ENERGY I-CORPS

OTT Office of Technology Transitions

**U.S. Department of Energy**

**Office of Technology Transitions**

# National Laboratory Call for Proposals

*Energy I-Corps Program:*

*Topic 1. Pipeline Development*
*Topic 2. Training Cohort (Cohort 21)*
*Topic 3. Post EIC*

Announcement No. DE-LC-000L126

Fiscal Year 2025

This lab call is for the Energy I-Corps Program (EIC), which is led by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Technology Transitions (OTT). The goal of the Energy I-Corps program is to train researchers at DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites to evaluate industry needs and potential market applications for their technologies. This lab call solicits proposals from DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices to participate in EIC, for researchers to develop skills in commercialization, and to investigate the market potential for DOE-funded technologies at a critical juncture on the path toward commercialization.

## Table of Contents

# I. Lab Call Modification History

Modifications will appear here and will be distributed via email to all registered U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratory and DOE plant and site points of contact(s).

# II. Lab Call Description

## Program Background

Energy I-Corps (EIC) is an immersive program targeted to researchers of DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites. In this program, researchers learn about market needs through stakeholder discovery and evaluate potential industry applications for their technologies. DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) serves as the program administrator. Public investments in research and innovation power the private engine of the American economy. With the activities of OTT's EIC, the DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites increase capacity to ensure that research positively impacts innovators, the economy, and ultimately, the public good.

## B. Program Foundation

Established in 2015 and formerly known as DOE's Lab-Corps, EIC became part of the OTT portfolio in 2018. EIC was initially modeled on the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) successful Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) program, which prepares scientists and engineers to extend their focus beyond the lab. EIC builds upon the NSF I-Corps™ model while adapting it to the unique features of the DOE National Laboratories, DOE plants and sites, and DOE's mission space.

## C. Program Impact

EIC accelerates the path to market for taxpayer-funded discoveries and further enables the private sector uptake of energy technologies. Since its inception, over 510 researchers have received training through EIC by taking 242 technologies through the advanced market analysis offered by the program. EIC technologies have collectively attracted more than $197 million in post-program funding, executed over 85 licenses, and created more than 25 new businesses in nearly 20 technology areas (Figure 1). Furthermore, as of December 2024, EIC participants have collectively worked with more than 245 industry mentors and conducted more than 17,500 discovery interviews to determine the commercial impact of their technologies. For additional information regarding the program and past participants, refer to the following program website: https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/energy-i-corps.

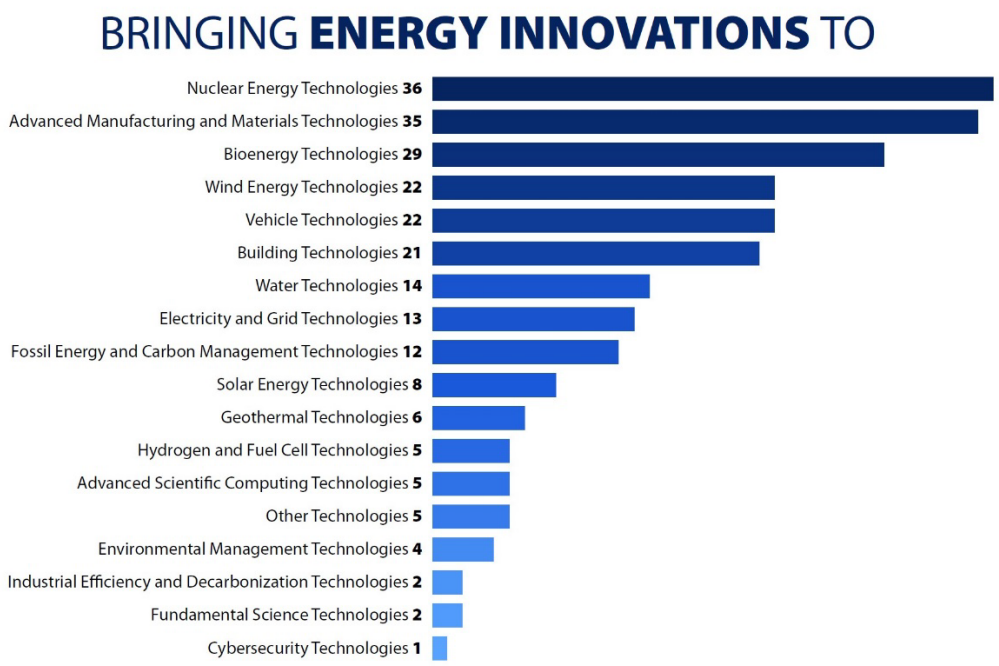


*Figure 1: Technology Areas Explored through Energy I-Corps (as of December 2024)*

# D. Program Structure

**OTT is soliciting three separate topics within this lab call.** An overview of the EIC program structure is presented in Figure 2.

- **Topic 1 – Pipeline Development:** Funding to support projects and programming that have the potential to ***directly*** increase participation in EIC Training Cohorts (Topic 2) in subsequent EIC lab calls. Details are provided in Section II.G.i.
  Note: this topic was previously referred to as "Site Lab", "Satellite", or "Asynchronous" funding
- **Topic 2 – Training Cohort:** Funding to participate in Cohort 21 (Fall 2025) of the 2-month training program to define technology value propositions, conduct stakeholder discovery interviews, and develop viable market pathways to accelerate the commercialization of DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology. Details are provided in Section II.G.ii.
- **Topic 3 – Post EIC:** Funding to support the next step in commercialization of DOE technologies that have either gone through EIC Topic 2 or NSF's national I-Corps™ program. The funds are not meant to support the teams' full commercialization effort. Instead, the funds are intended to cover costs of the next actionable step in technology commercialization and facilitate the teams in reaching their next source of more substantive support to continue their commercialization journey. Details are provided in Section II.G.iii.

