

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)
SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) SMALL
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR)**



FY 2024 PHASE II RELEASE 2

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
(FOA) NUMBER: DE-FOA-0003279**

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Submission Deadline for Applications:	April 30, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Table of Contents

SECTION I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION.....	1
I.A. INITIAL PHASE II AWARDS.....	1
I.B. SECOND PHASE II AWARDS.....	2
I.C. THIRD PHASE II AWARDS (SBIR ONLY).....	3
SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION.....	4
II.A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT.....	4
II.B. ESTIMATED FUNDING.....	4
II.C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE.....	4
II.D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS.....	5
II.E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE.....	5
II.F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.....	5
II.G. TYPE OF APPLICATION.....	5
SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	9
III.A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.....	9
III.B. SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.....	13
III.C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.....	15
III.D. PARTICIPATION BY FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.....	21
III.E. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY (TTO) (NATIONAL LABORATORY).....	22
SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.....	23
IV.A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE.....	23
IV.B. LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) AND PRE-APPLICATION.....	23
IV.C. GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT PROCEDURES.....	24
IV.D. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS.....	24
IV.E. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.....	42
IV.F. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES.....	43
SECTION V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	45
V.A. CRITERIA.....	45
V.B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS.....	50
V.C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES.....	53
SECTION VI – AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.....	55

VI.A. AWARD NOTICES	55
VI.B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS.....	55
VI.C. REPORTING	56
VI.D. REPORTING OF MATTERS RELATED TO RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 2015)	57
VI.E. STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT	57
VI.F. INTERIM CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...	59
VI.G. RESEARCH MISCONDUCT	60
SECTION VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS.....	61
VII.A. QUESTIONS.....	61
VII.B. AGENCY CONTACTS	61
VII.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL HOTLINE ...	61
SECTION VIII – SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL	62
VIII.A. HOW-TO GUIDES.....	62
VIII.B. POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS	94
VIII.C. REFERENCE MATERIAL	107

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC) encourages you to register in all systems as soon as possible. You are also encouraged to submit letters of intent (LOIs) and applications well before the deadline.

NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration/update process immediately as the processing time to complete a registration/update currently may take weeks to months. This includes address and expired registration updates. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

Office of SBIR/STTR Programs plans to hold an informational webinar about this FOA on Friday, March 1, 2024. Registration instructions and other details will be posted at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities>.

CYBERSECURITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

DOE has added a new Phase II application requirement. Applicants must include a cybersecurity self-assessment with their Phase II application. Information on this new requirement is contained in [Section IV.D.2](#).

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE RESEARCH (PIER) PLAN

All new and renewal applications must provide a Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as an appendix to the project narrative. Please read the instructions in [Section IV.D.2](#), and the associated review criteria in [Section V](#).

PROTECTING YOUR TRADE SECRETS, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The requirements for marking protected information have changed. You can no longer use the proprietary data markings you have used in previous applications. Please refer to [Section VIII.B](#) for details.

FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS DISCLOSURE FORM

The SBIR/STTR Extension Act of 2022 requires each small business concern to disclose ties to

foreign relationships with its application for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award. Please refer to [Section IV.D](#) for details.

TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Phase II award recipients have only one option for receiving TABA services, which is to identify their own third-party provider(s). If you wish to utilize TABA services, you are required to include this as one or more subcontracts or consultants.

COMMERCIALIZATION HISTORY REPORT

DOE has changed the reporting requirements for the commercialization history report.

COMMERCIALIZATION HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR STTR-ONLY APPLICATIONS

Review the instructions for how to submit the commercialization history for STTR-only applications.

INTERAGENCY FORMATS FOR CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Interagency common instructions for preparing current and pending support and biographical sketches are being developed. The Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENCv) system at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/> will be updated to support the forthcoming common instructions and formats. The fillable PDFs provided by the National Science Foundation are no longer available. When interagency common formats and instructions are promulgated, their use will be required. SC strongly encourages all researchers to use the online SciENCv system to ensure that their documents are prepared in the appropriate format with the least inconvenience.

REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

DOE is implementing enhanced reporting requirements for applications and awards. Reporting and administrative requirements, including but not limited to those pertaining to other sources of support and potential conflicts of interest or commitment, are subject to change before the Federal award date. The terms and conditions of award will specify changed requirements. Applicants have the right to reject any proposed awards. Terms and conditions may be modified at the time of an award modification. Recipients have the right to reject such modifications and allow an award to expire.

