instead on mine haul trucks, would that have made the concept paper any more unique to qualify with encouragement instead of discouragement?	As stated in the Concept Paper notification, "This letter comprises the sole debriefing the DOE will provide with regard to your Concept Paper."
Thank you for your feedback. Would it be possible to obtain clarification on which is the project that is too close to our proposal? This will help us distinguish ourselves from current efforts in future submittals.	As stated in the Concept Paper notification, "This letter comprises the sole debriefing the DOE will provide with regard to your Concept Paper."
We have two questions related to our full application: 1.Does each subrecipient have to complete a separate SF-424 form? Or just the prime recipient? a.If yes to the above, does this also apply to FFRDCs? 2.If an FFRDC is a subrecipient, do they need to complete a Letter of Commitment (since they are not contributing any cost share)?	1) The SF-424 is an Application for Federal Assistance. The prime is the only one requesting Federal assistance, so in answer to the question, the subrecipient does not complete an SF-424. See Section IV.D.ii. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, "SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance." 1a) Yes. Subrecipients do not complete the SF-424. See Section IVD.ii. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, "SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance." 2) No. Letters of Commitment are required only if they are providing cost share. See Section IV.D.v. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, "Letters of Commitment."

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
1)Can you please provide guidance as to how to submit the SF-LLL form for the prime recipient and subrecipient IF neither the prime nor the subrecipient perform any lobbying activities? I understand submitting an SF-LLL form is a requirement. However, should we just put N/A at the top if the applicant does not perform any lobbying activities? Which areas of the SF-LLL form are required to fill out if the applicant does not perform lobbying activities? 2)Does an FFRDC also need to complete a subrecipient budget, or do they only complete the "DOE Work Proposal for FFRDC." ? The solicitation does not outline this. 3)In addition, Section IV.D.xiv. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement does not note whether FFRDCs are required to submit an SF-LLL form. Are FFRDC's included as subrecipients when it states, "Prime recipients and subrecipients are required to complete and submit SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities"? 4)Are FFRDCs required to submit a Transparency of Foreign Connections form? 5)Are FFRDCs required to submit an SF424 form?	1) Enter N/A into each of the fields in the template. 2) The FFRDC must follow the same rules as any othr subrecipient. If over $250K, they need to submit a budget justification. A Field work Authorization (FWA) is required whether over $250K or not. See the following sections of the Funding Opportunity Announcement: - Section III.A.i. "Eligible Applicants, Domestic Entities" - Section IV.D.xi. "Subrecipient Budget Justification (if applicable)" 3) The Prime applicant submits the SF-LLL. If any of their subs are doing lobbying, it needs to be included on the SF-LLL form. 4) See Section IV.D.xvii, "Transparency of Foreign Connections," that states, "U.S. National Laboratories, domestic government entities, and institutions of higher education are only required to respond to items 1, 2, and 9, and if applying as to serve as the prime recipient, must provide complete responses for project team memebers that are not U.S. National Laboratories, domestic government entities, or institutions of higher education." 5) No. The SF-424 is an Application for Federal Assistance. The prime applicant is the only entity requesting Federal assistance, so in answer to the question, the subrecipient does not complete an SF-424. See Section IV.D.ii. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, "SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance."

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
Can you please clarify the difference between the Project Goal and the Relevance and Outcomes section? How should I differentiate between what to write in the Project Goal and what is written in the Relevance and outcomes, specifically when it comes to "targeted improvements and critical success factors" (prompt in project goal) vs. the "DOE technical targets and performance targets" (prompt in part 2 – relevance and outcomes)? Specifically, the project goal asks the applicant to identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal, whereas in Part 2, relevance and outcomes, the section also asks to describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the FOA, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets and other performance targets." How can I differentiate what to write for these specific subsections, or would you like one to be more detail oriented than the other?	There is more detail requested in the Relevance and Outcomes. See section IV.D.iii. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
It seems I missed the deadline to submit concept papers for both FOA numbers: DE-FOA-0003248 and DE-FOA-0003214 Would it still be too late to submit the whole application if we couldn't get the concept papers in?	Regarding DE-FOA-0003248, only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Regarding DE-FOA-0003214, please direct your question to FOA3214@netl.doe.gov.
Given our difficulties in submitting the concept paper, will we still be eligible to submit a full proposal?	Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

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 am writing to find out how to submit the full application. The DE-FOA-0003248: FY2024 VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT does not clearly state this.	Please fully review the the section in the Funding Opportunity Announcement titled, "Note: Registration/Submission Requirements." Specifically, it states "All application submissions are to be made via the EERE eXCHANGE at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/. To gain access to the EERE eXCHANGE system, the applicant must first have a Login.gov account. Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the eXCHANGE Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the Manuals section of eXCHANGE. This account will then allow the user to submit an application for open EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) that are currently in EERE Exchange. Each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, should use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants must also designate backup points of contact. This step is required to apply to this FOA." Additionally, 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.
Since our concept paper detailed the very grounds for rejection, we are a little puzzled and most interested in how to address future opportunities. Could we impose on either of you for some remedial direction?	As stated in the Concept Paper notification, "Based on this determination, your concept paper was eliminated from further consideration and your organization is ineligible to submit a Full Application. This decision is final, and in accordance with the financial assistance regulations, there is no process for appealing applications deemed non-compliant/non-responsive. Please review the Concept Paper documents that were submitted via EERE Exchange.
Hello, my climate tech startup recently became aware of this opportunity and I see the CP deadline has passed. I wanted to see if it were possible to submit the CP along with the Full Application or if it were possible to get an extension on the CP?	Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper by the required deadline will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