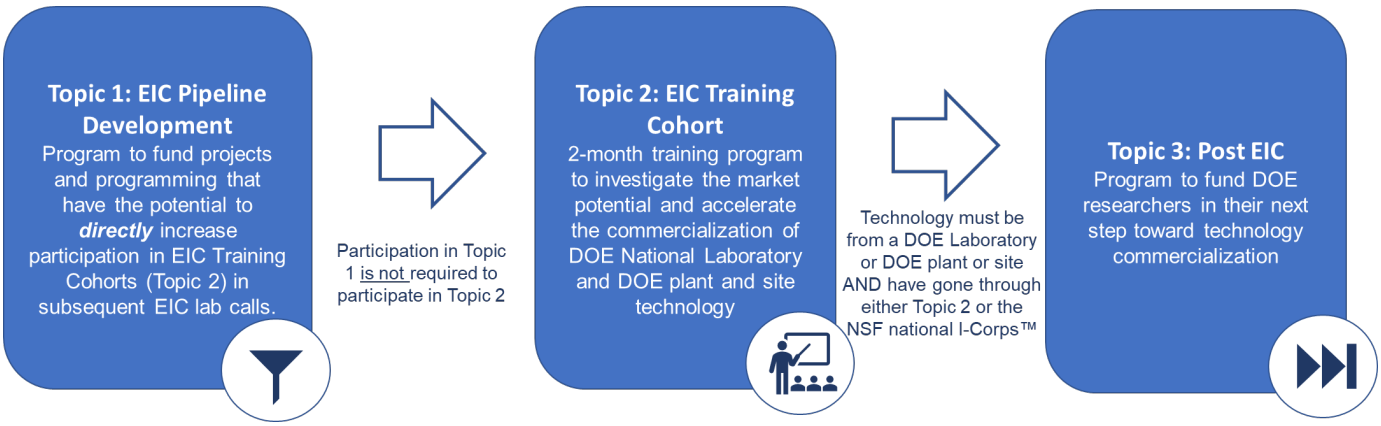


*Figure 2: Overview of Energy I-Corps (EIC) Program*

# E. Timeline and Process Logistics

## i. Timeline

Key dates for this lab call are located in Table 1 below. Please see detailed timelines for each topic in Section II.G.

**Table 1: Fall 2025 Energy I-Corps Lab Call Timeline**

| Event | Date |
|---|---|
| Laboratory call issue date | Tuesday, March 18, 2025 |
| Informational webinar | Tuesday March 25, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (ET) |
| Topic 1 submission deadline | Friday, April 11, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. (ET) |
| Topic 2 submission deadline | |
| Topic 3 submission deadline | |
| Expected dates for selection notifications:<br>Topic 1: Pipeline Development<br>Topic 2: Training Cohort 21<br>Topic 3: Post EIC | Wednesday, June 4, 2025 |

## ii. Submittal Logistics

For all three topics, there is no limit on the number of applications each DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site can submit.

Submissions for this call will be accepted from technology transfer office personnel who have been previously identified as lab point of contacts (POCs). To register a new POC for your laboratory, plant, or site, please send an email with the subject line "Energy I-Corps POC Registration" with your name, job

title, email, and phone contact information to EnergyICorps@hq.doe.gov. Laboratory, plant, and site POCs are the primary conduits through which information regarding this laboratory call is sent and received. Laboratories, plants, and sites are welcome to name secondary or alternate POC(s) if they so desire. It is the responsibility of the POCs to:

- Communicate this lab call opportunity within their laboratory, plant, or site and to interested Principal Investigators (PIs).
- Once selections are made, communicate program-related decisions and actions to their laboratory, plant, or site's selected PI faithfully and accurately.
- Ensure all funding actions are completed successfully between OTT, a sponsoring technical program office or semi-autonomous agency and the participating laboratory, plant, or site.

For detailed information on lab call submissions by topic, refer to Section II.G.

### iii. Questions During Open Lab Call Period

All communication to DOE regarding this lab call, including specific questions about this lab call, should be emailed to EnergyICorps@hq.doe.gov. OTT will aim to respond to a question within three business days unless a similar question and the answer have already been posted on the website. To ensure fairness for all applicants, any questions directed to individual DOE staff will be forwarded to EnergyICorps@hq.doe.gov for processing.

## F. Key Considerations and Requirements

### i. Available Funding

OTT expects to award up to $500K across Topics 1 and 3 in this instance of the EIC lab call, dependent on FY25 appropriations. Additional funding may be available based on proposals' alignment with non-OTT DOE program office and partner agency goals. Topic 3 applications will be assessed and reviewed by individual non-OTT DOE program offices and partner agencies for their selections and funding. Topic 2 applications will continue to be assessed and reviewed by individual DOE program offices and partner agencies for their selections and funding, beyond OTT's budget.

There are various funding limits per topic (Table 2). Cost share is not required for any of the three topics. However, DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites may supplement team budgets with internal funding resources if desired. At OTT's discretion, funding may be provided by external entities. All funding will be provided to the DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site as a bill code. Funding will not be transferred from DOE HQ to external parties, e.g. directly to individual laboratory staff.

**Table 2: Available Funding for Fall 2025 Energy I-Corps Lab Call**

| Topic | Available Funding |
|---|---|
| Topic 1: EIC Pipeline Development | - Up to $100,000 per project with a single DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site applicant<br>- Up to $200,000 per project with at least three DOE National Laboratories or DOE plants or sites applying together |
| Topic 2: EIC Training Cohort | $100,000 per team |
| Topic 3: Post EIC | Up to $100,000 per project |

*DOE program offices and partner agencies, including OTT, will review and select projects. See Appendix A for DOE program office and partner agency list.

*DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the responses submitted to this lab call.*

### ii. Size, Scope, and Number of Selections

The budget size, tasks, and scope of proposed projects can be adjusted by DOE during selections and negotiations. The number of selections will depend on the number of meritorious proposals and the availability of funds in DOE program offices participating in this lab call.

### iii. National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

Each selected DOE laboratory, DOE plant or site must coordinate with a NEPA Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.), DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 C.F.R. Part 1021), and DOE's NEPA Compliance Program (DOE P451.1) for any project undertaken under this laboratory call.

## G. Topic Descriptions

As mentioned in Section II.D., this lab call includes three topics to promote commercialization of DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology.

DOE will review and assess responses to this lab call from each submitting DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site and may follow up on one, none, or all the responses, requesting a further statement of work or budget to be drafted to establish a project.

## i. Topic 1: Energy I-Corps Pipeline Development

**Topic Description**

Topic 1 seeks proposals from DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites for projects and programming that have the potential to ***directly*** increase participation in future EIC Training Cohorts (Topic 2). **DOE strongly encourages efforts that bring together multiple labs to meet the goal of this topic in the most effective manner possible.** This includes the teaming of DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites that have never participated in EIC Topic 2 or EIC, generally, with those that have previously participated. This model promotes the sharing of best practices, of lessons learned, and of resources developed during previous participation. In fact, individual projects under Topic 1 will have different funding ceilings depending on the number of DOE labs, plants, or sites applying per application. Individual projects with a single DOE lab, plant, or site applicant will be considered up to a total of $100K. Projects with at least three DOE National Laboratories, plants or sites applying together, will be considered up to a total of $200K.