SC STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The DOE SC is fully and unconditionally committed to fostering safe, diverse, equitable, and inclusive work, research, and funding environments that value mutual respect and personal integrity. SC is committed to advancing belonging, accessibility, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion across the portfolio of activities we sponsor. SC's effective stewardship and promotion of safe, accessible, diverse, and inclusive workplaces that value and celebrate the diversity of people, ideas, cultures, and educational backgrounds across the country and that foster a sense of

belonging in our scientific community is foundational to delivering on our mission. We are committed to promoting people from all backgrounds, including individuals and communities that were historically underrepresented and minoritized in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and the activities we sponsor in recognition of our responsibility to serve the public. We also recognize that harnessing a broad range of views, expertise, and experiences drives scientific and technological innovation and enables the SC community to push the frontiers of scientific knowledge for U.S. prosperity and security. Discrimination and harassment undermine SC's ability to achieve its mission by reducing productivity, discouraging, or inhibiting talent retention and career advancement, and weakening the integrity of the SC enterprise overall. SC does not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any kind, including sexual or non-sexual harassment, bullying, intimidation, violence, threats of violence, retaliation, or other disruptive behavior at institutions receiving SC funding or other locations where activities funded by SC are carried out. All applicants and collaborators should familiarize themselves with the SC Statement of Commitment available at <https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/SC-Statement-of-Commitment>.

UPDATING YOUR PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PAMS) PROFILE

All applicants are encouraged to update their profiles in the PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov> regularly, at least annually, to ensure SC has your most up to date information. The PAMS profile now requires that individuals provide responses to the demographic related fields. SC strongly encourages personnel at applicant and recipient institutions, including Principal Investigators (PIs) and other Key Personnel, to provide their demographic information. By providing your demographic information, you are assisting with SC's continued commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in its business practices. Alternatively, for information you wish not to disclose, please select, "Do not wish to provide." Your individual demographic information will not be shared with peer reviewers and the information in your PAMS profile is protected by the requirements established in the Federal Privacy Act of 1974. Aggregate, anonymized demographic information may be shared with confidential review committees who are charged to evaluate the quality and efficacy of SC's business practices. For example, summary statistics of all applicants to or award selections from a particular SC FOA may be reviewed by a Committee of Visitors.

PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT (PDF) GENERATION

The project narrative in an application must be one single machine-readable PDF file that contains the DOE Title Page, project narrative, all required appendices, and other attachments. This single PDF file may not be scanned from a printed document and must be attached in Field 8 on the Grants.gov form. This must be a plain PDF file consisting of text, numbers, and images without editable fields, signatures, passwords, redactions, or other advanced features available in some PDF-compatible software. The project narrative will be read by SC staff using the full version of Adobe Acrobat: Please ensure that the narrative is readable in Acrobat. If combining multiple files into one research narrative, ensure that a PDF portfolio or binder is not created. If creating PDF files using any software other than Adobe Acrobat, please use a "Print to PDF" or equivalent process to ensure that all content is visible in the project narrative. Once a project narrative has been assembled, please submit the combined project narrative file through a "Print

to PDF” or equivalent process to ensure that all content is visible in one PDF file that can be viewed in Adobe Acrobat. Review your submission to ensure that blank pages are not present.

Checklist for Avoiding Common Errors:

Item	Issue
Applications	Submitted in Grants.gov. Do not submit applications in PAMS or FedConnect.
Grants.gov Submission	<p>Ensure that applications are submitted under the correct Opportunity Number.</p> <p>Standard Form (SF)-424 Research and Related (R&R):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attach nothing to field 20 - Attach nothing to field 21 <p>SF-424 Research and Related Other Project Information form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attach the abstract to field 7 - Attach the project narrative, with all appendices, to field 8 - Attach nothing to field 9 - Attach nothing to field 10 - Attach nothing to field 11
Letters of Intent (LOIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit your LOI in PAMS. - Do not submit your LOI in Grants.gov. - Do not attach your LOI to the SF-424 Research and Related (R&R) form. - Follow the instructions in Section IV.B for the preparation of an LOI.
Page Limits	<p>Strictly followed throughout application, including particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project narrative and appendices - Commercialization plan
Personally Identifiable Information	None present in the application
Project Narrative	Composed of one PDF file including PIER appendix
Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan	PIER Plans are required for new and renewal applications.
Project Summary / Abstract	Name of PI, PI's institutional affiliation(s)
Budget	Use current negotiated indirect cost and fringe benefit rates
Budget Justification (attached to budget)	Justify all requested costs
Biographical Sketches	Follow page limits strictly and do not include list of collaborators. Attach the biographical sketch to the Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form.

Item	Issue
Current and Pending Support	Ensure complete listing of all activities, regardless of source of funding. Attach the current and pending support to the Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form.
Data Management Plans (DMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If referring to an experiment's DMP, describe the relationship to the proposed research. - Include a DMP even if no experimental data is expected.
Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIER Plans are required for new and renewal applications.

