FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Science
Office of Biological and Environmental Research

Environmental System Science

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Issue Date:	**October 9, 2015**
Pre-Application Due Date:	**11/13/2015 at 5 PM Eastern Time (A Pre-Application is required)**
Encourage/Discourage Date:	**12/4/2015 at 5 PM Eastern Time**
Full Application Due Date:	**1/22/2016 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

Amendment: Please see page 22 for updated eligibility for other Federal agencies. Other Federal agencies are eligible to receive financial assistance under this FOA.

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UPDATES AND REMINDERS

PROPOSAL APPLICATION

An individual may participate as a lead PI on **no more than one Pre-Application and Full Proposal Application** submitted in response to this FOA. If more than one pre-application or full proposal is submitted, then only the first one submitted will be accepted. There are no restrictions on the number of pre-application or full proposals an individual may participate as non-lead (co-PI) and/or collaborator.

REGULATIONS

This FOA and any awards made under it are controlled by 2 CFR 200, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, as modified by 2 CFR 910, the Department of Energy Financial Assistance Rules, and 10 CFR 605, the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program.

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Office of Science has published a new Statement on Digital Data Management, published at http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management/, which governs applications submitted under this FOA, and is detailed in Part IV of this FOA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FEDERAL SUPPORT

The Office of Science published guidance about how its support should be acknowledged at http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/acknowledgements/.

REPORTING

The Office of Science has implemented the federal-wide Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) through the Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS). The common RPPR format is described at http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/. Progress Reports are generally due 90 days before the end of each budget period. The Principal Investigator (PI) will receive an automated email from PAMS (<PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov>) thirty days prior to the progress report due date. Some information will be prepopulated. Additional details and changes will be contained in the Reporting Requirements Checklist attached to the Assistance Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

The Office of Science encourages you to register in all systems as soon as possible. You are also encouraged to submit letters of intent, pre-applications, and applications well before the deadline.

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Dr. Jared DeForest (Terrestrial Ecosystem Sciences Program)
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Administrative Contact (questions about budgets and eligibility):

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Public Law 95-91, US Department of Energy Organization Act
Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, codified at 2 CFR 200; U.S. Department of Energy Financial Assistance Rules, codified at 2 CFR 910; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule, codified at 10 CFR 605

SUMMARY

The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research in Environmental Systems Science (ESS), including Terrestrial Ecosystem Science (TES) and Subsurface Biogeochemical Research (SBR). The mission of the Climate and Environmental Sciences Division (CESD) within BER is to advance a robust predictive understanding of Earth's climate and environmental systems and to inform the development of sustainable solutions to the Nation's energy and environmental challenges.

The goal of the Environmental System Science (ESS) activity in the Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) is to advance a robust predictive understanding of terrestrial environments, extending from bedrock to the top of the vegetated canopy and from molecular to global scales in support of DOE's energy and environmental missions. Using an iterative approach to model-driven experimentation and observation, interdisciplinary teams of scientists work to unravel the coupled physical, chemical and biological processes that control the structure and functioning of terrestrial ecosystems across vast spatial and temporal scales. State-of-science

understanding is captured in conceptual theories and models which can be translated into a hierarchy of computational components and used to predict the system response to perturbations caused, for example, by changes in climate, land use/cover or contaminant loading. Basic understanding of the system structure and function is advanced through this iterative cycle of experimentation and observation by targeting key system components and processes that are suspected to most limit the predictive skill of the models.

This FOA will consider applications that focus on measurements, experiments, modeling or synthesis to provide improved quantitative and predictive understanding of terrestrial ecosystem and/or subsurface processes that can affect the cycling and transport of carbon, water, nutrients, and contaminants. All projects are required to clearly delineate an integrative, hypothesis-driven approach and clearly describe the existing needs/gaps in state-of-the-art models. Applicants should provide details on how the results of the proposed research, if successful, will be incorporated into numerical models of subsurface systems and/or terrestrial ecosystems.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

This FOA will accept traditional, "full" applications with requested support for up to three years, which addresses a research need within scope of the program objectives indicated in this FOA. In addition, BER also encourages the submission of smaller, more focused and innovative research that would be perceived as "high-risk" applications which may have the potential for future high impact on environmental system science. These innovative applications are encouraged where the proposed research is intended to fill critical knowledge gaps, including the exploration of high-risk approaches. The probability of success and the risk-reward balance will be considered when making funding decisions.

Program Objectives

While the Environmental System Science activity supports a broad spectrum of fundamental research in terrestrial ecosystem and subsurface biogeochemical science, this FOA will only consider research applications within this scope in the following science areas:

1. **Terrestrial Ecosystem Science (TES) Areas of Focus**
   http://science.energy.gov/ber/research/cesd/terrestrial-ecosystem-science/

   The TES program seeks to develop unique, foundational scientific insights about the terrestrial biosphere's role in the global cycling of carbon, nutrients, and water. The program also supports research examining the feedbacks between the terrestrial biosphere and Earth's climate system. TES focuses on ecosystems and ecological processes that are globally or regionally significant, expected to be sensitive to climate change, and insufficiently understood or inadequately represented in models. The scope of the program includes measurements, experiments, modeling and synthesis to provide improved quantitative and predictive understanding of terrestrial ecosystems in the context of a changing climate.

   For this FOA, TES seeks research applications that improve our ability to understand and predict the role of unmanaged terrestrial ecosystems in a changing climate. Furthermore, proposed research projects should complement, not duplicate, TES's current research

investments. Applicants are encouraged to consider utilization or collaboration with sites that have existing support (see Specialized Resources below) thereby leveraging ongoing infrastructure and investments, archived samples and long-term data sets.

Applications should demonstrate a systems approach to understand ecosystems over the multiple temporal and spatial scales that are represented in models (e.g., single process models, ecosystem models, and global models). This emphasis on the capture of advanced understanding in models has two goals. First, it seeks to improve the representation of these processes in coupled models, thereby increasing the sophistication and confidence of the projections produced by those models. Second, it encourages the community to understand and use existing models and to compare model results against observations or other data sets to inform future research directions. It also seeks to encourage an iterative dialog between the process and modeling research communities such that research objectives are designed to address model gaps and weaknesses, and that modeling efforts are designed to inform process research (i.e., the model-experiment (ModEx) integration approach).

All projects (including synthesis activities) should clearly delineate an integrative, hypothesis-driven approach and clearly describe the existing needs/gaps in state of the art models. Applicants are required to employ a model-inspired approach to pose their research questions, which in turn provides a direct link to improving the model or process representation at the appropriate scales. Applicants should argue how the results of the proposed research, if successful, will improve our ability to understand and predict the role of the terrestrial ecosystems in a changing climate. However, the proposed project does not need to include a modeling component, but it must have a well-described modeling context.

Given extensive efforts by DOE to develop the new Accelerated Climate Model for Energy (ACME) (http://climatemodeling.science.energy.gov/projects/accelerated-climate-modeling-energy) and Earth system model components such as the Community Land Model (CLM), applicants are encouraged to link their activities to these efforts where appropriate. In addition, in 2012 the Climate and Environmental Science Division released its strategic plan that outlined science needs for basic research in climate science, including terrestrial ecosystem science (http://science.energy.gov/~/media/ber/pdf/CESD-StratPlan-2012.pdf). Applicants are also encouraged to review this strategic plan to familiarize themselves with the identified science needs.

For this FOA, applications that address the following areas of focus are requested:

- Science Area 1 – Belowground Processes: The role of belowground processes and mechanisms associated with a changing climate at ecologically relevant temporal and spatial scales;

- Processes and mechanisms for the mediation and transformation, mineralization, and stability of carbon in soils (e.g., including microbial cycling, mineral-organic interactions, soil organic matter accessibility); and/or
- Plant-Microbe-Soil interactions (e.g., mycorrhizal interactions; rhizodeposition) that mediate carbon flux and can extend to ecosystem carbon balance.

- Science Area 2 – Critical Ecosystems: New or improved understanding of biogeochemical pathways (e.g., N and/or P) that mediate carbon feedbacks and ecosystem function in:
  - Process and mechanisms that mediate carbon relevant biogeochemical processes in Arctic (including high latitude boreal forest) ecosystems; and/or
  - Processes and mechanisms that mediate key climate feedbacks of tropical forests

Belowground Processes

Belowground processes are a critical component to carbon and associated biogeochemical cycling, yet these processes are currently over-simplified or ignored in most large-scale models. Applications focusing on belowground ecosystem processes should seek to quantify rates and magnitudes of carbon accretion and foundational biogeochemistry related to climate change. Additionally, applications focusing in this area should seek to understand processes and properties that control transformation of biomass into organic matter, including studies of stabilization mechanisms of the long residence time components, their accessibility, fate, and ecosystem feedbacks. Research is needed on these processes for different climate and vegetation conditions where results can be spatially scaled to estimate carbon changes across climate zones and bioregions. Products of research that focus on belowground carbon processes that mediate carbon dynamics (e.g., organic matter stabilization and dynamics, carbon turnover rates, microbial and mycorrhizal interactions, carbon/nitrogen/other relationships) should provide new insights and model representations for coupled interactions, residence time and other carbon source or sink properties of belowground ecosystem components. Research that focuses on inorganic biogeochemical/contaminant fate and transport will not be considered for this research area.

Critical Ecosystems

Carbon relevant biogeochemical processes in terrestrial Arctic ecosystems

Arctic tundra and adjacent high-latitude boreal forests represents a vast expanse of northern land mass. Permafrost in this area represents one of the largest volumes of carbon stored in the biosphere. Permafrost thaw, resulting from a warming climate is expected to release CO_2 and CH_4 into the atmosphere as the formerly frozen organic material becomes vulnerable to decomposition. The nature and rates of these releases are poorly understood and thus are inadequately represented in Earth system models. Applications are sought for fundamental research to advance our understanding of the function of widespread, critical northern terrestrial ecosystems, particularly in ways that

influence biogeochemical feedbacks to the climate system. Of particular emphasis are studies targeting vegetation dynamics and hydrology (alone and their interactions) in areas of continuous and discontinuous permafrost. Successful applications will link measurements and/or experiments to modeling needs or omissions to provide improved quantitative and predictive understanding of the coupled biological, chemical, and physical interactions that represent potentially strong carbon cycle feedbacks to climate. Applicants in this area are encouraged to be aware of, and consider collaborations with the NGEE-Arctic project (for additional information see Specialized Resources below)

Mediation of key climate feedbacks in tropical forested ecosystem

The tropics include approximately 40% of Earth's land surface area and critically regulate many Earth system processes. Mesic tropical terrestrial ecosystems represent a major reservoir of terrestrial carbon and cycle more carbon dioxide and water than other biomes, thus playing important roles in determining Earth's energy balance, which drives global systems of temperature and precipitation. Tropical ecosystems are expected to experience significant stress under a changing climate and represent a critical global system that is poorly understood. This lack of understanding results in corresponding limitations to the representation of these systems in ecosystem and global-scale carbon cycle and climate system models, thereby limiting the ability of those models to confidently project future conditions. Important questions from microscale (microbial processes, biogeochemical processes) to macroscale (plants and plant systems, watersheds) to landscape (and global) scale remain unanswered regarding carbon dynamics in tropical systems. Applicants in this area are encouraged to be aware of, and consider collaborations with the NGEE-Tropics project (for additional information see Specialized Resources below). The 2012 report, "Research Priorities for Tropical Ecosystem Under Climate Change" (http://science.energy.gov/~/media/ber/pdf/NGEE-Tropics_LR.pdf), outlines key model uncertainties in tropical ecosystems.

Other

Applications that include the collection of flux measurements for carbon, water and/or energy must contribute to the AmeriFlux Network (http://ameriflux.lbl.gov/). The establishment of new carbon flux measurement locations will be balanced carefully against the value of existing sites. Potential applicants are encouraged to review scientific activity and data associated with the existing AmeriFlux locations and to consider opportunities for collaboration as alternatives to the establishment of new sites. For applications that seek to sustain existing AmeriFlux locations, priority will be placed on hypothesis-based research and sites that have a strong record of measurement performance and prompt delivery of data products to the AmeriFlux archive for use by the broader scientific community. There is an established archive for reporting AmeriFlux data (http://ameriflux.lbl.gov/Data/Pages/How-to-Upload-or-Download-Data.aspx), and supported projects will be expected to comply rigorously with reporting guidelines and standards.

Research applications focusing on the topics above should consider utilization of available data products (e.g., AmeriFlux (see link above) and FACE (http://public.ornl.gov/face/), NGEE-Arctic, etc.) where appropriate. Applications that require access to major computational assets (e.g., utilization of the Legacy Class Facilities at the National Laboratories) should describe how they would obtain the necessary access to conduct the proposed research.

DOE's Climate Change research is an integral component of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) (http://www.globalchange.gov/), which is closely coordinated with other Federal carbon cycle research through the Carbon Cycle Science Program (http://www.carboncyclescience.gov/). The website for the Carbon Cycle Science Program includes a "Relevant Documents" section that provides links to key documents outlining science needs for U.S. carbon science research programs. For example, applicants are encouraged to review key relevant documents including, e.g., "A U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Plan" (https://www.carboncyclescience.us/USCarbonCycleSciencePlan-August2011) with particular emphasis on Goals 1 and 3 in the context of terrestrial ecosystems and this FOA.

