

FY24 VTO Lab Call Q&A

Q1	With a required CRADA, Sandia/national labs will not be able to send funding to university/industry subrecipients (only to subcontractors). Is this intentional?
A	<i>CRADA as a hard requirement is intentional. Demonstration of a complete plan to conduct research and development to overcome gaps and to achieve targets is required with potential to engage with industry to enable and accelerate technology transfer.</i>
Q2	LC states "Only one proposal can be submitted to this Lab Call," does this mean only one proposal per topic?
A	<i>One proposal can be submitted per topic, but proposals can be submitted to all topics the lab is eligible for.</i>
Q3	Each topic's funding states "\$X per year (total, annually, for selected coordinated multi-lab project), pending availability of funds," but I think this should mean total funding, not per year. Can you clarify?
A	<i>This amount is the maximum amount the project can be awarded each year. For example, Topic 1: Sodium-Ion Consortium lists Up to \$10 million per year, for the full 5 year project would be funding up to \$50 million.</i>
Q4	I also just wanted to note that the LC requirements model typical FOA requirements. Given such a quick turnaround, is a CO Letter, FWP, SF-LLL, DMP, Summary Slide, and Summary/Abstract for Public Release all required? Usually, Lab Calls don't ask for a CO Letter, FWP, SF-LLL, or DMP.
A	<i>The documents required to be submitted in exchange are the Technical Volume, Statement of Project Objectives (SOPQ), Resumes, Summary Abstract for Public Release, Summary Slide, and DEI Implementation Plan. All other documents are optional.</i>
Q5	Page 5, section i. Key Consideration, Eligibility identifies that "Only one proposal can be submitted to this lab call". Can more clarification be provided. Does this truly limit Applications to (1) per Prime Laboratory Applicant and not (1) per Prime Applicant, per Topic Area?
A	<i>See answer for Q2.</i>
Q6	Page 16 Table of Requirements and the description on Page 22 of the Lab Call identifies a requirement for a FFRDC Authorization. As this is a laboratory call, expecting Labs to participate as applicants, is this document truly required from FFRDC National Laboratories? These Letters of Authorization from Cognizant Contracting Officer are required for FOAs but not required generally for Lab Calls.
A	<i>See answer for Q4.</i>

Q7	On page 22 of the FOA, SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities is identified as a requirement. Area FFRDC National Laboratories required to submit this document as part of the proposal package as FFRDCs are not able to lobby?
A	<i>See answer for Q4.</i>
Q8	As this lab call is only open to DOE laboratories, do DOE FFRDCs actually require authorization from their local DOE site office to participate in this funding announcement? If needed, to whom should national labs address the required "Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs"? Please provide the contact information (name, title, and mailing address). Past funding announcements have provided the DOE Grantor Contact/Contract Specialist information through the FAQ.
A	<i>See answer to Q4</i>
Q9	Since DOE prohibits FFRDCs from lobbying to influence federal officials in connection with the awarding of grants or contracts, I'd like to confirm whether or not 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?
A	<i>See answer for Q4.</i>
Q10	Concerning Lab Call DE-LC-0000119, the workplan of the technical volume is to contain "a detailed SOPO". There is, however, no description in the Lab Call of the required contents of the SOPO. Can you provide a description of the detail required in the SOPO or a template for the SOPO?
A	<i>Yes. The link to a detailed template of the SOPO is provided on Page 23 of the Labcall. The link is attached here for reference https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/EERE_T_540.131_Statement_of_Project_Objectives_%28SOPO%29_4%20%282%29.docx</i>
Q11	I have a question regarding Topic 3 on the Joining Core Program 3.0. Are you expecting that each proposal will target all four Thrust Areas with a single multi-lab team? Or will the team be assembled by DOE from separate single-lab proposals that focus on one (or more) of the four Thrust Areas individually?
A	<i>Each proposal will target all four Thrust Areas with a single multi-lab team.</i>
Q12	I have a question about Topic 3 proposals. Does the proposal need to address all 4 Thrusts (1-4), or can it address 1 or a subset of the 4 Thrusts.
A	<i>See answer for Q11</i>
Q13	The FOA mentions that only one application can be submitted to each topic per lab. But does this apply only to leading applications, or both leading and supporting? For example, if "Lab

	A" was applying for a given Topic with someone from "Lab B" as a partner, could other workers at "Lab B" apply as a PI to the same topic, with different labs supporting?
A	<i>Each National Laboratory can only submit 1 application as the lead/prime per topic area. Staff from that Laboratory may team members on proposals being submitted by other National Laboratories</i>
Q14	<p>I have a couple of questions about the submission process for Labs applying to be part of the Sodium Ion consortium. Does each member of the proposed consortium need to submit a proposal into the Exchange system?</p> <p>For example: for a proposed consortium where ANL is the lead Lab and LBNL and PNNL are members, should there be only one submission, made by ANL, or does each Lab need to submit the particulars of their participation (including tasks, milestones, etc.) separately? My thought was that each Lab would have to submit separately, making note of partner Labs in the application, as this was the process for the cathode consortium submissions in the FY22 Lab Call DE-LC-000L096, under AOI 2. Also, because each Lab must submit its own AOP and the information from Exchange goes to populate the AOP.</p>
A	<i>See Answer to Q13</i>
Q15	<p>It was still not clear to me if, when a Lab is a consortium member, not a Lead, they also need to submit their proposal in Exchange.</p> <p>In other words, is each member of the consortium responsible for submitting their proposal addressing "their corner" of the work of the consortium, or is everything included in the one proposal from the Lab who will be the Lead?</p> <p>When applying to the Sodium Ion consortium topic, should we submit a proposal into Exchange noting our proposed partners in the "Lab Partners" section, so that DOE, upon receiving the submissions from each Lab will be able to define the Lead Lab for the consortium based on the submission from each Lab that has applied?</p>
A	<i>For consortium projects, the partnering labs should identify a lead lab and only the lead lab will submit an application. All partner labs and responsibilities would be included in that one application.</i>
Q16	Concerning Lab Call DE-LC-0000119, the Lab Call requests a SOPO. Please note that there is no provision on the "Upload and Submit" tab of the EERE-Exchange web page for a file containing the SOPO to be uploaded. Please provide guidance on what to do.
A	<i>EERE-exCHANGE has been updated for SOPO submissions.</i>
Q17	Per answer 13, each national lab's staff can participate in a project submitted by other national labs. However, if two national labs are working on submitting the same project (as a consortium), do they have to submit two separate proposals through EERE Exchange (one as a lead and another as a non-lead) or is one proposal submission from the lead sufficient?
A	<i>See answer to Q15</i>