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM CONTACT:

Please refer to the appropriate DOE Program Manager listed after each subtopic in the accompanying DOE SBIR/STTR Topics document located on the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs website at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities>. Administrative Contact (questions about budgets and eligibility):

Carl Hebron, (301) 903-5707, SBIR-STTR@science.doe.gov

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Section 646 of Public Law 95-91, U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act
Section 901, et seq. of Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005
Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 638); Public Law 117-58, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

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
Size and Eligibility Requirements for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs, codified at 13 CFR 121.701 et seq.

SUMMARY

The DOE invites eligible Phase I and Phase II awardees to apply for Phase II awards (initial, second, and third) under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Topic descriptions for this FOA can be found on the DOE SBIR/STTR web site at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities>.

I.A. INITIAL PHASE II AWARDS

The purpose of an Initial Phase II award is to perform the research and development (R&D) required to meet the DOE objectives stated in the topic and subtopic of the Phase I FOA. In addition, it is intended that the small business awardee would be in a position to pursue commercial applications of the R&D at the end of Phase II. In many cases, Phase II results in a

prototype, product, or a working process that can be demonstrated to a potential investor or customer (either in the private sector or in the Federal government, including the DOE).

This FOA is supplemental to the FY 2023 SBIR/STTR Phase I Release 2 FOA (DE-FOA-0002903); therefore, general information already provided in the Phase I FOA also applies to this Phase II process.

If a conflict arises between the Phase I FOA and this Phase II FOA, the Phase II FOA will govern.

I.B. SECOND PHASE II AWARDS

There are two types of DOE Second Phase II awards:

1. Phase IIA: A Phase II awardee may request additional financial support for new R&D tasks and activities that are aligned with the original scope of work for the Phase II award. The purpose of the Phase IIA award is to allow the awardee to complete the R&D associated with initial prototype, product, or process development. The review criteria (see [Section V.A.](#)) for Phase IIA applications will be the same as for Initial Phase II awards submitted to this FOA.

Only award recipients resulting from the FY 2022 SBIR/STTR Phase II Release 2 FOA (DE-FOA-0002572) under the eligible topics detailed in [Section III.A.](#) of this FOA may apply for Phase IIA awards.

In addition, Phase IIA applications will only be accepted from Phase II awardees that have an active Phase II award at time of application. Applicants will not be able to resubmit at a later date, if a Phase IIA application is declined for award.

2. Phase IIB: A Phase II awardee may request additional financial support for new R&D tasks and activities that extend beyond the scope of the original Phase II award.

The purpose of the Phase IIB award is to assist the awardee in transitioning the innovation towards commercialization. The review criteria for Phase IIB awards (see [Section V.A.](#)) will be different from both Initial Phase II and Phase IIA applications submitted to this FOA. The review of Phase IIB applications will place greater emphasis on impact and applicants are expected to demonstrate a well-planned path to commercialization as evidenced in commercialization activities conducted in parallel with or after Phase IIB R&D.

Only awardees from the FY 2021 and FY 2022 SBIR/STTR Phase II Release 2 FOAs (DE-FOA-0002381 and DE-FOA-0002572) under the eligible topics detailed in [Section III.A.](#) may apply for Phase IIB awards.

A Phase II awardee may submit only one second Phase II application per eligible award as noted above to either Phase IIA or Phase IIB in response to this FOA. Phase IIA or Phase IIB awards may extend the Phase II award for up to two years and the combined Phase II and second Phase II should not exceed four years unless an unforeseen delay is encountered. Phase II awardees whose Phase II projects were terminated prior to completion of the full period of performance are not eligible to apply for or receive a second Phase II award. Such applications will be declined without review.

I.C. THIRD PHASE II AWARDS (SBIR ONLY)

Third SBIR Phase II awards (Phase IIC) continue research and development from a second SBIR Phase II award towards commercialization and require matching funds from a third-party investor. These matching funds can be used for either (1) research and development costs NOT requested in your budget or (2) other costs associated with commercialization of the proposed innovation.

In addition, Phase IIC applications will only be accepted from Phase IIA or IIB awardees that have an active Phase IIA or IIB award at time of application. Applicants will not be able to resubmit at a later date, if a Phase IIC application is declined for award. Phase IIA or Phase IIB awardees whose Phase IIA or Phase IIB projects were terminated prior to completion of the full period of performance are not eligible to apply for or receive Phase IIC awards. Such applications will be declined without review.

I.D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Federal SBIR/STTR Programs statutory purposes include fostering and encouraging participation in innovation and entrepreneurship by women and socially or economically disadvantaged persons. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) is a cornerstone to effectively advancing the U.S. research and scientific innovation enterprise. Effective stewardship and promotion of diverse and inclusive research environments and workplaces that value and celebrate a diversity of people, ideas, cultures, and educational backgrounds is foundational to delivering on the DOE SBIR/STTR mission.