2. Subsurface Biogeochemical Research (SBR) Areas of Focus
http://science.energy.gov/ber/research/cesd/subsurface-biogeochemical-research/

The Subsurface Biogeochemical Research (SBR) program seeks to advance a robust predictive understanding of how watersheds function as complex hydrobiogeochemical systems and how these systems respond to perturbations caused by changes to climate, land use/cover and contaminant loading. SBR researchers are encouraged to use a systems approach to probe the multiscale structure and functioning of watersheds and to capture this understanding in mechanistic models representing both the complexities of the terrestrial subsurface and ecohydrological interactions with surface water bodies and vegetation. A priority for the SBR program is to develop genome-enabled biogeochemical models of the multiscale structure and functioning of watersheds, which are key components of terrestrial environments. These mechanistic models, which extend from bedrock through soils to the vegetative canopy, are based on reactive transport codes which incorporate metabolic models of microbial processes; molecular-scale understanding of geochemical stability, speciation, and biogeochemical reaction kinetics; and diagnostic signatures of the system response at varying spatial and temporal scales. State-of-science understanding codified in models provides the basis for testing hypotheses, guiding experimental design, integrating scientific knowledge on multiple environmental systems into a common framework, and translating this information to support informed decision making and policies.

The SBR program sponsors three large field-based Scientific Focus Area (SFA) projects at the DOE National Laboratories, i.e., at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) (http://sbrsfa.pnnl.gov/); Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

(http://esd.lbl.gov/research/projects/sustainable systems/); and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) (http://www.esd.ornl.gov/programs/rsfa/). These large SFA's are investigating the influence of hydrologic processes on biogeochemical cycling within watersheds and river basins, including the impacts of groundwater-surface water interaction on nutrient elements (carbon and nitrogen) and the biogeochemical transformations of contaminants (uranium, technetium, and mercury). Within each SFA, long-term, team-research programs have been built around established field research sites in eastern and western river basins. The sites include a mountainous headwater catchment in the semi-arid Upper Colorado River Basin (LBNL SFA), a 75 km flood-plain reach of the Columbia River in the sparsely vegetated Columbia Plateau region (PNNL SFA), and the spring-derived East Fork Poplar Creek that flows into the Clinch River in humid Oak Ridge, TN (ORNL SFA). These projects also serve as modeling use cases in the IDEAS project (http://ideas-productivity.org/), which is aimed at improving scientific productivity and system level predictability using extreme-scale scientific computing. With coordination and community participation, the three SFAs offer significant potential for transforming our understanding of the role of interfaces in predicting hydrology-driven biogeochemical cycling, and in particular advancing understandings of groundwater-surface water interactions across a range of river basin characteristics.

The SBR program also sponsors three smaller SFA projects which focus on fundamental biogeochemical interactions extending from molecular to core scales, but which target critical processes of relevance at larger field scales, and which leverage unique DOE analytical capabilities at their respective national laboratories. The Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) SFA seeks to characterize coupled biotic-abiotic molecular-scale Fe, S, heavy metal, and radionuclide transformations, integrated over different length scales, to provide knowledge that is necessary for understanding subsurface processes and predicting contaminant reactivity and transport (http://www.bio.anl.gov/environmental_biology/subsurface_science/doe_ober_sfa.html).

The SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) SFA seeks to investigate fundamental biogeochemical redox processes that control uranium and biogeochemical critical element behavior, with emphasis on hot spots of microbial and chemical activity in organic-rich fine-grained sediments (http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/sfa/).

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) SFA seeks to identify the dominant biogeochemical processes and the underlying mechanisms that control actinide transport (focusing on Pu and Np) in an effort to reliably predict and control the cycling and mobility of actinides in the subsurface (https://seaborg.llnl.gov/research-environmental-radiochemistry.php).

For this FOA, the SBR program is seeking research applications on topics that complement, but do not duplicate SBR's Science Focus Area program (SFA) investments. The contaminants of concern for this FOA are limited to U, Tc, Pu and Hg, which are major risk drivers at contaminated DOE sites and the primary focus of the SBR SFAs. Toward this aim, applications that address the following two science areas are

requested (the bullets represent potential topics that are complimentary to the current SBR SFAs):

- Science Area 3 – Hydrobiogeochemistry and Ecohydrology
    - Methodologies for quantitative measurements of exchange and flux rates (water and solutes) from the groundwater-surface water interaction zone at the local, reach, and watershed scales.
    - Ecohydrological studies that enable tracking the fluxes, stocks, and transformations of key constituents that control the speciation, distribution, and bioavailability of inorganic elements, including oxygen, nutrients, particulates, and dissolved organic matter to enable systems-level understanding of groundwater/surface water/vegetation interactions.
    - Influence of plant-microbe-soil interactions on inorganic element cycling and transformation in the groundwater-surface water interaction zone.
    - Multi-scale, facies-based, hydro-biogeochemical models of the groundwater-surface water interaction zone.
    - Characterization and modeling of the spatial heterogeneity (physical, chemical and biologic) of subsurface, riverine/hyporheic, and terrestrial environments (including microbial community composition and function) and their impacts on groundwater-surface water exchange and biogeochemical reactive transport.
    - Mechanistically-based multiscale modeling of coupled hydrologic, geochemical and biological processes in compartments and for the system as a whole.

- Science Area 4 – Biogeochemistry
    - Understanding of coupled redox dynamics among Fe and S cycles and organic matter/mineral dynamics and their subsequent roles in carbon, contaminant, and nutrient cycling.
    - Investigation of the role of nitrogen species (e.g., NO_3^-, NO_2^-, N_2O) in effecting electron transfer to/from Fe-containing minerals (e.g., oxides and clays), and subsequent mineralization processes.
    - Structures and thermodynamics of model U(IV)-ligand complexes.
    - Contributions to multi-scale mechanistic/reactive transport modeling of molecular scale processes that control inorganic element cycles and contaminant transport. Processes of interest include homogeneous precipitation of inorganic contaminants; co-precipitation of inorganic contaminants with minerals; ternary organic and inorganic element/contaminant surface complexes; diffusion and advection processes of inorganic elements/contaminants; and colloidal transport of inorganic elements/contaminants. Interfaces with sharp redox gradients are of particular interest. Multi-scale models are sought that bridge molecular to pore to core to plot to field and to watershed length scales.
    - Characterization of microbial and molecular mechanisms (gene identity, proteins and their structure-function, and pathways of importance) of biogeochemical processes, including nutrient, N- and C- cycling, biogenic gas formation and contaminant transformations in the subsurface and in groundwater-surface water interaction zones.

- Controls on the import and export of inorganic elements (e.g., Hg) from cells, including molecular-level imaging and characterization of cell surface functional properties and receptors for binding; identification of the cellular transport pathways involved in the uptake of the element; molecular-level experimental characterization of the mechanisms involved in intracellular transformation of elements; and mechanistic modeling of inorganic element transfer across critical biotic and abiotic interfaces.
- Contributions to multi-scale mechanistic/reactive transport models of microbial interactions with inorganic elements/contaminants and mineral surfaces.

Other

SBR supports multidisciplinary research programs at the DOE National Laboratories as well as a diverse portfolio of research projects led by university PIs. This programmatic approach recognizes that the National Laboratories are structured for conducting coordinated, team-oriented research in a manner that is distinct from, but complementary to, research conducted by financial assistance (10 CFR Part 605). SBR is interested in applications from universities and the private sector that complement the existing SFA research programs; such applications are expected to provide unique or innovative insights into the research challenges facing the SFAs. **All applicants to the SBR topics for this FOA must explain in both their pre-application and their full proposal how the proposed project complements yet does not duplicate research conducted by one or more of the SBR SFAs**. All applications are required to clearly delineate an integrative, hypothesis-driven approach and clearly describe the existing needs/gaps in state-of-the-art models. Field investigations do not have to be performed at DOE funded field sites but they must be performed at research sites within the continental US, and we encourage applicants to utilize existing resources such as Ameriflux sites and NSF funded Critical Zone Observatory sites as well as DOE funded field sites which are primarily managed by the SFAs. For all field projects, a letter of support must be provided in the full application from the lead PI responsible for the field site where the project will be conducted.

The following links provide additional information about the scope, areas of research focus, on-going activities and Point of Contact for each of the SBR SFA programs:

Argonne National Laboratory (Ken Kemner). The ANL SFA seeks to characterize coupled biotic-abiotic molecular-scale Fe, S, heavy metal, and radionuclide transformations, integrated over different length scales, to provide knowledge that is necessary for understanding subsurface processes and predicting contaminant reactivity and transport. For more information:
http://www.bio.anl.gov/environmental_biology/subsurface_science/doe_ober_sfa.html

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Susan Hubbard). The LBNL SFA seeks to develop a genome-enabled biogeochemical watershed simulation capability (GEWaSC) that will provide a predictive framework for understanding how genomic information stored in the subsurface microbiome affects biogeochemical watershed functioning; how

watershed-scale processes affect microbial functioning; and how these interactions co-evolve. For more information: http://esd1.lbl.gov/research/projects/sustainable_systems/

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Annie Kersting). The LLNL SFA seeks to identify the dominant biogeochemical processes and the underlying mechanisms that control actinide transport (focusing on Pu and Np) in an effort to reliably predict and control the cycling and mobility of actinides in the subsurface. For more information: https://seaborg.llnl.gov/research-environmental-radiochemistry.php

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Eric Pierce). The ORNL SFA seeks to determine the coupled hydrobiogeochemical processes that control Hg fate and transformation in low-order freshwater stream systems. For more information: http://www.esd.ornl.gov/programs/rsfa/index.shtml

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (John Zachara). The PNNL SFA seeks to develop a predictive understanding of the groundwater-surface water interaction zone and its linkages with the water cycle that incorporates hydrologic impacts on fundamental biogeochemical and ecological processes into a multi-scale modeling framework that can be used to understand and predict system responses and feedbacks to natural or anthropogenic induced environmental changes. For more information: http://sbrsfa.pnnl.gov/

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (John Bargar). The SLAC SFA seeks to investigate fundamental biogeochemical redox processes that control uranium and biogeochemical critical element behavior, with emphasis on hot spots of microbial and chemical activity in organic-rich fine-grained sediments. For more information: http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/sfa/

Collaboration For ESS Applications

Multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations are strongly encouraged. Collaboration could include institutions such as universities, industry, non-profit organizations, Federal Agencies, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), which include the DOE National Laboratories. For collaborations involving the DOE National Laboratories, the efforts conducted by the collaborating National Laboratory must reflect specific and unique capabilities/expertise at the collaborating DOE National Laboratory. The DOE National Laboratory component of these financial collaborations will be limited to no more than 10% of total costs and should show clear scientific leadership from the submitting institution and reflect an appropriate level of effort from the DOE National Laboratory. DOE National Laboratory employees are not eligible to be a lead PI on this FOA. (Note that funding to the National Laboratory collaborator as part of successful applications will be executed through a separate funding mechanism. See Section III.A of this FOA for explanation.)

All collaborative applications must include letters of agreement from each collaborator who would receive funding. These letters should specify the contributions the collaborators intend to make if the application is accepted and funded. **Applications for multi-investigator**

projects must present a management structure for integrating collaborating investigators. Involvement of students and post-doctoral scientists is encouraged. **The lead submission must include all budgetary information for all funded Co-PIs.** Applications that do not include these required elements will be considered non-responsive and will be declined without review.

Data Sharing Policy

Research data obtained through public funding are a public trust. As such, these data must be publicly accessible. To comply with the digital data management policy of the DOE's Office of Science and BER's requirements, **applications submitted in response to this FOA must include a Data Management Plan (DMP). The minimum requirements for the DMP are set forth on the SC web page (http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management/).** The DMP applies to all stages of the digital data life cycle, including capture, analysis, sharing and preservation, and therefore includes data from extensive, long-term observations and experiments and from long-term model simulations of climate that would be costly to duplicate. Additionally, BER has defined the exclusive use period to be one year after the end of the data acquisition period for the proposed performance period of the award (http://science.energy.gov/ber/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management/). Requests to extend the length of the exclusive use period to beyond one year will be considered on a case-by-case basis; requests will be evaluated and approved or denied by an appropriate ESS program manager, based on clear justification and the extent of unique or extenuating circumstances. **Explicit data management and data sharing plans are required and should be included as Appendix 6, and will not count towards the page limitation. The description must include plans for sharing the data that are to be acquired in the course of the proposed research, particularly how the acquired data will be preserved, documented, and quality assured, and where it will be archived for access by others (including the long-term/permanent storage of the data)**. Data of potentially broad use in climate change research and assessments should be archived, when possible, in data repositories for subsequent dissemination. Applicants are encouraged to consider the DOE-funded data repository at http://cdiac.ornl.gov/datasubmission.html for data storage as well as long-term, deep archiving. If data are to be archived at the researcher's home institution or in some other location, the application must describe how, where, and for how long the data will be documented and archived for access by others.

Availability of User Facilities and Other Specialized Resources

DOE has responsibility for programs and facilities that offer unique and complementary resources that support research in terrestrial ecosystem science and subsurface biogeochemical research. Potential applicants are encouraged to consider use of these programs/facilities in developing their applications. **Where applicable, the application must provide a letter of support/access from site coordinators and/or management of user facilities or other specialized resources.**

This documentation should be in the form of a letter of agreement from the collaborating institution/project included with the application. Examples of available user facilities and other specialized resources include:

AmeriFlux

The AmeriFlux Network gathers and shares long-term carbon, water and energy flux measurements and site metadata collected by a cohort of sites that span a spectrum of climate and ecosystems across the Americas. The AmeriFlux Network ensures the availability of the continuous, long-term ecosystem measurements necessary to build effective models and multisite syntheses, while maximizing insight through robust, site-specific, independent research programs. Information on the availability of long-term flux data and contact information of the Network and individual AmeriFlux sites is available at: http://ameriflux.lbl.gov/.

Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility

The ARM Climate Research Facility (http://arm.gov), an Office of Science user facility, provides the climate research community with strategically located in situ and remote sensing observatories designed to improve the understanding and representation, in climate and earth system models, of clouds and aerosols as well as their interactions and coupling with the Earth's surface. ARM operates three fixed sites: the Southern Great Plains (SGP) in Oklahoma; the North Slope of Alaska (NSA) in Barrow, AK; and the Eastern North Atlantic (ENA) in the Azores. ARM also has three mobile facilities (http://www.arm.gov/sites/amf), one of which is on an extended deployment to Oliktok Point, AK. All ARM data is available at no cost to scientific users through the ARM archive (http://www.archive.arm.gov). Deployment of the ARM Mobile Facility or ARM Aerial Facility to a specific location or large campaigns at fixed ARM sites is requested through an ARM facility user proposal process, with pre-applications due once a year. Smaller campaigns (such as deployment of user-owned instruments to ARM facilities or requests for intensive or special operation of existing ARM instruments) may be requested throughout the year. More information is available at http://www.arm.gov/campaigns/propose."

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL)

The Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) (http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/), an Office of Science user facility located at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), leads molecular-level discoveries that translate into predictive understanding and accelerated solutions for DOE's and BER's environmental and energy challenges. EMSL provides users with a wide variety of premier experimental capabilities, production computing hardware and optimized software for molecular research. These capabilities enable users to iterate between simulation and experimentation to unravel the fundamental physical, chemical and biological processes that underpin climate, energy and environmental challenges. Experimental and computational capabilities include, e.g., dynamic imaging of metabolic processes; in situ imaging of atomic and molecular

reactions; molecular dynamics and reactive transport modeling; proteomics and metabolomics; surface science and elemental analyses; and quantification of the flow and transport of natural and anthropogenic materials in flow cells. These capabilities are available at no charge through a user proposal process (see: https://www.emsl.pnl.gov/emslweb/working-us).

High Performance Computing Centers

DOE supports several high performance and leadership computing centers, which provide compute cycles and data storage through a proposal process to the scientific user community. These resources include:

- the hardware, calibrated codes, and data storage capabilities for BER-supported scientists within the Molecular Science Computing (MSC) capability at EMSL (http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/capabilities/computing/),

- the hardware and data storage capabilities at several other Office of Science user facilities. These include the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC) at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (http://www.nersc.gov), the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility (OLCF) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (http://science.energy.gov/ascr/facilities/user-facilities/olcf/), and the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF) at Argonne National Laboratory (http://science.energy.gov/ascr/facilities/user-facilities.alcf/). Access to these hardware systems and data storage capabilities are available through several processes, as described on the DOE Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) web site (http://science.energy.gov//ascr/facilities/accessing-ascr-facilities/).

Opportunities to submit proposals for time allocations include the INCITE (Innovative and Novel Computation Impact on Theory and Experiment), ALCC (ASCR Leadership Computing Challenge, ERCAP (Energy Research Computing Allocations Process, and the NERSC and LCF Center Reserves processes.

Joint Genome Institute

The Joint Genome Institute (JGI) in Walnut Creek, California, an Office of Science user facility, provides the scientific community access to state of the art genomic sequencing and analysis capabilities, as well as modest amounts of DNA synthesis capability, for microbial, plant, microbial community, and other (non-pathogen) targets. In all cases, the aim of the JGI is to provide to the national and international scientific community information on the genome-derived "parts lists" that support further discovery (http://www.jgi.doe.gov). These resources are available at no charge through a user proposal process (see http://proposals.jgi-psf.org/).

Neutron Beam Facilities

DOE provides the scientific community access to high flux neutron sources that are capable of providing structural and chemical information often unavailable using other technologies. DOE has two such Office of Science user facilities at the Oak Ridge

National Laboratory, the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS; http://neutrons.ornl.gov/facilities/SNS/ and the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR; http://neutrons.ornl.gov/facilities/HFIR/Use of the neutron sources is available at no charge through a user proposal process.

NGEE-Arctic (Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments)

DOE supports process studies and modeling to assess carbon cycle dynamics in high-latitude terrestrial ecosystems. The NGEE-Arctic project focuses on permafrost ecology in a warming Arctic, and how associated changes in biogeochemical processes and vegetation dynamics will affect feedbacks to the climate system. Fundamental knowledge gained in these investigations will improve representation of ecosystem dynamics, subsurface biogeochemistry, and atmosphere processes in regional and global models, and improve predictions of climate change in tundra ecosystems. More information on the study and information for contacting NGEE-Arctic project staff to discuss collaborative research are described on the project web site (http://ngee.ornl.gov/).

NGEE-Tropics (Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments)

DOE supports process studies and modeling efforts to assess climate relevant feedbacks in tropical forested ecosystems. The NGEE-Tropics project focuses on understanding how carbon cycling in tropical forests will respond to changing temperature, precipitation, CO_2 concentrations, and/or disturbance. Gained knowledge will be used to develop process rich, trait-based models to improve the current generation of Earth system models. More information on the study and information for contacting NGEE-Tropics project staff to discuss collaborative research are described on the project web site. (http://esd1.lbl.gov/research/projects/ngee_tropics/)

Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climate and Environmental Change (SPRUCE)

DOE supports an experiment to assess the response of northern boreal and peatland ecosystems to increases in temperature and elevated atmospheric CO_2 concentrations. The SPRUCE experiment was established for a decade of whole-ecosystem warming at the Marcell Experimental Forest in northern Minnesota beginning in August 2015. More information on the study, a listing of currently funded collaborators, and the method for contacting SPRUCE project staff can be found online (http://mnspruce.ornl.gov/). Interested collaborators must discuss their potential research interests with project staff to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure available space within the SPRUCE footprint. SPRUCE is currently hosting an abundance of funded cooperative research efforts at this time. Persons interested in new collaborative measurements should contact project personnel to check on duplication of effort and the availability of space for any new research. A comprehensive listing of ongoing measurements is available (http://mnspruce.ornl.gov/content/ongoing-and-planned-measurements).

Synchrotron Light Sources

DOE provides the scientific community access to several synchrotron light sources that are capable of providing structural and chemical information often unavailable with conventional sources of x-rays. DOE laboratories with Office of Science user facility synchrotrons include: Argonne National Laboratory (http://www.aps.anl.gov/); Brookhaven National Laboratory (http://www.nsls.bnl.gov/); Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (http://www.als.lbl.gov/); and Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/index.html). Use of the synchrotron light sources is available at no charge through a user proposal process.

Any Other Special Requirements:

Applications that have been declined previously by this program are required to address within the Narrative Section major issues and concerns raised by previous reviews and to describe how the application was improved and updated since the original submission. All applicants must check "NEW" on the SF-424 R&R when submitting. Do not select Revised or Resubmission.

All Lead PIs are required to attend the ESS Principal Investigators (PI) meeting (generally a 2-day meeting) held in the Washington DC area in the spring of each year. Travel funds should be budgeted to allow at least the lead PI to attend this meeting.

Section II – AWARD INFORMATION

A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT

DOE anticipates awarding grants under this FOA.

DOE encourages multi-institutional collaborations where appropriate. However, DOE will only fund such collaborations through a single consolidated proposal with subcontracts from the lead institution.

B. ESTIMATED FUNDING

It is anticipated that up to $5,000,000 from Environmental System Science (TES - $2,000,000 and SBR - $3,000,000) will be available for approximately 8 to 10 awards to be made in Fiscal Year 2016, contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. Applicants may request project support for up to three years with a total budget of up to $600,000. Programmatic relevance and cost effectiveness are factors in evaluating all grant applications.

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with preparation or submission of applications. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this FOA.

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

(See B. Estimated Funding section above.)

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

Full Application Ceiling

$600,000 total

Full Application Floor

None

D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS

(See B. Estimated Funding Section above.)

Approximately 8 to10 awards to be made in Fiscal Year 2016. The exact number of awards will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE

(See B. Estimated Funding Section above.)

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

(See B. Estimated Funding section above.)

A maximum of three years will be considered. Out-year funding will depend upon suitable progress.

G. TYPE OF APPLICATION

DOE will only accept new applications under this FOA.

H. VALUE/FUNDING FOR DOE/NNSA NATIONAL LABORATORY CONTRACTORS AND NON-DOE/NNSA FFRDC CONTRACTORS

For grant awards, the value of, and funding for, a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory contractor, a non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractor, or another Federal agency's portion of the work will not be included in the award to the successful applicant. DOE will fund a DOE/NNSA National Laboratory contractor through the DOE field work authorization system or other appropriate process and will fund non-DOE/NNSA FFRDC contractors and other Federal agencies through an interagency agreement in accordance with the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535, or other statutory authority.

I. RESPONSIBILITY

The successful prime applicant/awardee (lead organization) will be the responsible authority regarding the settlement and satisfaction of all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to, disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the applicant and any team member, and/or subawardee.

If an award is made to another Federal agency or its FFRDC contractor, all Disputes and Claims will be resolved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the interagency agreement in consultation between DOE and the prime awardee.

Section III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All types of applicants are eligible to apply, except Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995.

DOE National Laboratories are not eligible to receive financial assistance awards under this FOA, but they may submit collaborating applications in accordance with the instructions in Section IV, Part C, below. DOE National Laboratories whose collaborating applications are considered for funding may be invited to submit a proposal in the Office of Science's PAMS website for the receipt of a Field Work Authorization. Other Federal agencies whose collaborating applications are considered for funding may be invited to submit a proposal in the Office of Science's PAMS website for the receipt of an Interagency Award.

B. COST SHARING

Cost sharing is not required.

C. ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as a Program Director/Principal Investigator are invited to work with their organizations to develop an application for assistance. Individuals from underrepresented groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for assistance.

Section IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application forms and instructions are available at grants.gov. To access these materials, go to http://www.grants.gov , select "Apply for Grants", and then select "Download Application Package." Enter the CFDA number (81.049) and/or the funding opportunity number (DE-FOA-0001437) shown on the cover of this FOA and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

Applications submitted through www.FedConnect.net will not be accepted.

B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION

1. Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent is not required

2. Pre-application

PRE-APPLICATION DUE DATE
November 13, 2015

ENCOURAGE/DISCOURAGE DATE
December 4, 2015

A pre-application is required and must be submitted by November 13, 2015 by 5:00 pm EST.

Pre-applications will be reviewed for responsiveness of the proposed work to the research topics identified in this FOA. DOE will send a response by email to each applicant encouraging or discouraging the submission of a full application by December 4, 2015. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their pre-application by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Only those applicants that receive notification from DOE encouraging a full application may submit full applications. No other full applications will be considered.

The pre-application attachment must include a cover page with the following information:

Title of Pre-Application
Principal Investigator Name, Job Title
Institution
PI Phone Number
PI Email Address
Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0001437

Research Program: (SBR or TES)
Proposed FOA science area(s) to which the pre-application is responding:
Project keywords (up to five):

Name	Institution	Anticipated Budget
PI		
Co-PI		
Co-PI		
Co-PI		
	Total Budget	

This information should be followed by a clear and concise description of the objectives and technical approach of the proposed research. The pre-application may not exceed two pages, with a minimum text font size of 11 point and margins no smaller than one inch on all sides. Figures and references, if included, must fit within the two-page limit.

Those pre-applications that are encouraged will be used to help the Office of Science begin planning for the full application peer review process. The intent of the Office of Science in discouraging submission of certain full applications is to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting full applications not responsive to this funding opportunity announcement.

The Principal Investigator will be automatically notified when the pre-application is encouraged or discouraged. The DOE Office of Science Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) will send an email to the Principal Investigator from PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov, and the status of the pre-application will be updated at the PAMS website https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. Notifications are sent as soon as the decisions to encourage or discourage are finalized.

It is important that the pre-application be a single file with extension .pdf, .docx, or .doc. The filename should not exceed 50 characters. The pre-application must be submitted electronically through the DOE Office of Science Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) website https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. The Principal Investigator and anyone submitting on behalf of the Principal Investigator must register for an account in PAMS before it will be possible to submit a pre-application. All PIs and those submitting pre-applications on behalf of PIs are encouraged to establish PAMS accounts as soon as possible to avoid submission delays.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Registering to PAMS is a two-step process; once you create an individual account, you must associate yourself with ("register to") your institution. Detailed steps are listed below.

Create PAMS Account:
To register, click the "Create New PAMS Account" link on the website https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/.

- Click the "No, I have never had an account" link and then the "Create Account" button.
- You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the "Save and Continue" button.
- On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the "Create Account" button.
- Read the user agreement and click the "Accept" button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.

PAMS will take you to the "Having Trouble Logging In?" page. (If you have been an Office of Science merit reviewer or if you have previously submitted an application, you may already be linked to an institution in PAMS. If this happens, you will be taken to the PAMS home page.

Register to Your Institution:

- Click the link labeled "Option 2: I know my institution and I am here to register to the institution." (Note: If you previously created a PAMS account but did not register to an institution at that time, you must click the Institutions tab and click the "Register to Institution" link.)
- PAMS will take you to the "Register to Institution" page.
- Type a word or phrase from your institution name in the field labeled, "Institution Name like," choose the radio button next to the item that best describes your role in the system, and click the "Search" button. A "like" search in PAMS returns results that contain the word or phrase you enter; you do not need to enter the exact name of the institution, but you should enter a word or phrase contained within the institution name. (If your institution has a frequently used acronym, such as ANL for Argonne National Laboratory or UCLA for the Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, you may find it easiest to search for the acronym under "Institution Name like." Many institutions with acronyms are listed in PAMS with their acronyms in parentheses after their names.)
- Find your institution in the list that is returned by the search and click the "Actions" link in the Options column next to the institution name to obtain a dropdown list. Select "Add me to this institution" from the dropdown. PAMS will take you to the "Institutions – List" page.
- If you do not see your institution in the initial search results, you can search again by clicking the "Cancel" button, clicking the Option 2 link, and repeating the search.
- If, after searching, you think your institution is not currently in the database, click the "Cannot Find My Institution" button and enter the requested institution information into PAMS. Click the "Create Institution" button. PAMS will add the institution to the system, associate your profile with the new institution, and return you to the "Institutions – List" page when you are finished.