Successful projects will be able to demonstrate how the funded activity leads to increased EIC Topic 2: Training Cohort applications. A non-exhaustive list of previously funded Topic 1 projects include:

- Funding interns to work directly with PIs to develop EIC applications.
- Interviewing EIC alumni, analyzing the chain of events that led alumni to apply to EIC, and running a pilot to try to recreate the experience for other PIs.
- Participating in a low cost, lighter lift entrepreneurial program geared towards recruiting for subsequent EIC training cohorts, whether hosted in-house or by partners including a NSF regional I-Corps™ hub.
- EIC-relevant trainings such as customer discovery workshops and practice sessions, technology pitches, question development for interviews, etc.


***Figure 3: Past participation in Energy I-Corps Topic 2 by DOE National Laboratory and DOE Plant and Site (as of December 2024)***

Examples of activities that would not be well suited for Topic 1 because they do not directly lead to increased EIC Training Cohort (Topic 2) applications include:

- General trainings on a specific component of the commercialization process such as intellectual property protection.
- General talks or lunch-and-learns about the commercialization process.

Key dates for Topic 1 are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Key Dates for Topic 1 EIC Pipeline Development**

| Event | Date |
|---|---|
| Informational webinar | Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (ET) |
| Submission deadline | Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 PM (ET) |
| Expected date for selection notifications | Wednesday, June 4, 2025 |
| Funding transfer complete | Funding will be transferred after successful negotiations between OTT and DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site are completed. *OTT is targeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025. |

**Eligibility – Topic 1**

Only DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites are eligible to apply for Topic 1 under this lab call. Topic 1 is an opportunity for DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices to request FY25 funding. Topic 1 is also an opportunity to propose an adjustment or scope change for using unexpended Satellite or Topic 1 - Pipeline Development funding from prior fiscal years. Any proposed adjustment, scope change or new funding request should address the goal to ***directly*** increase participation in subsequent EIC Training Cohorts.

**Program Deliverables**

A concise final report is required at the end of the proposed project. This report will include, but is not limited to, the overview of the project, activities performed, the number of teams that intend or went on to apply to Topic 2, lessons learned, and improvements identified to increase participation for Topic 2 in the future.

**Period of Performance**

Proposed projects should seek to support EIC goals efficiently and effectively in FY26. However, applications with projects that expand beyond the end of FY26 will be considered.

**Submission and Review Information**

All submissions must conform to the following form and content requirements, including maximum page lengths (Table 4) and must be submitted via EERE Exchange, unless specifically stated otherwise. DOE will not review or consider submissions that are received through means other than Exchange, submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete.

Should applicants experience technical problems with Exchange prior to the deadline, the applicant should contact the EERE Exchange helpdesk for assistance (eere-epichelpdesk@ee.doe.gov). The EERE Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

To be considered for EIC Topic 1, applicants must submit the documents listed in Table 4.

Selected applicants will go through a negotiations process which will require the development and approval of a statement of work and spend plan. Templates of these documents are included in Appendices B & C, respectively, and can be used as a reference when completing application documents. *The statement of work and spend plan are not required as part of the application.*

Table 4: EIC Topic 1 Application Documents

| Document | Format | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Detailed narrative | • 3 pages max.<br>• 8.5"x 11" pages with 1-inch margin<br>• 11-point font<br>• PDF file | Applicants are required to:<br>• Describe the proposed project including the leading and target participants, resources needed, anticipated level of impact, and overall plan to execute the project.<br>• Explicitly state how the proposed project will directly increase future participation in EIC Training Cohorts (Topic 2) from your lab, plant, or site.<br>• Proposals that request adjustment or scope change of uncosted Satellite, Site Lab, Asynchronous EIC, or Pipeline Development funding must explicitly state how the rescoped funds will directly increase participation in Topic 2.<br>• List the barrier(s) to participating in EIC training cohorts (time, effort, etc.) unique to your lab, plant, or site that is addressed by your proposed project.<br>• Identify any hurdles that may arise when implementing your proposed project and your plans to overcome such hurdles.<br>• If your lab, plant, or site has received Topic 1 funding in the past, describe the past performance, accomplishments, and how this project builds on or improves the previous project.<br>• Explain how the proposal has the potential to continue to be impactful without long-term, continued, direct funding from OTT.<br>• Include a timeline for the proposed project.<br>• What is your requested funding amount?<br>• **Describe a plan for implementing the idea with a requested amount of funding, but also include what could be accomplished with 50% of the requested amount.** |

### a) Topic 1 Selection Criteria

OTT does NOT intend to fund every lab that submits a Topic 1 proposal. Selection of winning proposals will be determined based on available funding and input from OTT and technical program offices and partner agencies. The selection criteria used to evaluate applications will be as follows:

**Criterion 1: Impact (80%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Potential to increase EIC Training Cohort (Topic 2) participation—the extent to which the proposed project, if successful, increases future applicants to subsequent EIC Training

Cohorts. Projects that do not have the potential to meet this goal are not suitable and will not be considered. This sub criterion also includes how well the applicant understands their DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site's unique challenges and barriers to participating in Topic 2.

- Long-term viability—the degree to which the proposal has the potential to continue to be impactful without long-term, continued, direct funding from OTT.

- Access to resources – the extent to which the team has access to facilities, equipment, people, expertise, data, knowledge, and other resources required to complete the proposed project.

**Criterion 2: Quality of Proposed Project (20%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Well-defined goals –the likelihood goals will be accomplished within the scope of this project.

- Challenges mitigated – the extent to which the applicant understands and discusses the core barriers and challenges the proposed work will face, and the soundness of the strategies and methods that will be used to mitigate barriers.

- Reasonable assumptions & timeline – the reasonableness of the assumptions used to form the execution strategy (e.g., lab staff participation, timeframe, etc.).
- 
- Reasonable budget – the reasonableness of the overall funding requested to achieve the proposed project and objectives. Please note that lower funding amounts have a better chance of being funded.

### b) Topic 1 Selection Notification

All successful and unsuccessful applicant notifications will be communicated to DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site POCs. It is the responsibility of the POC to distribute the notification information to their laboratory, plant, and site applicants.

### c) Topic 1 Project Administration and Reporting

Projects selected for award are managed by DOE in accordance with DOE requisite policies and procedures. OTT will provide all required project oversight and engagement with EIC project participants. DOE program offices that decide to participate in EIC can also engage with EIC participants.

OTT will establish a regular cadence of required meetings with DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices ranging from every one to three months to meet with OTT and supporting DOE program offices to discuss project progress and budget updates. Additionally, DOE

National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices are required to provide progress reporting and budget reporting in the Program Information Collection System (PICS) software, in addition to program-specific deliverables.