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 have reviewed the FOA and am unclear what start date and end date we should input in the SF-424 form. I understand award negotiations are expected to occur between October-December 2024. We are applying to area of interest 3. Please advise what start date we should enter - from there, I can figure out the end date given that the anticipated period of performance for this interest area is 36 months.	As indicated in the SF-424 instructions, enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
I am wondering specifically the following specifically when it comes to "targeted improvements and critical success factors" (prompt in project goal) vs. the "DOE technical targets and performance targets" (prompt in part 2 – relevance and outcomes). Specifically, the project goal asks the applicant to identify the targeted improvements to the baseline technology and the critical success factors in achieving that goal, whereas in Part 2, relevance and outcomes, the section also asks to describe the relevance of the proposed project to the goals and objectives of the FOA, including the potential to meet specific DOE technical targets and other performance targets." How can I differentiate what to write for these specific subsections? Should the Project Goal "targeted improvements and critical success factors" be at a high level, with more detail included in the "DOE technical targets and performance targets" within the relevance and outcomes section?	Yes, the Project Goal "targeted improvements and critical success factors" should be at a high level, with more detail included in the "DOE technical targets and performance targets" within the relevance and outcomes section.

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
We recently had our concept paper for securing Electric Vehicle charging systems accepted and we are currently preparing our full application. While working on the application, we observed a few different paths we could explore while performing on the program and wanted to get your thoughts on the mission and goals of the program. Would it be at all possible to schedule a brief 30-min meeting to walk you through our plan?	See section VII. Questions/Agency Contacts of the Funding Opportunity Announcement stating, "Upon the issuance of a FOA, EERE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process described below. Questions regarding this FOA must be submitted to DE-FOA-0003248@netl.doe.gov no later than three (3) business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A. All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on EERE eXCHANGE at: https://eere-exchange.energy.gov. You must first select the FOA Number to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA. EERE will attempt to respond to a question within three (3) business days unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website. Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE eXCHANGE website should be submitted to: EERE-eXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov."
It turns out that my collaborator is a FFRDCs and cannot put in any cost share. My questions are: 1.Do we need to pay cost share for the cost incurred by the FFRDCs? 2.Can we have a reduction in cost share as the project is led by a university?	1. See section III.B.vi. Cost Share Payment stating, "As FFRDC funding will be provided directly to the FFRDC(s) by DOE, prime recipients will be required to provide project cost share at a percentage commensurate with the FFRDC costs, on a budget period basis, resulting in a higher interim invoicing cost share ratio than the total award ratio." Also see section III.E.i.c. Funding, Cost Share, and Subaward with FFRDCs stating, "Although the FFRDC portion of the work is excluded from the award, the applicant's cost share requirement will be based on the total cost of the project, including the applicant's, the subrecipient's, and the FFRDC's portions of the project." 2. See section III.B. Cost Sharing stating, "Applicants are bound by the cost share proposed in their Full Applications if selected for award negotiations."

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'm having a difficulty opening the applying button on grants.gov.	Please fully review the the section in the Funding Opportunity Announcement titled, "Note: Registration/Submission Requirements." Specifically, it states "All application submissions are to be made via the EERE eXCHANGE at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/. To gain access to the EERE eXCHANGE system, the applicant must first have a Login.gov account. Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the eXCHANGE Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the Manuals section of eXCHANGE. This account will then allow the user to submit an application for open EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) that are currently in EERE Exchange. Each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, should use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Applicants must also designate backup points of contact. This step is required to apply to this FOA." Additionally, 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.
Please see the application forms below: SF-LLL cannot be downloaded - see the error in the Word file. FEDRC Field Work authorization - cannot open the 🗁 SF-424 Application for federal assistance is not clear on how to open and use it.	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.
Regarding your point #2: I do not see anything listed as a "Field authorization form" in the solicitation. Do you mean a DOE Work Proposal for FFRDC is always required?	Yes. It is the DOE Work Proposal.
Do FFRDCs require a letter of commitment in addition to (1) work authorization from contracting officer and (2) work proposal?	See Section IV.D.v. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
Would it be possible to switch the lead organization to (redacted) and turn (redacted) to a subrecipient? Is this acceptable for the full application submission?	Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application. See Section IV.A. of the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

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
Are two Principal Investigators (one from the prime recipient and the other from an FFRDC) permitted for this project? Or can you only use one Principal Investigator from the prime recipient's team? I have looked through the entire solicitation and cannot find an area that specifies this. I would greatly appreciate clarification.	You may designate more than one Principal Investigator in which the designated person(s) would be Co-Principal Investigators.