Submit Your Pre-Application:

- Create your pre-application (called a preproposal in PAMS) outside the system and save it as a file with extension .docx, .doc, or .pdf. Make a note of the location of the file on your computer so you can browse for it later from within PAMS.
- Log into PAMS and click the Proposals tab. Click the "View / Respond to Funding Opportunity Announcements" link and find the current announcement in the list. Click the "Actions/Views" link in the Options column next to this announcement to obtain a dropdown menu. Select "Submit Preproposal" from the dropdown.
- On the Submit Preproposal page, select the institution from which you are submitting this preproposal from the Institution dropdown. If you are associated with only one institution in the system, there will only be one institution in the dropdown.
- Note that you must select one and only one Principal Investigator (PI) per preproposal; to do so, click the "Select PI" button on the far right side of the screen. Find the appropriate PI from the list of all registered users from your institution returned by PAMS. (Hint: You may have to sort, filter, or search through the list if it has multiple pages.) Click the "Actions" link in the Options column next to the appropriate PI to obtain a dropdown menu. From the dropdown, choose "Select PI."
- If the PI for whom you are submitting does not appear on the list, it means he or she has not yet registered in PAMS. For your convenience, you may have PAMS send an email invitation to the PI to register in PAMS. To do so, click the "Invite PI" link at the top left of the "Select PI" screen. You can enter an optional personal message to the PI in the "Comments" box, and it will be included in the email sent by PAMS to the PI. You must wait until the PI registers before you can submit the preproposal. Save the preproposal for later work by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the screen. It will be stored in "My Preproposals" for later editing.
- Enter a title for your preproposal.
- Select the appropriate technical contact from the Program Manager dropdown.
- To upload the preproposal file into PAMS, click the "Attach File" button at the far right side of the screen. Click the "Browse" (or "Choose File" depending on your browser) button to search for your file. You may enter an optional description of the file you are attaching. Click the "Upload" button to upload the file.
- At the bottom of the screen, click the "Submit to DOE" button to save and submit the preproposal to DOE.
- Upon submission, the PI will receive an email from the PAMS system <PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov> acknowledging receipt of the preproposal.

You are encouraged to register for an account in PAMS at least a week in advance of the preproposal submission deadline so that there will be no delays with your submission.

For help with PAMS, click the "External User Guide" link on the PAMS website, https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, email: sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov. All submission and inquiries about this Funding Opportunity Announcement should reference **DE-FOA-0001437.**

Preapplications submitted outside PAMS will not be considered. Preapplications may not be submitted through grants.gov or www.FedConnect.net.

C. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS

FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION PREPARATION

You must download the application package, application forms and instructions, from Grants.gov at http://www.grants.gov/. (Additional instructions are provided in Section IV, Part C of this FOA.)

You are required to use the compatible version of Adobe Reader software to complete a Grants.gov Adobe application package. To ensure you have the Grants.gov compatible version of Adobe Reader, visit the download software page at http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp.

You must complete the mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms (e.g., Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement. Attached PDF files must be plain files consisting of text, numbers, and images without editable fields, signatures, passwords, redactions, or other advanced features available in some PDF-compatible software. Do not use PDF portfolios or binders.

Please note: you may only use the following UTF-8 characters when naming your application attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore (_), hyphen (-), space, period. You must limit the file name to 50 or fewer characters. Attachments that do not follow this rule may cause the entire application to be rejected or cause issues during processing.

LETTERS

Letters of support for collaborators and/or resources should be included in the application but do not count toward the page limit. General letters of support for the project should not be included.

1. SF-424 (R&R)

Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Complete all the required fields in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Field 17 is available on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms under Certifications and Assurances.

DUNS AND EIN NUMBERS

The DUNS and EIN number fields on the SF-424 (R&R) form are used in PAMS to confirm the identity of the individual or organization submitting an application.

- Enter each number as a nine-digit number.
- Do not use hyphens or dashes.
- The Office of Science does not use the twelve-digit EIN format required by some other agencies.

Please answer "yes" to the question "Is this application being submitted to other agencies?" if substantially similar, identical, or closely related research objectives are being submitted to another Federal agency. Indicate the agency or agencies to which the similar objectives have been submitted.

PUBLIC POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The applicant assures DOE of its compliance with applicable public policy requirements, including the following:

Animal Welfare Act	7 USC 2131 et seq.,
Buy American Act	41 USC 10 et seq.
Cargo Preference Act	46 USC 55305, 46 CFR 381.7
Civil Rights Protections	10 CFR 1040
Debarment and Suspension	2 CFR 180, 2 CFR 901
Drug-Free Workplace Act	41 USC 701, 10 CFR 607
Environmental Protections	42 USC 7401, 33 USC 1251, 42 USC 4321
False Claims Act	31 USC 3729, 18 USC 287, 18 USC 1001, 10 CFR 1013
Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act	P.L. 109-282, 2 CFR 170
Fly America Act	49 USC 40118
Hatch Act	5 USC 1501 et seq.
Human Research Subjects Protections	10 CFR 745
Lobbying Disclosure Act	2 USC 1601 et seq.
Lobbying Prohibitions	31 USC 1352, 10 CFR 601
Metric System use	EO 12770
Non-delinquency on Federal Debt	28 USC 3201
Prohibition on benefitting Members of Congress	41 USC 6306
Seat Belt Use	EO 13043
Terrorist Financing	EO 13224, 66 FR 49079
Text Messaging While Driving	EO 13513, 74 FR 51225
Trafficking in Persons	22 USC 7104, 2 CFR 175

2. Research and Related Other Project Information

Complete questions 1 through 6 and attach files. The files must comply with the following instructions:

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT (FIELD 7 ON THE FORM)

The project summary/abstract is a summary of the proposed activity suitable for distribution to the public and sufficient to permit potential reviewers to identify conflicts of interest. It must be a self-contained document. Provide the name of the applicant, the project title, the project director/principal investigator(s) (PD/PI) and the PD/PI's institutional affiliation, any coinvestigators and their institutional affiliations, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, and the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes. A sample is provided below:

Scientific Awesomeness A. Smith, Lead Institution (Principal Investigator) W. Brown, Institution 2 (Co-Investigator) E. Jones, Institution 3 (Co-Investigator) Text of abstract

The project summary must not exceed 1 page when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins (top, bottom, left and right) with font not smaller than 11 point. To attach a Project Summary/Abstract, click "Add Attachment."

- Do not include any proprietary or sensitive business information.
- DOE may use the abstract may to prepare public reports about supported research.

DOE COVER PAGE
(PART OF PROJECT NARRATIVE ATTACHED TO FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

The application narrative should begin with a cover page that will not count toward the project narrative page limit. The cover page must include the following items:

- The project title
- Applicant/Institution:
- Street Address/City/State/Zip:
- Postal Address:
- Lead PI name, telephone number, email:
- Administrative Point of Contact name, telephone number, email:
- Funding Opportunity FOA Number: DE-FOA-0001437
- DOE/Office of Science Program Office: Office of Biological and Environmental Research
- DOE/Office of Science Program Office Technical Contact: Dr. Jared L. DeForest
- PAMS Pre-Application Tracking Number:
- Research program: (TES or SBR)
- Proposed science area(s) of this FOA:
- Project keywords (up to five keywords):

	Name	Institution	Year 1 Budget	Year 2 Budget	Year 3 Budget	Total Budget
Lead PI						
Co-PI						
Co-PI						
Co-PI						
Total Budget						

Is this a collaboration with a DOE National Laboratory or Federal Agency? (Yes/No)

Note: Multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations are strongly encouraged. Collaboration could include institutions such as universities, industry, non-profit organizations, Federal Agencies, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), which include the DOE National Laboratories. Collaborations involving the DOE National Laboratories are permitted; however, the efforts must reflect specific and unique capabilities/expertise at the collaborating DOE National Laboratory. The DOE National Laboratory component of these financial collaborations will be limited to no more than 10% of total costs and should show clear scientific leadership from the submitting institution and reflect an appropriate level of effort from the DOE National Laboratory. **Projects involving multiple institutions must be submitted as a single application with subawards to collaborators** (The funding limits specified elsewhere refer the total project cost, including DOE National Laboratories and/or Federal agency collaborators.) **For advice concerning the correct submission, contact the Technical Program Contact for this FOA**.

PROJECT NARRATIVE (FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

For Full applications, the project narrative **must not exceed <u>15</u> pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The font must not be smaller than 11 point. Merit reviewers will only consider the number of pages specified in the first sentence of this paragraph. This page limit does not apply to the Cover Page, Budget Page(s), Budget Justification, biographical material, publications and references, and appendices, each of which may have its own page limit.

Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide supplementary or additional information that constitutes a part of the application. Merit reviewers are not required to access Internet sites; however, Internet publications in a list of references will be treated identically to print publications. See Part VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. To attach a Project Narrative, click "Add Attachment."

Background/Introduction: Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature. When applicable, it should contain compelling evidence that current empirical and modeling projects are deficient in this area/process of study.

Proposed Research and Methods: Identify the hypotheses to be tested (if any) and details of the methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical, statistical, and computational research efforts.

Timetable of Activities: Timeline for all major activities including milestones and deliverables.

Project Objectives: This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives of the proposed project.

The Project Narrative comprises the research plan for the project. It should contain enough background material in the Introduction, including review of the relevant literature, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the state of the science. The major part of the narrative should be devoted to a description and justification of the proposed project, including details of the experimental design and methods. A timeline for the major activities of the proposed project, and indicate which project personnel will be responsible for which activities is required. There should be no ambiguity about who and when particular parts of the project will be performed.

APPENDIX 1: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide a current biographical sketch for the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and each senior/key person listed in Section A on the R&R Budget form.

- Provide the biographical sketch information as an appendix to your project narrative.
- Do not attach a separate file.
- The biographical sketch appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.
- The biographical information (curriculum vitae) for each person must not exceed 2 pages when printed on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 11 point and must include:

The biographical sketch must follow the following format:

Education and Training: Undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral training, provide institution, major/area, degree and year in chronological order.

Research and Professional Experience: Beginning with the current position list, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description.

Publications: Provide a list of up to 10 publications most closely related to the proposed project. For each publication, identify the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article title, book or journal title, volume number, page numbers, year of publication, and website address if available electronically. Patents, copyrights and software systems developed may be provided in addition to or substituted for publications.

Synergistic Activities: List no more than 5 professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

Identification of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Bias in Selection of Reviewers: Provide the following information in this section:

- **Collaborators and Co-editors**: List in alphabetical order all persons, including their current organizational affiliation, who are, or who have been, collaborators or co-authors with you on a research project, book or book article, report, abstract, or paper during the 48 months preceding the submission of this application. For publications or collaborations with more than 10 authors or participants, only list those individuals in the core group with whom the Principal Investigator interacted on a regular basis while the research was being done. Also, list any individuals who are currently, or have been, co-editors with you on a special issue of a journal, compendium, or conference proceedings during the 24 months preceding the submission of this application. If there are no collaborators or co-editors to report, state "None."

- **Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors and Advisees**: List the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate advisor(s) and principal postdoctoral sponsor(s). Also, list the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

Personally Identifiable Information: Do not include sensitive personally identifiable information such as a Social Security Number, date of birth, or city of birth. Do not include information that a merit reviewer should not make use of.

APPENDIX 2: CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT

Provide a list of all current and pending support (both Federal and non-Federal) for the Project Director/Principal Investigator(s) (PD/PI) and senior/key persons, including subawardees, for ongoing projects and pending applications.

List all sponsored activities or awards requiring a measurable commitment of effort, whether paid or unpaid.
For every activity, list the following items:

- The sponsor of the activity or the source of funding
- The award or other identifying number
- The title of the award or activity
- The total cost or value of the award or activity, including direct and indirect costs. For pending proposals, provide the total amount of requested funding.
- The person-months of effort per year being dedicated to the award or activity

Provide the Current and Pending Support as an appendix to your project narrative. Concurrent submission of an application to other organizations for simultaneous consideration will not prejudice its review.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

APPENDIX 3: BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES CITED

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. For research areas where there are routinely more than ten coauthors of archival publications, you may use an abbreviated style such as the Physical Review Letters (PRL) convention for citations (listing only the first author). For example, your paper may be listed as, "A Really Important New Result," A. Aardvark et. al. (MONGO Collaboration), PRL 999. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. Provide the Bibliography and References Cited information as an appendix to your project narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

APPENDIX 4: FACILITIES & OTHER RESOURCES

This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources, including subawardee resources, available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used (Laboratory, Animal, Computer, Office, Clinical and Other). If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Describe other resources available to the project (e.g., machine shop, electronic shop) and the extent to which they would be available to the project. For proposed investigations requiring access to experimental user facilities maintained by institutions other than the applicant, please provide a document from the facility manager confirming that the researchers will have access to the facility. Please provide the Facility and Other Resource information as an appendix to your project narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

APPENDIX 5: EQUIPMENT

List major items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate identify location and pertinent capabilities. Provide the Equipment information as an appendix to your project narrative.