## ii. Topic 2: Energy I-Corps Training Cohort 21

**Topic Description**

This topic seeks team applications to participate in EIC Training Cohort 21. Selected teams of researchers and industry mentors will participate in an intensive two-month, curriculum-based program to learn the principles of the business model canvas, define value proposition, and identify customer segments. Teams will develop hypotheses on these elements and interview at least 75 stakeholders as part of the customer discovery process to iterate on their business model canvas and better understand the market's adoption readiness of the lab technology. Researchers return to their laboratory with a framework for industry engagement to guide future research and inform a culture of market awareness within the DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites. In this way, EIC is ensuring that investment in the DOE National Labs and DOE plants and sites is maintaining and strengthening U.S. competitiveness in energy long-term. The goals of Topic 2 are to:

- Increase the number of technologies developed by DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites that are transferred into commercial development or industry agreements.
- Train DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site researchers to better understand the commercialization process and private sector needs.
- Promote DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites to value commercialization and entrepreneurial activities.

Each selected team will be provided $100,000 to support their participation in EIC Training Cohort 21. This topic will seek applications from teams highly motivated to learn about commercialization and advance the development of their technology. DOE program offices and partner agencies select and fund Topic 2 teams.

Appendix A provides a list of DOE program office and partner agencies.

**Eligibility – Topic 2**

Only DOE National Laboratories and DOE plants and sites are eligible to apply for EIC Training Cohort 21. Teams (see Program Structure and Team Structure below) from any technology area will be considered. Technologies submitted for consideration may be at any adoption readiness level (ARL) but should be at a stage in development that allows the team to identify potential partners within a target market. Additional resources on ARL can be found at the following link: Adoption Readiness Levels (ARL): A Complement to TRL | Department of Energy

To ensure fairness and maximum reach, DOE is restricting applications to DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site researchers who have not already gone through the EIC program. **Researchers who**

**have already gone through any previous Cohort of EIC Topic 2 successfully are NOT eligible to participate.**

Teams do not need to have previously participated in entrepreneurial training programs or activities, including EIC Topic 1, to apply for this topic.

U.S. citizenship is NOT a requirement for participation in EIC Training Cohort 21. However, selected non-U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to be able to attend all closing week activities.

**Program Structure**

EIC Training Cohort 21 spans approximately 10 weeks, utilizing a custom-designed curriculum built on the NSF I-Corps™ and Lean Launchpad methodologies. During the training, teams attend in-person and virtual sessions, participate in weekly webinars, and learn from one-on-ones with instructors to systematically identify the most appropriate market application and commercialization pathway for their technology. Participation also requires a considerable amount of time spent outside of the classroom conducting at least 75 stakeholder discovery interviews.

EIC Training Cohort 21 consists of three key elements, summarized below:

1. **Implementation Team:** The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) EIC Program Management Team is responsible for developing and delivering the training, as well as providing program guidance to participating laboratories, plants, and sites.
2. **Participating Labs, plants, and sites Tech Transfer Offices (TTOs):** TTOs recruit, assemble, and send teams to the program for in-person and virtual training. TTOs also support teams both during and after the program. Support might include assistance in identifying entrepreneurial leads (ELs) and industry mentors (IMs) (see item 3 -Teams, below) during the application period, as well as technology transfer, technology deployment, or business development support for potential market pathways identified by the team during training. Each TTO will also assist with metrics collection (for program assessment and improvement) during and after their team's participation in the program and contact teams as requested by the Implementation Team.

   In addition to supporting the team during and after the program, TTOs are required to provide periodic updates on their teams for at least five years after the associated lab team's completion of the cohort, including but not limited to the following information:
   - Licenses (in negotiation or executed).
   - Start-ups launched (with PI or built around licensed IP with outside entrepreneur).
   - Industry partnerships, such as CRADAs (in negotiation or executed).
   - Additional funding (Technology Commercialization Fund [TCF], outside investment, etc.).
   - Publications.
   - Media presence (articles, blogs, interviews, etc.).
   - Speaking engagements (internal or external).
   - Invitations to pitch events or technology showcases.
   - Inclusion in follow-on programs like DOE Lab Embedded Entrepreneurship Program (LEEP), NSF I-Corps™.

- Advances in ARL.
- Industry engagement (customer discovery, investor discussions, etc.).

**Note**: Updates are required for all teams who are continuing to pursue commercialization activities, whether those activities are related to the technology they took through EIC or not. If there are no updates to provide, a "no progress" statement should be reported.

**If additional support or information is needed from the DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant and site, the EIC team will contact the POC or, in some cases, the team directly.**

3. **Teams:** Applicants apply to EIC as a team, composed of a Principal Investigator (PI) with a commercially relevant technology, an Entrepreneurial Lead (EL), and an Industry Mentor (IM) (see below for team member descriptions). Over the course of the training, teams identify potential market pathways for their selected technology, as well as identify opportunities where further development could lead to commercial value. **The time commitment to this program is significant for both the PI and the EL, and teams should do their best to organize their workload during the training period accordingly.** A lab, plant, or site can have optional support from additional team members, but the additional team members cannot be compensated with the EIC Topic 2 funding.

**Team Structure**

The team is the core unit of each EIC Training Cohort. Each complete team consists of a PI, an EL, and at least one IM. An individual team member is NOT allowed to fulfill multiple team roles (i.e., the PI cannot also be the EL). Teams are expected to fully participate in the training program and together, they are expected to meet the requirements set by the Node. This is a time-intensive program and individuals considering participation will need to prepare their schedules well in advance to allow the time necessary for the program. **Complete teams should be formed prior to application submission.** It is highly recommended that teams limit membership to a total of 3 members: one PI, one EL, and one IM. An additional IM is acceptable but additional PIs or ELs place challenges on the team's financial plan.

PI: The PI is the technical lead and project manager of the EIC team and must be based at the DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site responsible for overall team management. The PI should have a DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site technology or other form of IP identified that the team believes has a potential market application. The PI is required to attend the entire opening and closing week (Table 5). During the core training period, **approximately 20 hours per week** of the PI's time should be committed to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). Prior entrepreneurial experience is not required. However, the PI should be committed to pursuing potential market pathways.

Entrepreneurial Lead (EL): The EL must be employed by or have a contractual relationship with a DOE National Lab, DOE plant, or site. The EL is required to attend the entire opening and closing weeks (Table 5). During the core training period, the EL is expected to commit **approximately 30 hours per week** of their time to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). The EL is expected to lead the team in coordinating stakeholder interviews, delivering

team presentations, and developing the business model canvas. Prior entrepreneurial experience is not required.