- Do not attach a separate file.
- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

APPENDIX 6: DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) that addresses the following requirements:

1. DMPs should describe whether and how data generated in the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved. If the plan is not to share and/or preserve certain data, then the plan must explain the basis of the decision (for example, cost/benefit

considerations, other parameters of feasibility, scientific appropriateness, or limitations discussed in #4). At a minimum, DMPs must describe how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of results, or how results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved.

2. DMPs should provide a plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed research open, machine-readable, and digitally accessible to the public at the time of publication. This includes data that are displayed in charts, figures, images, etc. In addition, the underlying digital research data used to generate the displayed data should be made as accessible as possible to the public in accordance with the principles stated above. This requirement could be met by including the data as supplementary information to the published article, or through other means. The published article should indicate how these data can be accessed.
3. DMPs should consult and reference available information about data management resources to be used in the course of the proposed research. In particular, DMPs that explicitly or implicitly commit data management resources at a facility beyond what is conventionally made available to approved users should be accompanied by written approval from that facility. In determining the resources available for data management at Office of Science User Facilities, researchers should consult the published description of data management resources and practices at that facility and reference it in the DMP. Information about other Office of Science facilities can be found in the additional guidance from the sponsoring program.
4. DMPs must protect confidentiality, personal privacy, Personally Identifiable Information, and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness; and otherwise be consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and DOE orders and policies. There is no requirement to share proprietary data.

DMPs will be reviewed as part of the overall Office of Science research proposal merit review process. Applicants are encouraged to consult the Office of Science website for further information and suggestions for how to structure a DMP: http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/digital-data-management/

- This appendix does not have a page limit, but graphics (e.g. flow charts, graphs, etc.) are encouraged for clarity and conciseness.
- Do not attach a separate file.
- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.

APPENDIX 7: OTHER ATTACHMENT

If you need to elaborate on your responses to questions 1-6 on the "Other Project Information" document, please provide the Other Attachment information as an appendix to your project narrative. Information not easily accessible to a reviewer may be included in this appendix, but do not use this appendix to circumvent the page limitations of the application. Reviewers are not required to consider information in this appendix.

- Do not attach a separate file.

- This appendix will not count in the project narrative page limitation.
- **Do not attach any of the requested appendices described above as files for fields 9, 10, 11, and 12.**
- **Follow the above instructions to include the information as appendices to the project narrative file.**
- **These appendices will not count toward the project narrative's page limitation.**
- **Do not attach any files to fields 9, 10, 11, or 12.**

3. Research and Related Budget

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form (Activate Help Mode to see instructions) and the following instructions. You must complete a separate budget for each year of support requested. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work, meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this FOA (See PART IV, G).

Budget Fields

Section A Senior/Key Person	For each Senior/Key Person, enter the requested information. List personnel, base salary, the number of months that person will be allocated to the project, requested salary fringe benefits, and the total funds requested for each person. The requested salary must be the product of the base salary and the effort. Include a written narrative in the budget justification that justifies the need for requested personnel.
Section B Other Personnel	List personnel, the number of months that person will be allocated to the project, requested salary fringe benefits, and the total funds requested for each person. Include a written narrative in the budget justification that fully justifies the need for requested personnel.
Section C Equipment	For the purpose of this budget, equipment is designated as an item of property that has an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more and an expected service life of more than one year. (Note that this designation applies for proposal budgeting only and differs from the DOE definition of capital equipment.) List **each** item of equipment separately and justify each in the budget justification section. Do not aggregate items of equipment. Allowable items ordinarily will be limited to research equipment and apparatus not already available for the conduct of the work. General-purpose office equipment is not eligible for support unless primarily or exclusively used in the actual conduct of scientific research.
Section D Travel	For purposes of this section only, travel to Canada or to Mexico is considered domestic travel. In the budget justification, list each trip's

	destination, dates, estimated costs including transportation and subsistence, number of staff traveling, the purpose of the travel, and how it relates to the project. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). To qualify for support, attendance at meetings or conferences must enhance the investigator's capability to perform the research, plan extensions of it, or disseminate its results. Domestic travel is to be justified separately from foreign travel.
Section E Participant/Trainee Support Costs	If applicable, submit training support costs. Educational projects that intend to support trainees (precollege, college, graduate and post graduate) must list each trainee cost that includes stipend levels and amounts, cost of tuition for each trainee, cost of any travel (provide the same information as needed under the regular travel category), and costs for any related training expenses. Participant costs are those costs associated with conferences, workshops, symposia or institutes and breakout items should indicate the number of participants, cost for each participant, purpose of the conference, dates and places of meetings and any related administrative expenses. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis).
Section F Other Direct Costs	• **Materials and Supplies:** Enter total funds requested for materials and supplies in the appropriate fields. In the budget justification, indicate general categories such as glassware, and chemicals, including an amount for each category (items not identified under "Equipment"). Categories less than $1,000 are not required to be itemized. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). • **Publication Costs:** Enter the total publication funds requested. The proposal budget may request funds for the costs of documenting, preparing, publishing or otherwise making available to others the findings and products of the work conducted under the award. In the budget justification, include supporting information. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). • **Consultant Services:** Enter total funds requested for all consultant services. In the budget justification, identify each consultant, the services he/she will perform, total number of days, travel costs, and total estimated costs. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). • **ADP/Computer Services:** Enter total funds requested for ADP/Computer Services. The cost of computer services, including computer-based retrieval of scientific, technical and education information may be requested. In the budget justification, include the established computer service rates at the proposing organization

	if applicable. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). • **Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs:** Enter total costs for all subawards/consortium organizations and other contractual costs proposed for the project. In the budget justification, justify the details. • **Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees:** Enter total funds requested for Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees. In the budget justification, identify each rental/user fee and justify. Indicate the basis for the cost estimate (quotes from vendors or suppliers, past experience of similar items, or some other basis). • **Alterations and Renovations:** Enter total funds requested for Alterations and Renovations. In the budget justification, itemize by category and justify the costs of alterations and renovations, including repairs, painting, removal or installation of partitions, shielding, or air conditioning. Where applicable, provide the square footage and costs. • **Other:** Add text to describe any other Direct Costs not requested above. Enter costs associated with "Other" item(s). Use the budget justification to further itemize and justify.
Section G Direct Costs	This represents Total Direct Costs (Sections A through F)
Section H Other Indirect Costs	Enter the Indirect Cost information for each field. Only four general categories of indirect costs are allowed/requested on this form, so please consolidate if needed. Include the cognizant Federal agency and contact information if using a negotiated rate agreement.
Section I Total Direct and Indirect Costs	This is the total of Sections G and H

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (FIELD K ON THE FORM)

Provide the required supporting information for the following costs (See R&R Budget instructions): equipment; domestic and foreign travel; participant/trainees; materials and supplies; publication; consultant services; ADP/computer services; subaward/consortium/contractual; equipment or facility rental/user fees; alterations and renovations; and indirect cost type. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request. **Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in field K.** The file automatically carries over to each budget year.

4. R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form

Budgets for Subawardees, other than DOE FFRDC Contractors: You must provide a separate R&R budget for each subawardee. Download the R&R Budget Attachment from the R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM and e-mail it to each subawardee that is required to submit a separate budget. After the subawardee has e-mailed its completed budget

back to you, attach it to one of the blocks provided on the form. Use up to 10 letters of the subawardee's name (plus.pdf) as the file name (e.g., ucla.pdf or energyres.pdf). Filenames should not exceed 50 characters.

If the project involves more subawardees than there are places in the SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM, the additional subaward budgets may be saved as PDF files and appended to the Budget Justification attached to Field K.

Ensure that any files received from subawardees are the PDF files extracted from the SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM. Errors will be created if a subawardee sends a prime applicant a budget form that was not extracted from the application package.

5. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Indicate the primary site where the work will be performed. If a portion of the project will be performed at any other site(s), identify the site location(s) in the blocks provided.

Note that the Project/Performance Site Congressional District is entered in the format of the 2 digit state code followed by a dash and a 3 digit Congressional district code, for example VA-001. Hover over this field for additional instructions.

Use the Next Site button to expand the form to add additional Project/Performance Site Locations.

6. Summary of Required Forms/Files

Your application must include the following items:

Name of Document	Format	Attach to
SF 424 (R&R)	Form	N/A
RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information	Form	N/A
Project Summary/Abstract	PDF	Field 7
Project Narrative, including required appendices	PDF	Field 8
RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET	Form	N/A
Budget Justification	PDF	Field K
PROJECT/PERFORMANCE SITE LOCATION(S)	Form	N/A
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	Form	N/A

D. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

If selected for award, DOE reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to:

- Indirect cost information
- Other budget information
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR 1040.5)
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable
- Commitment Letter from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing, if applicable
- Environmental Information

E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

1. Letter of Intent Due Date

N/A

2. Pre-application Due Date

November 13, 2015 by 5:00 pm EST

You are encouraged to submit your pre-application well before the deadline.

3. Application Due Date

January 22, 2016 by 11:59 pm EST

You are encouraged to transmit your application well before the deadline.

4. Late Submissions

Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for award.

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Funding for all awards and future budget periods are contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of this program and the availability of future-year budget authority.

Cost Principles: Costs must be allowable, allocable and reasonable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation).

Pre-award Costs: Recipients may charge to an award resulting from this FOA pre-award costs that were incurred within the ninety (90) calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award, if the costs are allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation). Recipients must obtain the prior approval of the contracting officer for any pre-award costs that are for periods greater than this 90 day calendar period.

Pre-award costs are incurred at the applicant's risk. DOE is under no obligation to reimburse such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive an award or if the award is made for a lesser amount than the applicant expected.

H. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Systems to Register In

There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit an application in response to this FOA. Applicants not currently registered with SAM and grants.gov should allow **at least 44 days** to complete these requirements. You should start the process as soon as possible.

Applicants must obtain a DUNS number at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

Applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at http://www.sam.gov/. If you had an active registration in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), you should have an active registration in SAM. More information about SAM registration for applicants is found at https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations_v1.7.pdf.

Applicants must provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to complete their registration in SAM.gov. An applicant's TIN is an Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In limited circumstances, a Social Security Number (SSN) assigned by the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be used as a TIN. You may obtain an EIN from the IRS at http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-%26-Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-(EIN)-Online.

DOE discourages the use of a SSN as a TIN. You are encouraged to obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using the website listed above.

Applicants must register with FedConnect at www.fedconnect.net. The full, binding version of assistance agreements will be posted to FedConnect.

Recipients must register with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System at https://www.fsrs.gov. This registration must be completed before an award may be made: you are advised to register while preparing your application.

2. Registering in Grants.gov

Applicants must register with grants.gov.

For organizations, please follow the procedures detailed below, making use of the checklist provided below:
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html
http://www.grants.gov/documents/19/18243/GrantsgovOrganizationRegistrationGuide.pdf

For individuals, please follow the procedures detailed below:
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/individual-registration.html

Organizations and individuals must have an E-Business (E-Biz) Point of Contact (POC). You may find the checklist at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-4-aor-authorization.html useful.

Grants.gov maintains a User Guide at http://www.grants.gov/documents/19/18243/GrantsgovApplicantUserGuide.pdf and a list of Frequently Asked Questions at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html. Questions relating to the registration process, **system requirements, or how an application form works** must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or **support@grants.gov**.

FIRST-TIME REGISTRATION PROCESS IN GRANTS.GOV

You must complete the one-time registration process (all steps) before you can submit your first application through www.grants.gov. (See http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/grant-application-process.html). We recommend that you start this process at least six weeks before the application due date. It may take 44 days or more to complete the entire process. Use the Grants.gov Organizational Registration Checklists at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html to guide you through the process. IMPORTANT: During the SAM registration process, you will be asked to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBIZ POC). The EBIZ POC must obtain a special password called "Marketing Partner Identification Number" (MPIN). When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., Grants.gov registration).3. Application Receipt Notices

After an application is submitted, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of four e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the emails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of email Number 2. The titles of the four e-mails are:

Number 1 - Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number
Number 2 - Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number
Number 3 - Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number
Number 4 - Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number

IMPORTANT NOTICE: When you have completed the grants.gov registration process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., grants.gov registration).

3. Where to Submit an Application

Applications must be submitted through grants.gov to be considered for award.

Applicants must download the application package, application forms and instructions, from grants.gov at http://www.grants.gov/
(Additional instructions are provided in Section IV A of this FOA.)

Submit electronic applications through the "Apply for Grants" function at www.grants.gov. If you have problems completing the registration process or submitting your application, call grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or send an email to support@grants.gov.

Please ensure that you have read the applicable instructions, guides, help notices, frequently asked questions, and other forms of technical support on grants.gov.

4. DOE Office of Science Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS)

After you submit your application through grants.gov, the application will automatically transfer into the Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) for processing by the DOE Office of Science. Many functions for grants and cooperative agreements can be done in PAMS, which is available at https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov.

You will want to "register to" your application: a process of linking yourself to the application after it has been submitted through grants.gov and processed by DOE.

You must register in PAMS to submit a pre-application or a letter of intent.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Notifications sent from the PAMS system will come from the PAMS email address <PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov>. Please make sure your email server/software allows delivery of emails from the PAMS email address to yours.

Registering to PAMS is a two-step process; once you create an individual account, you must associate yourself with ("register to") your institution. Detailed steps are listed below.

1. CREATE PAMS ACCOUNT:

To register, click the "Create New PAMS Account" link on the website https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/.

- Click the "No, I have never had an account" link and then the "Create Account" button.
- You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the "Save and Continue" button.
- On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the "Create Account" button.
- Read the user agreement and click the "Accept" button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.
- PAMS will take you to the "Having Trouble Logging In?" page. (If you have been an Office of Science merit reviewer or if you have previously submitted an application, you may already be linked to an institution in PAMS. If this happens, you will be taken to the PAMS home page.)

2. REGISTER TO YOUR INSTITUTION:

- Click the link labeled "Option 2: I know my institution and I am here to register to the institution." (Note: If you previously created a PAMS account but did not register to an institution at that time, you must click the Institutions tab and click the "Register to Institution" link.)
- PAMS will take you to the "Register to Institution" page.
- Type a word or phrase from your institution name in the field labeled, "Institution Name like," choose the radio button next to the item that best describes your role in the system, and click the "Search" button. A "like" search in PAMS returns results that contain the word or phrase you enter; you do not need to enter the exact name of the institution, but you should enter a word or phrase contained within the institution name. (If your institution has a frequently used acronym, such as ANL for Argonne National Laboratory or UCLA for the Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, you may find it easiest to search for the acronym under "Institution Name like." Many institutions with acronyms are listed in PAMS with their acronyms in parentheses after their names.)
- Find your institution in the list that is returned by the search and click the "Actions" link in the Options column next to the institution name to obtain a dropdown list. Select "Add me to this institution" from the dropdown. PAMS will take you to the "Institutions – List" page.
- If you do not see your institution in the initial search results, you can search again by clicking the "Cancel" button, clicking the Option 2 link, and repeating the search.
- If, after searching, you think your institution is not currently in the database, click the "Cannot Find My Institution" button and enter the requested institution information into PAMS. Click the "Create Institution" button. PAMS will add the institution to the system, associate your profile with the new institution, and return you to the "Institutions – List" page when you are finished.

For help with PAMS, click the "External User Guide" link on the PAMS website, https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, 9AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, email: sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov. All submission and inquiries about this Funding Opportunity Announcement should reference DE-FOA-0001437.

5. Viewing Submitted Applications

Each grants.gov application submitted to the DOE Office of Science (SC) automatically transfers into PAMS and is subsequently assigned to a program manager. At the time of program manager assignment, the three people listed on the SF-424 (R&R) cover page will receive an email with the subject line, "Receipt of Proposal 0000xxxxxx by the DOE Office of Science." These three people are the Principal Investigator (Block 14), Authorized Representative (Block 19), and Point of Contact (Block 5). In PAMS notation, applications are known as proposals, the Principal Investigator is known as the PI, the Authorized Representative is known as the Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer (SRO/BO/AO), and the Point of Contact is known as the POC.

There will be a period of time between the application's receipt at grants.gov and its assignment to a DOE Office of Science program manager. Program managers are typically assigned two weeks after applications are due at grants.gov: please refrain from attempting to view the proposal in PAMS until you receive an email providing the assignment of a program manager.

Once the email is sent, the PI, SRO/BO/PO, and POC will each be able to view the submitted proposal in PAMS. Viewing the proposal is optional.

You may use the Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari browsers to access PAMS.

Following are two sets of instructions for viewing the submitted proposal, one for individuals who already have PAMS accounts and one for those who do not.

If you already have a PAMS account, follow these instructions:

1. Log in to PAMS at https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/.
2. Click the "Proposals" tab and click "Access Previously Submitted Grants.gov Proposal."
3. Enter the following information:
    - Proposal ID: Enter the ten-digit PAMS proposal ID, including the leading zeros (e.g., 00002xxxxx). Do not use the grants.gov proposal number. Use the PAMS number previously sent to you in the email with subject line, "Receipt of Proposal …".
    - Email (as entered in grants.gov application): Enter your email address as it appears on the SF424(R&R) Cover Page.
    - Choose Role: Select the radio button in front of the role corresponding to the SF-424 (R&R) cover page. If your name appears in block 19 of the SF-424 (R&R) cover page as the authorizing representative, select "SRO/BO/AO (Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer)." If your name appears in block 14 of

the SF424 R&R cover page as the PI, select "Principal Investigator (PI)." If your name appears in block 5 of the SF424 R&R as the point of contact, select "Other (POC)."

4. Click the "Save and Continue" button. You will be taken to your "My Proposals" page. The grants.gov proposal will now appear in your list of proposals. Click the "Actions/Views" link in the options column next to this proposal to obtain a dropdown list. Select "Proposal" from the dropdown to see the proposal. Note that the steps above will work only for proposals submitted to the DOE Office of Science since May 2012.

If you do not already have a PAMS account, follow these instructions:

1. To register, click the "Create New PAMS Account" link on the website https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/.
2. Click the "No, I have never had an account" link and then the "Create Account" button.
3. You will be prompted to enter your name and email address, create a username and password, and select a security question and answer. Once you have done this, click the "Save and Continue" button.
4. On the next page, enter the required information (at least one phone number and your mailing address) and any optional information you wish to provide (e.g., FAX number, website, mailstop code, additional email addresses or phone numbers, Division/Department). Click the "Create Account" button.
5. Read the user agreement and click the "Accept" button to indicate that you understand your responsibilities and agree to comply with the rules of behavior for PAMS.
6. You will be taken to the Register to Institution page. Select the link labeled, "Option 1: My institution has submitted a proposal in grants.gov. I am here to register as an SRO, PI, or POC (Sponsored Research Officer, Principal Investigator, or Point of Contact)."
7. Enter the following information:
   - Proposal ID: Enter the ten-digit PAMS proposal ID, including the leading zeros (e.g., 00002xxxxx). Do not use the grants.gov proposal number. Use the PAMS number previously sent to you in the email with subject line, "Receipt of Proposal …".
   - Email (as entered in grants.gov proposal): Enter your email address as it appears on the SF424(R&R) Cover Page.
   - Choose Role: Select the radio button in front of the role corresponding to the SF-424 (R&R) cover page. If your name appears in block 19 of the SF-424 (R&R) cover page as the authorizing representative, select "SRO/BO/AO (Sponsored Research Officer/Business Officer/Administrative Officer)." If your name appears in block 14 of the SF424 R&R cover page as the PI, select "Principal Investigator (PI)." If your name appears in block 5 of the SF424 R&R as the point of contact, select "Other (POC)."
8. Click the "Save and Continue" button. You will be taken to your "My Proposals" page. The grants.gov proposal will now appear in your list of proposals. Click the "Actions/Views" link in the options column next to this proposal to obtain a dropdown list. Select "Proposal" from the dropdown to see the proposal.

If you were listed as the PI on a prior submission but you have not previously created an account, you may already be listed in PAMS. If this is the case, you will be taken to the PAMS home page after agreeing to the Rules of Behavior. If that happens, follow the instructions listed above under "If you already have a PAMS account…" to access your grants.gov proposal.

The steps above will work only for proposals submitted to the DOE Office of Science since May 2012.

For help with PAMS, click the "External User Guide" link on the PAMS website, https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, Email: sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov. All submission and inquiries about this Funding Opportunity Announcement should reference **DE-FOA-0001437.**

Section V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. CRITERIA

1. Initial Review Criteria

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review in accordance with 10 CFR 605.10(b) to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for the award; (2) the information required by the FOA has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement, and (5) the proposed project is not duplicative of programmatic work. Applications that fail to pass the initial review will not be forwarded for merit review and will be eliminated from further consideration.

2. Merit Review Criteria

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria, listed in descending order of importance as found in 10 CFR 605.10 (d), the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule.

- Scientific and/or Technical Merit;
- Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
- Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
- Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.
- Data and Team Management

The evaluation process will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the FOA and the agency's programmatic needs. Note that external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Both Federal and non-Federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

The questions below are provided to the merit reviewers to elaborate the criteria established by regulation:

SCIENTIFIC AND/OR TECHNICAL MERIT

- What is the scientific innovation of proposed effort?
- How does the proposed work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?
- How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
- What is the likelihood of achieving influential results to advance the field of research?

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED METHOD OR APPROACH

- Does the proposed effort employ innovative concepts or methods?
- How logical and feasible are the approaches?
- Are the conceptual framework, methods, and analyses well justified, adequately developed, and likely to meet the objectives and/or test the hypothesis?
- Does the applicant recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?
- Does the PI pose their research applications in the context of representing processes in in a modeling context?

COMPETENCY OF APPLICANT'S PERSONNEL AND ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED RESOURCES

- Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and/or capabilities?
- Are the environment and facilities adequate for performing the proposed effort?
- How well qualified is the team to carry out the proposed work?
- What is the past performance of the team?

REASONABLENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET

- Are the proposed budget and staffing levels adequate to carry out the proposed work?
- Is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the scope?
- Are investments in new or enhanced research sites justified?

DATA AND TEAM MANAGEMENT

- Does the application present a management structure and mechanisms for integrating the research carried out between/among the collaborating investigators to produce the proposed results?
- Is there a Data Management Plan (DMP)? Does the proposed DMP describe whether and how data generated in the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved, and does it describe how data sharing and preservation will enable validation of results, or how results could be validated if data are not shared or preserved?
- Does the proposed DMP describe the plan for making all research data displayed in publications resulting from the proposed research open, machine-readable, and digitally accessible to the public at the time of publication?

- Does the proposed DMP consult and reference available information about data management resources to be used in the course of the proposed research?
- Does the proposed DMP protect confidentiality, personal privacy, personally identifiable information (PII), and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness; and otherwise be consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and DOE orders and policies?

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Merit Review

Applications that pass the initial review will be subjected to a formal merit review and will be evaluated based on the criteria codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d) in accordance with the guidance provided in the "Office of Science Merit Review System for Financial Assistance," which is available at: http://science.energy.gov/grants/policy-and-guidance/merit-review-system/.

2. Selection

The Selection Officials will consider the following items, listed in no order of significance:
- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed activity as determined by merit review
- Availability of funds
- Relevance of the proposed activity to Office of Science priorities
- Ensuring an appropriate balance of activities within Office of Science programs
- Previous performance

3. Review of Risk

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.205, DOE will conduct an additional review of the risk posed by applications submitted under this FOA. Such review of risk will include:
- Technical merit of the application,
- Reports and findings from audits performed under 2 CFR 200 or OMB Circular A-133, and
- Systems maintained under 2 CFR 180, including the SAM "Exclusions" and "Do Not Pay" systems.

DOE may make use of other publicly available information and the history of an applicant's performance under DOE or other Federal agency awards.

Applicants with no prior performance of DOE awards may be asked to provide information about their financial stability and or their ability to comply with the management standards of 2 CFR 200.

4. Discussions and Award

The Government may enter into discussions with a selected applicant for any reason deemed necessary, including but not limited to the following: (1) the budget is not appropriate or reasonable for the requirement; (2) only a portion of the application is selected for award; (3) the Government needs additional information to determine that the recipient is capable of complying with the requirements in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation); and/or (4) special terms and conditions are required. Failure to resolve satisfactorily the issues identified by the Government will preclude award to the applicant.

C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES

It is anticipated that the award selection and notification will be completed by late spring 2016. It is expected that awards will be made in Fiscal Year 2016.

Section VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES

1. Notice of Selection

Selected Applicants Notification: DOE will notify applicants selected for award. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance. (See Part IV.G with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

Non-selected Notification: Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected.

2. Notice of Award

An Assistance Agreement issued by the contracting officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes, either as an attachment or by reference, the following items: (1) Special Terms and Conditions; (2) Applicable program regulations, if any; (3) Application as approved by DOE; (4) 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation); (5) National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms; (6) Budget Summary; and (7) Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

For grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to Title 2 CFR, awards made under this funding opportunity should include the government-wide Research Terms and Conditions. A new version of the Terms and Conditions based on the changes to 2 CFR 200 is not yet available. Once the Terms and Conditions become available, they will be located at http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp If an award is made under this funding opportunity before the Terms and Conditions are posted, alternative Terms and Conditions may be included in the award.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. Administrative Requirements

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR 200 as modified by 2 CFR 910 (DOE Financial Assistance Regulation).

For grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to Title 2 CFR, awards made under this funding opportunity should include the government-wide Research Terms and Conditions. A new version of the Terms and Conditions based on the changes to 2 CFR 200 is not yet available. Once the Terms and Conditions become available, they will be located at http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp If an award is made under this funding opportunity before the Terms and Conditions are posted, alternative Terms and Conditions may be included in the award.

NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS REPRESENTATIONS (JUNE 2015)

In submitting an application in response to this FOA the Applicant represents that:

(1) It **does not and will not** require its employees or contractors to sign internal nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting its employees or contactors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(2) It **does not and will not** use any Federal funds to implement or enforce any nondisclosure and/or confidentiality policy, form, or agreement it uses unless it contains the following provisions:

a. *''These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.''*

b. The limitation above shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

c. Notwithstanding provision listed in paragraph (a), a nondisclosure or confidentiality policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States Government. Such nondisclosure or confidentiality forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Additional administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR 25 (See: http://www.ecfr.gov). Prime awardees must keep their data at the System for Award Management (SAM) current at http://www.sam.gov. SAM is the government-wide system that replaced the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). If you had an active registration in the CCR, you have an active registration in SAM. Subawardees at all tiers must obtain DUNS numbers and provide the DUNS to the prime awardee before the subaward can be issued.

SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE REPORTING

Additional administrative requirements necessary for DOE grants and cooperative agreements to comply with the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are contained in 2 CFR 170. (See: http://www.ecfr.gov). Prime awardees must register with the new FSRS database and report the required data on their first tier subawardees. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in the System for Award Management (SAM).

PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY

By accepting funds under this award, you agree that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 USC 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

2. Terms and Conditions

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms under Award Terms.

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to various types of recipients are located at:
http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards

3. National Policy Assurances

The National Policy Assurances To Be Incorporated As Award Terms are located at http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms under Award Terms.