IM: Ideally, the IM is an experienced industry representative or entrepreneur, from outside the laboratory, plant, or site, with substantial expertise in a relevant sector. The IM is responsible for providing mentorship to the EL and PI for the duration of the EIC. IMs are not required to but are highly encouraged to attend the in-person opening week and closing week sessions. The IM is expected to commit **up to six hours per week** of their time during the core training period and to meet with the team on a weekly basis. To ensure unbiased mentorship, the IM should be a volunteer and not have a direct interest in the team's technology or IP. The IM's participation and lack of conflict of interest should be cleared with the DOE National Lab, DOE plant, and site's POC and Tech Transfer or Business Development Office. Prior entrepreneurial experience is not required.

**Program Deliverables**

Program deliverables for each team include:

1. One-on-one onboarding meeting with the NREL management team.
2. Full participation in opening week, weekly webinars, closing week.
3. Engagement in weekly instructor Office Hours meetings.
4. Final Presentation – During DC-based graduation, teams should be prepared to give a "Capstone" presentation to their sponsoring Program Office(s), Cohort participants, and OTT. The presentation should include findings from stakeholder discovery interviews, the team's value proposition, ideal customer segments for the technology, relevant stakeholders, gaps (knowledge, funding, resources, etc.) within the industry, and whether a technical pivot offers a more promising pathway.
5. Capitol Hill presentation – Though not guaranteed, during DC-based graduations, teams should be prepared to present on their technology and findings to U.S. representatives on Capitol Hill.
6. Stakeholder Interview Log – Upon completion of the cohort, teams will provide OTT with a document that summarizes the 75 interviews conducted throughout the program to include: name of organization, title of interviewee, and key takeaways from interview
7. Structured debriefs with the NREL management team.

**Use of Team Funds**

All funding will be provided to the DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site as a bill code. Funding will not be transferred to external parties, e.g., directly to individual laboratory staff. Teams should apply with the understanding that historically, relevant DOE program offices determine if teams should be funded. DOE Laboratory, plant, and site POCs are required to immediately inform their finance department when a team from their DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site is selected for the program and coordinate the process of qualifying the funding for participation in the program. Teams may not start work on the program until they have received the funding from DOE. It is recommended that funding be used for the following primary and secondary uses:

**Primary uses**

- PI's time (via a charge code) and compensation for the EL, as appropriate
- Travel costs to cover training program participation, customer discovery meetings, industry conferences and events, and entrance fees to industry conferences and events

**Secondary uses (as budget allows)**

- Travel costs for the IM
- Training materials and educational resources
- Techno-economic analysis
- Supply chain and/or value chain analysis
- Market survey reports
- Technology maturation activities, such as testing and validation
- Specialized industry engagement support services from the laboratory, plant, or site, or another relevant organization, beyond existing support from the Site support team

**Additional Funding Information**

Funds are intended only for activities exploring the market potential of the selected technology and may not be used for any basic, early-stage, or applied research. Funds are not intended for IM stipends.

**Period of Performance**

EIC Training Cohorts occur over an approximately ten-week duration (Table 5). The period of performance may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Given the intensive nature of the program, it is not recommended to schedule vacations (1+ weeks) during the training program. **The PI and EL are required to attend all program events, including the in-person opening and closing week sessions.**

Assignments may be given prior to the first program date listed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Key Dates for EIC Topic 2**

| Event | Date |
|---|---|
| Informational webinar | Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (ET) |
| Submission deadline | Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m. (ET) |
| Expected date for team selection notifications | Wednesday, June 4, 2025 |
| Funding transfers begin | Wednesday, June 4, 2025 |
| Funding transfer complete | Thursday, July 31, 2025 |
| Fall 2025 program dates<br><br>**PI and EL are required to attend all program events** | Orientation webinars – August 21 & 28, 2025<br>Opening week** – September 2-5, 2025<br>Curriculum webinars – September 11, 18, 25<br>Curriculum webinars - October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30<br>Closing week** November 3-7, 2025 |

** Opening and Closing Weeks may occur as in-person or virtual sessions based on guidance from DOE. In the event that opening week & closing week sessions are held virtually, the date of the sessions may change from the above table. If held in person, opening week is tentatively planned for Broomfield, CO and closing week is tentatively planned for Washington, D.C.

**Submission and Review Information**

To be considered for EIC Training Cohort 21, applicants must complete and submit the single document listed in Table 6. All submissions must be submitted via Microsoft Forms (link in Table 6). DOE will not review or consider submissions that are received through means other than Microsoft Forms, submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete. For Topic 2 applicants, no documents or submissions are required to be uploaded through EERE Exchange.

The list of questions that make up the Topic 2 application is located in Appendix D: Topic 2 Application.

**Table 6: EIC Topic 2 Application Documents**

| Document | Format | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Microsoft Form application | 1 form per team | Applicants are required to complete the application form in the following link: https://forms.office.com/g/SL4qKLhnmq<br><br>The form includes fields including, but not limited to the following. The full list of application questions is located in Appendix D: Topic 2 Application.<br><br>• Name of DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site<br>• Team members (PI, EL, IM)*<br>• Short bios and whether any team members have participated in previous EIC cohorts<br>• Funding<br>  ○ How the development of the technology was funded (AOP, Lab Directed Research & Development, etc.)<br>  ○ A high-level budget plan that captures the breakdown of the team's time and expenses (should include travel to and from opening and closing sessions)<br>  ○ Identify the program office(s) the team believes would have interest in funding their participation<br>• Selected technology<br>  ○ Title of technology<br>  ○ Technology area<br>  ○ Brief technical description<br>  ○ IP that has been generated and its status<br>• Description of the problem the proposed technology solves, and for whom the problem is being solved.<br>• Whether competitors in this space have been identified and who they are or might be. Explanation of how the proposed technology differs from the competition. This should include current technology providers and innovators working on similar projects.<br>• Any other barriers identified for commercializing the proposed technology and strategies to mitigate these challenges.<br>• Why your team wants to participate in EIC; what you hope to learn or accomplish. |

*Note: At a minimum, the PI and EL for the team must be identified at the time of submission. If the IM is not identified at the time of submission, the PI should indicate their plan for identifying remaining team members (source, timeline, etc.) and provide names of individuals targeted for participation. IMs should be in place prior to the opening session.

### a) Topic 2 Selection Criteria

DOE does NOT intend to fund every Topic 2 proposal. Selection of winning proposals will be determined based on available funding and input from OTT, DOE program offices, and partner agencies. The selection criteria used to evaluate applications will be as follows:

**Criterion 1: Impact (60%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Commercial potential – the degree to which the proposed technology demonstrates both technology progress and market interest, extent to which the proposed technology will result in a commercially successful product and/or company, extent to which the proposed technology can be successfully commercialized in a reasonable timeframe, and degree to which the team demonstrates their understanding of the target audience and the problem solved by the successful commercialization of their technology.
- Challenges mitigated – the extent to which the applicant understands the challenges they will face to commercialize their technology, including competitors. This sub criterion also includes the soundness of the strategies and methods that will be used to mitigate barriers.
- Fit with DOE program offices – the extent to which the proposed technology aligns with the missions of DOE program offices.
- Learning Impact – the extent to which the team demonstrates their interest to learn from EIC Training Cohort 21 participation and share gained knowledge with others at their DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site to create greater interest in technology commercialization.
- Reasonable budget plan – the reasonableness of the overall funding plan to participate in the EIC Training Cohort.

**Criterion 2: Project Team (40%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Collaboration & capability – the degree to which the proposed team shows it has branched out and connected with members of different strengths and skills, to ultimately develop a holistic team poised to successfully complete the EIC Training Cohort.
- Availability – the extent to which team members are fully assembled and committed to the project. At a minimum, the PI and EL for the team must be identified at the time of submission. Fully formed teams with the PI, EL, and IM identified will have preference over incomplete teams during application review.

### b) Topic 2 Selection Notification

All successful and unsuccessful applicant notifications will be communicated to laboratory, plant, and site POCs. It is the responsibility of the POC to distribute the notification information to their laboratory, plant, or site applicants.

## iii. Topic 3: Post Energy I-Corps Funding

**Topic Description**

Teams that complete Topic 2 - EIC Training Cohorts and NSF National I-Corps™ are excited about their newfound skills and strategies to commercialize their technologies, but often lack actionable next steps or the funding to support them. OTT is interested in providing an opportunity for the most promising EIC and NSF graduates to continue advancing their energy-related technology toward commercialization. **Only teams or individuals who have previously participated in the Topic 2-EIC Cohort Training or have successfully completed the NSF national I-Corps™ training with a DOE technology are eligible to apply for this topic.** Funding is intended to cover costs of the next actionable step in technology commercialization and facilitate the teams in reaching their next source of more substantive support to continue their commercialization journey. Applicants should identify a clear, discrete next step in commercialization and the amount of funding needed to reach that next step. Applications should represent projects that are ambitious but achievable. Projects will be considered up to $100K in funding (subject to annual appropriations). Applications will also be shared with relevant program offices for their funding consideration.

Examples of previously funded Topic 3 – Post EIC projects include:

- Running a pilot technology deployment with a potential customer.
- Building and testing a prototype.
- Completing a technology validation with a potential licensee.

Key dates for Topic 3 are listed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Key Dates for Topic 3 Post EIC**

| Event | Date |
|---|---|
| Informational webinar | Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 12:00 PM (ET) |
| Submission deadline | Friday, April 11, 2025, 3:00 PM (ET) |
| Expected date for selection notifications | Wednesday, June 4, 2025 |
| Funding transfer complete | Funding will be transferred after successful negotiations between DOE HQ and DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site are completed. *OTT is targeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025. |

**Eligibility – Topic 3**

The technology must 1) be from a DOE Laboratory or DOE plant or site AND 2) have gone through either EIC Training Cohort (Topic 2) or the NSF national I-Corps™ (inclusive of technical pivots). EIC Training Cohort and NSF national I-Corps™ graduates as well as non-graduates can apply to this topic. However, non-graduates are limited to individuals who are employed by or have a contractual relationship with a DOE National Lab, DOE plant or site (e.g. Technology Transfer Office personnel).

**Program Deliverables**

A final report will be required to be submitted at the end of the proposed project. This report will include themes including but not limited to overview of the project, lessons learned, advances made towards technology commercialization, and next steps.

**Period of Performance**

Proposed projects should seek to support EIC goals efficiently in FY26. However, applications with projects that expand beyond the end of FY26 will be considered.

**Submission and Review Information**

All submissions must conform to the following form and content requirements, including maximum page lengths (described below) and must be submitted via EERE Exchange, unless specifically stated otherwise. DOE will not review or consider submissions that are received through means other than Exchange, submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete.

Should applicants experience technical problems with Exchange prior to the deadline, the applicant should contact the EERE Exchange helpdesk for assistance (eere-epichelpdesk@ee.doe.gov). The EERE Exchange helpdesk and/or the EERE Exchange system administrators will assist applicants in resolving issues.

To be considered for EIC Topic 3, applicants must submit the documents listed in Table 8.

Selected applicants will go through a negotiations process which will require the development and approval of a statement of work and spend plan. Templates of these documents are included in Appendices B and C, respectively, and can be used as a resource when completing application documents. They are not required as part of the application.

**Table 8: EIC Topic 3 Application Documents**

*Table continues on next page

| Document | Format | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Cover page | • 1 page max<br>• 8.5”x 11” pages with 1-inch margin<br>• 11-point font<br>• PDF file | Applicants are required to include:<br>• Name of project and technology.<br>• Name(s) of individual or team members involved.<br>• EIC Training Cohort number that team members previously participated in or year that the team participated in the NSF I-Corps™ program.<br>• A maximum 200-word summary of the project suitable for public release if the project is funded. |
| Detailed narrative | • 3-page max<br>• 8.5”x 11” pages with 1-inch margin<br>• 11-point font<br>• PDF file | Applicants are required to:<br>• Describe the proposed project: the clear, discrete next step to commercialize your technology, and explain how receiving this funding will help you achieve this step.<br>• Describe an overview of the technology (including the status of its commercialization), the leading participants for the proposed project and their roles, resources needed, and overall plan to execute the project.<br>• Explain how the successful implementation of the proposed project will unlock the potential for much larger public or private funding sources to continue the commercialization process.<br>• State any roadblocks that may arise when implementing your proposal and your plans to overcome such barriers.<br>• Answer the following questions:<br>• What is the best possible outcome for this project?<br>• What are the project team’s goals after this project is complete?<br>• How should project success be measured?<br>• What are the conditions that would make this project not worth continuing?<br>• Explain the steps and timeframe needed for full technology commercialization after this proposed project, assuming the proposal is funded. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • Briefly indicate specific experiences or outcomes from EIC Topic 2 participation that influenced this proposal.<br>• Describe steps taken to commercialize the technology since participation in Topic 2. If none, state so and why not.<br>• Provide the current ARL of the technology. Additional resources on ARL can be found at the following link: Adoption Readiness Levels (ARL): A Complement to TRL \| Department of Energy<br>• Include a timeline for the proposed project.<br>• What is your requested funding amount?<br>• **Describe a plan for implementing the proposal with a requested amount of funding, but also include what could be accomplished with 50% of the requested amount.** |
| 1-page Technology "pitch" / summary sheet (Please do not include any proprietary information on this document, as it is intended to be used as a resource to share with external parties) | • 1-page max<br>• 8.5"x 11" pages with 1-inch margin<br>• 11-point font<br>• PDF file | • Technology name and summary<br>• Specific problem or opportunity and how your technology solves this problem<br>• ARL & TRL of your technology currently: Assess your ARL with DOE's Commercialization Adoption Readiness Assessment Tool: Adoption Readiness Levels (ARL): A Complement to TRL \| Department of Energy<br>• Target Audience: Identify the potential stakeholders and end-users who could benefit from the project.<br>• Value Proposition: Articulate the unique value proposition of the project, explaining why stakeholders would have interest.<br>• Contact Information: Include contact details for the project team or lead, allowing stakeholders to reach out for more information or collaboration opportunities.<br>• Include reliable data, verifiable facts, key metrics, and statistics as relevant<br>• Visual Elements: Incorporate visually appealing elements such as graphs, charts, or diagrams to enhance understanding and engagement. Include at least one image of your technology. |
| Copy of NSF I-Corps™ final project report and outcomes report (Only required for NSF I-Corps™ technology) | PDF file | • If the applicant is applying with DOE technology that went through an NSF national I-Corps™ training instead of an EIC Topic 2 cohort, submit a copy of the NSF I-Corps™ final project report and project outcomes report that was submitted when successfully completing the full NSF I-Corps™ program. |