4. Statement of Substantial Involvement

N/A

5. Additional Conditions

CONFERENCE SPENDING (FEBRUARY 2015)

The recipient shall not expend any funds on a conference not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or cooperative agreement was awarded that would defray the cost to the United States Government of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office for which the cost to the United States Government would otherwise exceed $20,000, thereby circumventing the required notification

by the head of any such Executive Branch department, agency, board, commission, or office to the Inspector General (or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General), of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

CORPORATE FELONY CONVICTION AND FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY REPRESENTATIONS (MARCH 2014)

In submitting an application in response to this FOA the Applicant represents that:

- It is **not** a corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months,
- It is **not** a corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

For purposes of these representations the following definitions apply:

- A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS (MARCH 2012)

By accepting funds under this award, you agree that none of the funds obligated on the award shall be expended, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 USC 1913. This restriction is in addition to those prescribed elsewhere in statute and regulation.

PUBLICATIONS

The recipient is expected to publish or otherwise make publicly available the results of the work conducted under any award resulting from this Funding Opportunity Announcement. Publications and other methods of public communication describing any work based on or developed under an award resulting from this Funding Opportunity Announcement must contain an acknowledgment of DOE Office of Science support. The format for such acknowledgments is provided at http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/acknowledgements/. The author's copy of any peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for funding must be announced to DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information and made publicly available in accordance with the instructions contained in the Reporting Requirements Checklist incorporated in all Assistance Agreements.

C. REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F 4600.2, attached to the award agreement. The checklist is available at http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms under Award Forms.

Section VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

A. QUESTIONS

Questions relating to the grants.gov registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process must be directed to grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. DOE cannot answer these questions.

Please only contact the grants.gov help desk for questions related to grants.gov.

For help with PAMS, click the "External User Guide" link on the PAMS website, https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/. You may also contact the PAMS Help Desk, which can be reached Monday through Friday, 9AM – 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Telephone: (855) 818-1846 (toll free) or (301) 903-9610, Email: sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov. All submission and inquiries about this Funding Opportunity Announcement should reference **DE-FOA-0001437.**

Please contact the PAMS help desk for technological issues with the PAMS system.

Questions regarding the specific program areas and technical requirements may be directed to the technical contacts listed for each program within the FOA or below.

Please contact the program staff with all questions not directly related to the grants.gov or PAMS systems.

B. AGENCY CONTACTS

Grants.gov Customer Support	800-518-4726 (toll-free) support@grants.gov
PAMS Customer Support	855-818-1846 (toll-free) 301-903-9610 sc.pams-helpdesk@science.doe.gov
Program Manager Scientific Contact	Office of Biological and Environmental Research Terrestrial Ecosystem Sciences Program Jared L. DeForest, Ph.D. 301-903-1678 Jared.DeForest@science.doe.gov Subsurface Biogeochemistry Research Program David Lesmes, Ph.D. 301-903-2977 David.lesmes@science.doe.gov

Section VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

A. MODIFICATIONS

Notices of any modifications to this FOA will be posted on grants.gov and the FedConnect portal. You can receive an email when a modification or an FOA message is posted by registering with FedConnect as an interested party for this FOA. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any modifications or other FOAs. More information is available at http://www.fedconnect.net.

B. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO REJECT OR NEGOTIATE

DOE reserves the right, without qualification, to reject any or all applications received in response to this FOA and to select any application, in whole or in part, as a basis for negotiation and/or award.

C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

(a) A DOE financial assistance award is valid only if it is in writing and is signed, either in writing or electronically, by a DOE Contracting Officer.

(b) Recipients are free to accept or reject the award. A request to draw down DOE funds constitutes the Recipient's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Award.

D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

“The data contained in pages _____ of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government’s right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant.”

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

“The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

E. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION BY NON-FEDERAL PERSONNEL

In conducting the merit review evaluation, the Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel as reviewers. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The applicant, by submitting its application, consents to the use of non-Federal reviewers/administrators. Non-Federal reviewers must sign conflict of interest agreement prior to reviewing an application. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM

Patent Rights: The government will have certain statutory rights in an invention that is conceived or first actually reduced to practice under a DOE award. 42 USC 5908 provides that title to such inventions vests in the United States, except where 35 USC 202 provides otherwise for nonprofit organizations or small business firms. However, the Secretary of Energy may waive all or any part of the rights of the United States subject to certain conditions. (See "Notice of Right to Request Patent Waiver" in paragraph G below.)

Rights in Technical Data: Normally, the government has unlimited rights in technical data created under a DOE agreement. Delivery or third party licensing of proprietary software or data developed solely at private expense will not normally be required except as specifically negotiated in a particular agreement to satisfy DOE's own needs or to insure the commercialization of technology developed under a DOE agreement.

G. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER

Applicants may request a waiver of all or any part of the rights of the United States in inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of an agreement as a result of this FOA, in advance of or within 30 days after the effective date of the award. Even if such advance waiver is not requested or the request is denied, the recipient will have a continuing right under the award to request a waiver of the rights of the United States in identified inventions, i.e., individual inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in performance of the award. Any patent waiver that may be granted is subject to certain terms and conditions in 10 CFR 784. For more information, see http://energy.gov/gc/services/technology-transfer-and-procurement/office-assistant-general-counsel-technology-transf-1

Domestic small businesses and domestic nonprofit organizations will receive the patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14, i.e., the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. This clause permits domestic small business and domestic nonprofit organizations to retain title to subject inventions. Therefore, small businesses and nonprofit organizations do not need to request a waiver.

H. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities under this program include those which describe and promote the understanding of scientific and technical aspects of specific energy technologies, but not those which encourage or support political activities such as the collection and dissemination of information related to potential, planned or pending legislation.

I. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Funds are not presently available for this award. The Government's obligation under this award is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for award purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise until funds are made available to the contracting officer for this award and until the awardee receives notice of such availability, to be confirmed in writing by the contracting officer.

J. ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY AND HEALTH (ES&H) PERFORMANCE OF WORK AT DOE FACILITIES

With respect to the performance of any portion of the work under this award which is performed at a DOE-owned or controlled site, the recipient agrees to comply with all state and Federal ES&H regulations, and with all other ES&H requirements of the operator of such site. The recipient shall apply this provision to all subawardees at any tier.

K. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE

If the disclosure on the "Research and Related Other Project Information" document indicates "potential impact on the environment," or if DOE's own review indicates it, DOE may ask the applicant to provide additional information on those impacts in order to prepare an environmental critique/synopsis per 10 CFR 1021.216. Note that this pre-award environmental critique/synopsis process would be separate from the preparation of a NEPA document such as an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment, which may occur post-award. If DOE determines it is necessary, this latter process would need to be completed, both funded by and with the participation of the awardee, prior to them taking any action on the proposed project that could have adverse environmental effect or that could limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. The inability to satisfy the NEPA requirements after an award would result in cancellation of any said award.

Section IX - APPENDICES/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Glossary of Useful Grants and Cooperative Agreement terms

acquisition cost	The cost of an asset, including the cost to put it in place. When used with equipment (capital expenditure), the term means the net invoice price of property or supplies including cost of modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make the property usable for the purpose for which it was acquired. Other charges, such as the cost of installation, transportation, taxes, duty, or protective in-transit insurance, are included or excluded from the unit acquisition cost in accordance with the recipient's regular accounting practices. It does not include costs for rental of property or alteration and rental of real property.
administrative requirements	The general business management practices that are common to the administration of all grants, such as financial accountability, reporting, equipment management, and retention of records.
allocation	The process of assigning costs to one or more cost objectives, in reasonable and realistic proportion to the benefit provided or other equitable relationship.
allocability	The principle which requires that an expense or service charged must directly benefit and be necessary for the performance of the project; when multiple projects are benefited reasonable proportions must be able to be assigned.
allowable cost	A cost incurred by a recipient that is: (1) reasonable for the performance of the award; (2) allocable; (3) in conformance with any limitations or exclusions set forth in the Federal cost principles applicable to the organization incurring the cost or in the award documents as to the type or amount of cost; (4) consistent with regulations, policies, and procedures of the recipient that are applied uniformly to both federally supported and other activities of the organization; (5) accorded consistent treatment as a direct or indirect cost; (6) determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; and (7) not included as a cost in any other federally supported award (unless specifically authorized by statute).
application	A request for financial support of a project or activity submitted to DOE on specified forms and in accordance with DOE instructions. Also known as a proposal
Appropriation Act	The statute that provides the authority for Federal agencies to incur obligations to and make payments out of the U.S. treasury for specified purposes.
approved budget	The financial expenditure plan for the grant-supported project or activity, including revisions approved by DOE and permissible revisions made by the grantee. The approved budget consists of Federal (grant) funds and, if required by the terms and conditions of the award, non-Federal participation in the form of matching or cost sharing. The approved budget specified in the award documents may be shown in detailed budget categories or as total costs without a categorical breakout. Expenditures charged to an approved budget that consists of both Federal and non-Federal shares are deemed to be borne by the grantee in the same proportion as the percentage of Federal/non-Federal participation in the overall budget.
assurance	A certification by an applicant, normally included with the application or State plan, indicating that the entity is in compliance with, or that it will abide by, a particular requirement if awarded a Federal grant.
authorized organizational representative	The individual, named by the applicant organization, who is authorized to act for the applicant and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards.
award	The provision of funds by DOE, based on an approved application and budget or progress report, to an organizational entity or an individual to carry out a project or activity.
award documents	The entirety of the documents describing the legal relationship between DOE and an awardee or recipient. The award documents include an Assistance Agreement and other

	documents which may be incorporated by reference or as attachments to the Assistance Agreement. The award documents are the official, legally binding document, signed (or the electronic equivalent of signature) by a contracting officer that: • notifies the recipient of the award of a grant; • contains or references all the terms and conditions of the grant and Federal funding limits and obligations; and, • provides the documentary basis for recording the obligation of Federal funds in the DOE accounting system.
Bayh-Dole Act	Law which encourages universities and researchers to develop their inventions into marketable products; formal citation is Section 6 of the Patent and Trademark Amendment of 1980, Pub. L 96-517
budget	An estimate of expenditures to be incurred in the performance of a proposed statement of work, or the financial plan or cost assessment for the grant proposal. The budget represents costs associated with project implementation.
budget period	The intervals of time (usually 12 months each) into which a project period is divided for budgetary and funding purposes.
business officer	The financial official of the grantee who has primary fiscal responsibility for the grant. Also known as authorized organizational representative.
carryover	Unobligated Federal funds remaining at the end of any budget period that, with the approval of the contracting officer or under an automatic authority, may be carried forward to another budget period to cover allowable costs of that budget period (whether as an offset or additional authorization). Obligated, but unliquidated, funds are not considered carryover.
change in scope	An activity whereby the objectives or specific aims identified in the approved grant application are significantly changed by the grantee after award. Contracting officer prior approval is required for a change in scope to be allowable under an award.
closeout	The process by which a Federal awarding agency determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work under an award have been completed by the grantee and the Federal awarding agency.
competitive segment	The initial project period recommended for support or each extension of a project period resulting from a renewal award.
conference (domestic or international)	A symposium, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting, whether conducted face-to-face or via the Internet, where individuals assemble (or meet virtually) to exchange information and views or explore or clarify a defined subject, problem, or area of knowledge, whether or not a published report results from such meeting.
consortium or subaward agreement	A formalized agreement whereby a research project is carried out by the grantee and one or more other organizations that are separate legal entities. Under the agreement, the grantee must perform a substantive role in the conduct of the planned research and not merely serve as a conduit of funds to another party or parties. These agreements typically involve a specific level of effort from the consortium organization's PD/PI and a categorical breakdown of costs, such as personnel, supplies, and other allowable expenses, including F&A costs. The relationship between the recipient and the collaborating organizations is considered a subaward relationship.
consultant	An individual who provides professional advice or services for a fee, but normally not as an employee of the engaging party. In unusual situations, an individual may be both a consultant and an employee of the same party, receiving compensation for some services as a consultant and for other work as a salaried employee. To prevent apparent or actual conflicts of interest, grantees and consultants must establish written guidelines indicating the conditions of payment of consulting fees. Consultants also include firms that provide professional advice or services.
continuation application/award	A financial assistance request (in the form of an application or progress report) or resulting award for a subsequent budget period within a previously approved project period for which a recipient does not have to compete with other applicants.
contract	An award instrument used to acquire from a non-federal party, by purchase, lease, or