### a) Topic 3 Selection Criteria

OTT does NOT intend to fund every lab that submits a Topic 3 proposal. Selection of winning proposals will be determined based on available funding and input from OTT, DOE program offices, and partner agencies. Non-OTT DOE program offices and partner agencies will have the opportunity to select and fund the Topic 3 applications. See Appendix A for DOE program office and partner agency list. The selection criteria used to evaluate applications will be as follows:

**Criterion 1: Impact (80%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Potential of project success – the extent to which the proposal, if successful, will accelerate the technology's commercialization. Teams that are closer to commercialization and teams that can articulate a clear use for the funds that have a high likelihood of achieving tangible advancement toward commercialization are most likely to receive funds.
- Long-term viability – the degree to which the proposal has the potential to continue to be impactful without long-term, continued, direct funding from OTT.
- Commercial potential – the degree to which the proposal demonstrates both technology progress and market interest, extent to which the proposed technology will result in a commercially successful product and/or company; and the extent to which the proposed technology can be successfully commercialized in a reasonable timeframe.
- Access – the extent to which the applicant(s) has access to facilities, equipment, people, expertise, data, knowledge, and other resources required to complete the proposed project.

**Criterion 2: Quality of Proposed Project (20%)**

This criterion considers the following factors:

- Well-defined goals –the likelihood goals will be accomplished within the scope of this project.
- Challenges mitigated – the extent to which the applicant understands and discusses the core barriers and challenges the proposed work will face, and the soundness of the strategies and methods that will be used to mitigate barriers.
- Reasonable assumptions & timeline – the reasonableness of the assumptions used to form the execution strategy (e.g., lab staff participation, timeframe, etc.).
- Reasonable budget – the reasonableness of the overall funding requested to achieve the proposed project and objectives. Please note that lower funding amounts have a better chance of being funded.

### b) Topic 3 Selection Notification

All successful and unsuccessful applicant notifications will be communicated to laboratory, plant, and site POCs. It is the responsibility of the POC to distribute the notification information to their laboratory, plant, or site's applicants.

### c) Topic 3 Project Administration and Reporting

Projects selected for award are managed by DOE in accordance with DOE requisite policies and procedures. OTT will provide all required project oversight and engagement with EIC project participants. DOE program offices that decide to participate in EIC can also engage with EIC participants.

OTT will establish a regular cadence of required meetings ranging from every one to three months for DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices to meet with OTT and supporting DOE program offices to discuss project progress and budget updates. Additionally, DOE National Laboratory and DOE plant and site technology transfer offices are required to provide progress reporting and budget reporting in the PICS software, in addition to program-specific deliverables. A final project report will be required.

# Appendix A: DOE Program Office and Partner Agencies

- Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO)
- Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)
- Buildings Technology Office (BTO)
- Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO)
- Grid Deployment Office (GDO)
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO)
- Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office (IEDO)
- Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC)
- National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)
- Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)
- Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)
- Office of Electricity (OE)
- Office of Environmental Management (EM)
- Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)
- Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
- Office of Science (SC):
    - SC - Accelerator R&D and Production (ARDAP)
    - SC -Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR)
    - SC - Basic Energy Sciences (BES)
    - SC - Biological and Environmental Research (BER)
    - SC - Fusion Energy Sciences (FES)
    - SC - High Energy Physics (HEP)
    - SC - Isotope R&D and Production (DOE Isotope Program)
    - SC - Nuclear Physics (NP)
- Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
- Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO)
- Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)
- Wind Energy Technology Office (WETO)

Applications may be sent to additional program offices or entities not listed above.

# Appendix B: Topics 1 & 3 Statement of Work Template

Statement of Work

[XX] NATIONAL LABORATORY

[Control Number]-FY25 EIC- [Project Title]

## Project Objectives

[Clear and concise statement of the goals and objectives of the project]

## Technical Scope Summary

[Summary description of the overall work scope and approach to achieve the objectives of the project]

## Project Metrics

| Metric | Type (input or outcome) | Unit | Project Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| *e.g. Participant Attendance to X event* | *Outcome* | *# participants* | *30* |
| *e.g. External Parties engaged through training* | *Outcome* | *# external parties & their name* | *5* |
| *e.g. Alumni Involvement* | *Outcome* | *# of alumni* | |
| e.g. Prototype developed | Outcome | # prototypes | |
| e.g. *Topic 2 applications submitted for C21* | Outcome | # applications | |

## Tasks To Be Performed

In total, this project is expected to take place during a [XX] month period of performance.

Task 1. [Task Name] [Date range of the task in months, e.g. M1-M4]

[Description of task]

Subtask 1.0 [Subtask Name] [Date range of the task in months, e.g. M1-M2]

[Description of subtask]

Milestone 1.0 [Milestone Name] [Date range of the task in months]

[Description of milestone]

Subtask 1.1 [Subtask Name] [Date range of the task in months]

[Description of subtask]

Milestone 1.1 [Milestone Name] [Date range of the task in months]

Milestone 1.2 [Milestone Name] [Date range of the task in months]

Task 2. [Task Name] [Date range of the task in months, e.g. M1-M4]

[Description of task]

Milestone 2.0 [Milestone Name] [Date range of the task in months]

[Description of milestone]

GO / NO GO MILESTONE (Month #):

[Description of milestone]

## Project Management and Reporting

[Should briefly describe the relevant project management and reporting activities during project life]

## Milestones Table

| Milestone Summary Table | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Recipient Name:** | [Enter Recipient Name] | | | | | | |
| **Project Title:** | [Enter Project Title] | | | | | | |
| **Task No.** | **Task or Subtask Title** | **Milestone Type (Milestone, Go/No-Go Decision Point)** | **Milestone Number* (Go/No-Go Decision Point)** | **Milestone Description (Go/No-Go Decision Criteria)** | **Milestone Verification Process (What, How, Who, Where)** | **Anticipated Date (Months from Start of the Project)** | **Anticipated Quarter (from Start of the Project)** |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | GO/NO GO Decision Point | | | | | |

# Appendix C: Topics 1 & 3 Spend Plan Template:

| | FY2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Total Budget |
| Milestone 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Milestone 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Milestone 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| [add/delete rows as needed] | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Monthly Total ($) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative Total ($) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | FY2027 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Total Budget |
| Milestone 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Milestone 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Milestone 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| [add/delete rows as needed] | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Monthly Total ($) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative Total ($) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

# Appendix D: Topic 2 Application

**Team**

You will participate in the program as a team that consists of a principal investigator (PI), entrepreneurial lead (EL), industry mentor (IM). Please see descriptions for each role listed below.

Please identify your team members below. If you have not yet identified the team member please leave the question blank, or write "N/A". Please note that applications with all team members identified will be given preference.

1. DOE National Laboratory or DOE plant or site

2. Lab POC: Who in your lab's Tech Transfer or Business Development Offices are you working with?

3. Are you available to participate in ALL Energy I-Corps Cohort 21 sessions? (Y/N)

*DOE Program Offices select teams to participate in Energy I-Corps based on the understanding that a full team has been formed and that the team is committed to participation. If you cannot participate in ALL sessions listed below, please wait to apply until your schedule allows full engagement.*

- *Important Dates (all dates in 2025):*
- *Orientation webinars – August 21 & 28*
- *Opening week** – September 2-5*
- *Curriculum webinars – September 11, 18, 25*
- *Curriculum webinars - October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30*
- *Closing week** November 3-7*

4. Principal Investigator (PI) Name

*The PI is the technical lead and project manager based at the DOE national laboratory or DOE plant or site, responsible for overall team management. The PI should have a laboratory, plant or site technology or other form of IP identified, that the team believes has a potential market application. The PI is required to attend the entire opening and closing week . During the core training period,* ***approximately 20 hours per week*** *of the PI's time should be committed to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). Prior experience is not required. However, the PI should be committed to pursuing potential market pathways.*

5. PI Email:

6. What career level is the PI?

7. Short Bio for PI *(250 word limit)*

8. Entrepreneurial Lead (EL) Name

*The EL must be employed by or have a contractual relationship with a DOE National Lab, DOE plant, or site. The EL is required to attend the entire opening and closing weeks . During the core training period, the EL is expected to commit **approximately 30 hours per week** of their time to EIC (excludes opening and closing sessions, which require full time). The EL is expected to lead the team in coordinating stakeholder interviews, delivering team presentations, and developing the business model canvas. Prior entrepreneurial experience is not required.*

9. EL Email

10. What career level is the EL?

11. Short Bio for EL (250 word limit)

12. Industry Mentor (IM) Name

*The IM is an experienced industry representative or entrepreneur, from outside the DOE national laboratory or DOE plant or site, with substantial expertise in a relevant sector. The IM is responsible for providing mentorship to the EL and PI for the duration of the EIC. IMs are not required, but highly encouraged to attend the in-person opening week and closing week sessions. The IM is expected to commit **up to 6 hours per week** of their time during the core training period and to meet with the team on a weekly basis. To ensure unbiased mentorship, the IM should be a volunteer and not have a direct interest in the team's technology or IP. The IM's participation and lack of conflict of interest should be cleared with the lab's POC and Tech Transfer or Business Development Office.*

13. IM Email

14. What career level is the IM?

15. Short Bio for IM *(250 word limit)*

16. Have any team members (PI or EL) participated in previous cohorts of Energy I-Corps? *Researchers who have already gone through any previous Cohort of EIC Topic 2 successfully are NOT eligible to participate.*

**Funding**

Opening (September 2-5, 2025) and closing weeks (November 3-7, 2025) require the PI & EL to participate full-time. Opening and Closing Weeks may occur as in-person or virtual sessions based on guidance from DOE. In the event that opening week & closing week sessions are held virtually, the date of the sessions may change. If held in person, opening week is tentatively planned for Broomfield, CO and closing week is tentatively planned for Washington, D.C. 20-30 hours per

workweek of the PI's time should be committed to this project during the two-month core training period.

- The EL is expected to commit approximately 30 hours per workweek of their time during the core training period and should expect to lead the team in coordinating customer interviews, delivering team presentations, and developing the business model.
- The IM can expect to contribute up to 6 hours per workweek of their time.

17. How was the development of your technology funded? (AOP, LDRD, etc.) (250 word limit)

18. Which Funding Office(s) have previously funded the development of your technology? Select all that apply.

19. Please break down your high-level budget by percentage of total budget in the text box below. *Consider team's time and expenses including costs for conferences during the duration of the cohort, as well as travel expenses for opening and closing sessions. 250 word limit.*

20. Which Funding Office(s) do you believe would have interest in funding your participation in this program? *(Select all that apply from list of DOE program offices)*

**Selected Technology**

21. Project Title(s):

22. Technology Summary: *Please provide a description that communicates the purpose of the technology at a high level (250 word limit)*

23. Please select the technology category that best describes your project *(select from list)*

24. Technical Summary: *Please provide a description that communicates the purpose of the technology at a high level (250 word limit)*

25. Technology Description: *Please provide detail on the technology's function and mechanism, including key metrics to understand the current state of the technology at a level an expert in the field would find helpful. (250 word limit)*

26. Describe the problem that your technology solves, and for whom the problem is being solved: *(250 word limit)*

27. What Intellectual Property (IP) has been generated, and what is the status? *(250 word limit)*

28. Have you identified any competitors working in this space? Who might be your competition? How does your solution differ from the competition? This should include your market's current technology providers and innovators working on similar projects. *(250 word limit)*

29. Has anyone from your team previously participated in DOE Office of Technology Transitions-funded Site, Satellite, Asynchronous, or Pipeline Development funded programs (now referred to as EIC Topic 1 programs)? *These include lighter versions of EIC hosted by your lab, plant, or site*

30. Has anyone from your team previously participated, currently participating in, or in-process of applying to a DOE-funded technology commercialization program (e.g. TCF, DOE Emerging Tech Studio, BOOST, LEEP, etc.) with the proposed Energy I-Corps technology?

*If "Yes", please provide a short summary of your participation (program name, year, outcomes). Please list "N/A" if not applicable.*

31. Why do you want your team to participate in Energy I-Corps? What do you hope to learn or accomplish? *250 word limit*