	barter, property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal government. The same term may be used to describe a vendor relationship between a recipient and another party under a grant (to acquire routine goods and services); however, the recipient may use subaward to describe the contract under a grant relationship.
Contract (or Grants Management) Officer	A DOE official responsible for the business management aspects of grants and cooperative agreements, including review, negotiation, award, and administration, and for the interpretation of grants administration policies and provisions. COs and GMOs are delegated the authority to obligate DOE to the expenditure of funds and permit changes to approved projects on behalf of DOE.
Contract (or Grants Management) Specialist	A DOE staff member who works with a contract or grants management officer and is assigned the day-to-day management of a portfolio of grants and/or cooperative agreements. These activities include, but are not limited to, evaluating grant applications for administrative content and compliance with statutes, regulations, and guidelines; negotiating grants; providing consultation and technical assistance to grantees; and administering grants after award.
cooperative agreement	A type of financial assistance used when there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement. Substantial involvement means that, after award, scientific or program staff will assist, guide, coordinate, or participate in project activities.
cost principles	The government-wide principles, issued by OMB (or, in the case of commercial organizations, the Federal Acquisition Regulation [48 CFR 21], or, in the case of hospitals, 45 CFR 74, Appendix E, "Principles For Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals"), on allowability and unallowability of costs under federally sponsored agreements. As of December 26, 2014, the cost principles will be consolidated in 2 CFR 200.
cost sharing	The portion of the costs of a project or program not borne by the sponsor; these could be grantee contributions or third-party in-kind contributions; costs used to satisfy cost sharing requirements are subject to the same policies governing allowability as other costs of the project. Research grants are generally not subject to cost sharing requirements. Also known as matching.
deadline	The published date and/or time that a grant application is to be either postmarked/mailed or electronically submitted to the funding agency.
debarment and suspension	The actions taken by a debarring official in accordance with OMB guidance at 2 CFR 180, "Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension," to exclude a person or organization from participating in grants and other non-procurement awards government-wide. If debarred or suspended, the person or organization may not receive financial assistance (under a grant, cooperative agreement, or subaward, or contract under a grant) for a specified period of time. Debarments and suspensions carried out pursuant to 2 CFR 376 are distinct from post-award suspension action by an awarding agency.
direct costs	Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity, or that can be directly assigned to such activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy.
disallowance	A charge to a grant that the Federal awarding agency determines to be unallowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles or other terms and conditions contained in the award.
domestic organization	A public (including a State or other governmental agency) or private non-profit or for-profit organization that is located in the United States or its territories, is subject to U.S. laws, and assumes legal and financial accountability for awarded funds and for the performance of the grant-supported activities.
DUNS number	A nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet to uniquely identify a business entity.
effort	The amount of time, usually expressed as a percentage of the total, which a faculty member or other employee spends on a sponsored project. No one is allowed to spend more than 100% total commitment on all academic activities, including grant-sponsored research, university-sponsored research, teaching, administration, advising and other

	contracted duties. Effort is indicated on the budget in units of person-months.
equipment	An article of tangible nonexpendable personal property that has a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost per unit that equals or exceeds $5,000 or the capitalization threshold established by the organization, whichever is less.
expanded authorities	Authorization to grantees under certain research grant mechanisms which waives the requirement for prior agency approval for specified actions related to awards. Example: 90-day preaward spending authority, no cost extensions for up to one additional year, and automatic carryover of unobligated funds from one budget period to the next. The expanded authorities are now contained in the standard terms and conditions for most research grants.
expiration date	Generally, the date signifying the end of the current project period, after which the grantee is not authorized to obligate grant funds.
facilities and administrative costs	Costs that are incurred by a grantee for common or joint objectives and that, therefore, cannot be identified specifically with a particular project or program. These costs also are known as indirect costs.
Federal Financial Report	Submitted on Standard Form (SF) 425, to indicate the status of awarded funds for the period covered. Frequency of reporting is specified in the Reporting Checklist provided as part of the award documents. Replaces the SF-269 Financial Status Report (FSR)
financial assistance	Transfer by DOE of money or property to an eligible entity to support or stimulate a public purpose authorized by statute.
Financial Status Report	See Federal Financial Report.
foreign travel	Foreign travel includes travel outside of the United States and its territories and possessions (Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone) and Canada. A trip is considered foreign travel for all legs of the itinerary if the traveler does not return to his or her post prior to departure for a foreign destination. Costs for foreign travel may be restricted by the language of a Funding Opportunity Announcement.
funding opportunity announcement	A publicly available document by which a Federal Agency makes known its intentions to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds. Funding opportunity announcements may be known as program announcements, requests for applications, notices of funding availability, solicitations, or other names depending on the Agency and type of program. Funding opportunity announcements can be found at Grants.gov/FIND. An FOA may also be known as a solicitation.
grant	A financial assistance mechanism providing money, property, or both to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity. A grant is used whenever DOE anticipates no substantial programmatic involvement with the recipient during performance of the financially assisted activities.
grant-supported project or activity	Those activities specified or described in a grant application or in a subsequent submission that are approved by DOE for funding, regardless of whether Federal funding constitutes all or only a portion of the financial support necessary to carry them out.
grantee	The organization or individual awarded a grant or cooperative agreement by DOE that is responsible and accountable for the use of the funds provided and for the performance of the grant-supported project or activity. The grantee is the entire legal entity even if a particular component is designated in award documents. The grantee is legally responsible and accountable to DOE for the performance and financial aspects of the grant-supported project or activity. Also known as awardee or recipient.
Grants.gov	Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/) has been designated by the Office of Management and Budget as the single access point for all grant programs offered by 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It provides a single interface for agencies to announce their grant opportunities and for all applicants to find and apply for those opportunities.
indirect costs	See facilities and administrative costs definition.
institutional base salary	The annual compensation paid by an organization for an employee's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, patient care, or other

	activities. Base salary excludes any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of duties for the applicant/grantee organization. Base salary may not be increased as a result of replacing organizational salary funds with grant funds.
matching or cost sharing	The value of third-party in-kind contributions and the portion of the costs of a federally assisted project or program not borne by the Federal government. Matching or cost sharing may be required by statute or program regulation. Costs used to satisfy matching or cost-sharing requirements are subject to the same policies governing allowability as other costs under the approved budget.
merit (or peer) review	The process that involves the consistent application of standards and procedures that produce fair, equitable, and objective examinations of applications based on an evaluation of scientific or technical merit or other relevant aspects of the application. The review is performed by experts (reviewers) in the field of endeavor for which support is requested. Merit review is intended to provide guidance and to the DOE individuals responsible for making award decisions.
monitoring	A process whereby the programmatic and business management performance aspects of a grant are assessed by reviewing information gathered from various required reports, audits, site visits, and other sources.
no-cost extension	An extension of time to a project period and/or budget period to complete the work of the grant under that period, without additional Federal funds or competition.
non-Federal share	When cost sharing or matching is required as a condition of an award, the portion of allowable project/program costs not borne by the Federal government.
obligations	The amounts for which the recipient has made binding commitments for orders placed for property and services, contracts and subawards, and similar transactions during a funding period that will require payment during the same or a future period.
OMB Circulars	Government-wide guidance issued to Heads of Federal agencies by the Director of OMB. OMB Circulars directly pertinent to grants include the following: • cost principles (OMB Circular A-21, OMB Circular A-87, and OMB Circular A-122); • uniform administrative requirements (OMB Circular A-102 and OMB Circular A-110); • audit requirements for non-profit organizations (OMB Circular A-133). Some (but not all) of these OMB Circulars have been reissued in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations. DOE administrative regulations are located in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
Other Significant Contributors	Individuals who have committed to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project, but are not committing any specified measurable effort (i.e., person months) to the project. These individuals are typically presented at “effort of zero person months” or “as needed.” Individuals with measurable effort may not be listed as Other Significant Contributors (OSCs). Consultants should be included if they meet this definition.
participant	Program participants are the recipients of service or training provided at a workshop, conference, seminar, symposium or other short-term instructional or information-sharing activity funded by an external grant or award, or the training beneficiaries of the project or program funded by an external grant or award. A participant is not involved in providing any deliverable to the grantee or a third party or would not be terminated or replaced for failure to perform.
participant costs	Costs used to pay program participants small stipends and reimbursement of travel costs or other out-of-pocket costs incurred to support attendance at a workshop, conference, seminar, symposium, or other short-term training or information-sharing activity.
person months	The metric for expressing the effort (amount of time) PD/PI(s), faculty and other senior/key personnel devote to a specific project. The effort is based on the type of appointment of the individual with the organization; e.g., calendar year, academic year, and/or summer term; and the organization’s definition of such. For instance, some institutions define the academic year as a 9-month appointment while others define it as

	a 10-month appointment.
pre-application or pre-proposal	A brief outline or narrative of proposed work and sometimes budget, for informal review by a sponsor to determine whether a full application should be submitted. Three predominant reasons for requiring submission of a preliminary pre-application are: • Reduce the applicant's unnecessary effort in proposal preparation when the chance of success is very small. This is particularly true of exploratory initiatives where the community senses that a major new direction is being identified, or competitions that will result in a small number of actual awards. • Increase the overall quality of the full submission. • Distill the number of applications that will be submitted to the agency and the number of anticipated reviewers needed to review.
pre-award costs	Any cost incurred prior to the beginning date of the project period or the initial budget period of a competitive segment (under a multi-year award), in anticipation of the award and at the applicant's own risk, for otherwise allowable costs.
prior approval	Written approval from the designated contracting officer required for specified post-award changes in the approved project or budget. Such approval must be obtained before undertaking the proposed activity or spending DOE funds
Program Director/ Principal Investigator	The individual(s) designated by the applicant organization to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project or program to be supported by the award. The applicant organization may designate multiple individuals as program directors/principal investigators (PD/PIs) who share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. When multiple PD/PIs are named, each is responsible and accountable to the applicant organization, or as appropriate, to a collaborating organization for the proper conduct of the project or program including the submission of all required reports. The presence of more than one PD/PI on an application or award diminishes neither the responsibility nor the accountability of any individual PD/PI.
program income	Program income is gross income earned by a research grant recipient from the activities, part or all of which are borne as a direct cost by the grant. Examples are fees for services performed under the grant, rental or usage fees charged for use of equipment purchased with grant funds, third party patient reimbursements for hospital or medical services paid from the grant, funds generated by the sale of commodities, such as cell lines or research animals developed from or paid for from the grant, and patent or copyright royalties.
Program Manager	The DOE official responsible for the programmatic, scientific, and/or technical aspects of a grant. The same role is filled by Program Directors, Program Officers, or Project Directors at other Federal agencies.
progress report	Periodic, frequently annual, report submitted by the grantee and used by DOE to assess progress and to determine whether to provide funding for the budget period subsequent to that covered by the report.
project/performance site	Location(s) of where the work described in the research plan will be conducted.
project period	The total time for which Federal support of a project has been programmatically approved as shown in the award documents; however, it does not constitute a commitment by the Federal government to fund the entire period. The total project period comprises the initial competitive segment, any subsequent competitive segments resulting from a renewal award(s), and extensions.
proposal	See application.
re-budgeting	Reallocation of funds available for spending between budget categories to allow best use of funds to accomplish the project goals.
recipient	The organizational entity or individual receiving a grant or cooperative agreement.
renewal application	An application requesting additional funding for a period subsequent to that provided by a current award. Renewal applications compete for funds with all other peer reviewed applications and must be developed as fully as though the applicant is applying for the first time.

research	A systematic, intensive study intended to increase knowledge or understanding of the subject studied, a systematic study specifically directed toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need, or a systematic application of knowledge to the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements. Also termed "research and development."
research misconduct	Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community in proposing, performing, or reporting research, or in reporting research results; does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.
SAM.gov	The System for Award Management (SAM) is the Government-wide system that consolidated the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Federal Agency Registration (FedReg).
scope of work	The aims, objectives, and purposes of a grant; as well as the methodology, approach, analyses or other activities; and the tools, technologies, and timeframes needed to meet the grant's objectives. This includes the research or training plan included with the original grant application, along with any approved modifications.
Senior/Key Personnel	The PD/PI and other individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or compensation under the grant. Typically these individuals have doctoral or other professional degrees, although individuals at the masters or baccalaureate level may be considered senior/key personnel if their involvement meets this definition. Consultants and those with a postdoctoral role also may be considered senior/key personnel if they meet this definition. "Zero percent" effort or "as needed" is not an acceptable level of involvement for Senior/Key Personnel.
significant rebudgeting	A threshold that is reached when expenditures in a single direct cost budget category deviate (increase or decrease) from the categorical commitment level established for the budget period by more than 25 percent of the total costs awarded. Significant rebudgeting is one indicator of change in scope.
small business concern	A business that is independently owned and operated and not dominant in its field of operation; has its principal place of business in the United States and is organized for profit; is at least 51 percent owned, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of its voting stock is owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens; has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees; and meets other regulatory requirements established by the SBA at 13 CFR 121.
solicitation	See Funding Opportunity Announcement
subaward	A legal instrument by which a recipient provides funds (or property in lieu of funds) to an eligible subrecipient (or a lower-tier transaction) to perform a substantive portion of the grant-supported program or project. The term includes such financial assistance when provided by any legal agreement (even if the agreement is called a contract) but does not include any form of assistance which is excluded from the definition of a grant, including the recipient's procurement of property or services needed to carry out the project or program. The term includes consortium agreements.
subrecipient	A party that receives a subaward from a recipient or another subrecipient under a Federal financial assistance award and is accountable to the recipient or subrecipient for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
supplement	A request for an increase in support during a current budget period for expansion of the project's scope or to meet increased costs unforeseen at the time of the new or renewal application. A supplement may increase support for future years in addition to the current year. Supplements require applications and are subject to administrative and merit review.
terms and conditions of award	All legal requirements imposed on a grant by DOE, whether based on statute, regulation, policy, or other document referenced in the grant award, or specified by the grant award document itself. The award documents may include both standard and

	special conditions that are considered necessary to attain the grant's objectives, facilitate post-award administration of the grant, conserve grant funds, or otherwise protect the Federal government's interests.
unallowable costs	Specific categories of costs that cannot be charged, directly or indirectly, to federally sponsored agreements in accordance with federal regulations or the terms and conditions of the award.
unliquidated obligation	For reports prepared on a cash basis, the amount of obligations incurred by the recipient that has not been paid; or For reports prepared on an accrued expenditure basis, the amount of obligations incurred by the recipient for which an outlay has not been recorded.
unobligated balance	The portion of the funds authorized by the Federal agency for expenditure by the recipient that has not been obligated by the recipient.
Validate	In the context of the data management plan requirements, *validate* means to support, corroborate, verify, or otherwise determine the legitimacy of the research findings. Validation of research findings could be accomplished by reproducing the original experiment or analyses, comparing and contrasting the results against those of a news experiment or analyses, or by some other means.