The Department of Energy's SBIR/STTR Programs collaborates with the Department of Energy Office of Science's Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to advance organizational best practices for promoting DEIA in our business practices for awarding and managing competitive research. For more information on our work to advance DEIA, visit <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/About/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion>.

Section II – AWARD INFORMATION

II.A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT

DOE anticipates awarding grants, cooperative agreements, and subsequent administrative revisions (“supplements”) under this FOA.

DOE SBIR and STTR awardees that receive an initial Phase II, IIA, IIB or IIC award under this FOA are eligible to apply for a diversity supplement to be effective only in the summer months of the second year of their Phase II project period.

Statement of Substantial Involvement

Either a grant or cooperative agreement may be awarded under this FOA. If the award is a cooperative agreement, the DOE contract specialist/grants management specialist and DOE program manager will negotiate a Statement of Substantial Involvement prior to award.

II.B. ESTIMATED FUNDING

Approximately \$125,000,000 is expected to be available for awards under this FOA contingent on the availability of appropriated funds.

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.

II.C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

Ceiling (i.e., the maximum amount for an individual award made under this FOA):

Initial Phase II

FY 2023 Phase I Release 2 awardees: See the maximum Phase II award amount listed for each topic in the topics document associated with the FY 2023 Phase I Release 2 FOA (DE-FOA-0002903 - <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities/FY-2023>). The maximum allowable Phase II award will be either \$1,100,000 or \$1,600,000, depending on the topic. If Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs) funding is requested, the maximum allowable Phase II award will be either \$1,150,000 or \$1,650,000, depending on the topic.

Second & Third Phase II

Phase IIA: \$1,100,000 Phase IIB: \$1,100,000 Phase IIC: \$1,100,000

If TABA funding is requested, the maximum allowable Phase IIA, IIB, or IIC award will be \$1,150,000.

Floor (i.e. the minimum amount for an individual award made under this FOA): \$1.

Applications in which the total Federal funds requested (SF-424, 15a) or the total project cost (budget, Section K) exceeds the maximum award size (or the maximum award plus \$50,000 for those requesting Technical and Business Assistance (TABAs) funds) will be administratively declined.

II.D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS

DOE anticipates making approximately 105 awards under this FOA depending on the size of the awards. All Phase II awards (Phase II, IIA, IIB, and IIC) will compete for funding. The majority of funding is anticipated to be used for initial Phase II awards.

II.E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE

The anticipated median award will be approximately \$1,100,000.

II.F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

DOE anticipates making awards that will run for up to 24 months over two budget periods.

For initial Phase II awards, the first budget period, which will cover 12 months, is anticipated to begin September 10, 2024.

Funding for the second budget period will be contingent on the demonstration of adequate progress, evaluation of programmatic priorities, availability of funds, and compliance with the terms and conditions of the award.

II.G. TYPE OF APPLICATION

DOE is accepting renewal (Phase II) applications under this FOA. Renewal (Phase II) applications are requests for additional funding for a period subsequent to that provided by a current award or Phase I award as noted under “Summary” within [Section I](#) of the FOA. Renewal applications compete with all other applications and must be submitted by an established project due date/deadline. In preparing a renewal application, applicants should assume that reviewers will not have access to previous applications. The application should be developed fully, as though the applicant is applying for the first time. The application must include all the information required for a new project, plus the Project Narrative section should

discuss the results from the applicable prior Phase I work (initial Phase II application) or prior Phase I and II work (Phase IIA, IIB or IIC applications).

II.H. BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) FUNDED AWARDS

Awards issued under this FOA will be funded with either base appropriations or funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Please refer to the [Topics](#) document associated with this FOA to see the specific topics/subtopics that will be BIL funded. **Phase II applications from the following topics from FY 2023 Phase I Release 2 (DE-FOA-0002903) may receive BIL funding: C56-11, C56-15, C56-17, and C56-18.**

BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in modernizing and upgrading American infrastructure to enhance U.S. competitiveness, drive the creation of good-paying union jobs, tackle the climate crisis, and ensure strong access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities (DACs). BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to invest in American manufacturing and workers; expand access to energy efficiency and clean energy; deliver reliable, clean, and affordable power to more Americans; and demonstrate and deploy the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

DOE's BIL investments will support efforts to build a clean and equitable energy economy that achieves a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035, and to put the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050 to benefit all Americans.

Applications submitted under BIL Funded topics/subtopics, identified in the [Topics](#) Document are subject to the BIL requirements listed below.

Notice of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law–Specific Requirements

Be advised that special terms and conditions apply to projects funded by the BIL relating to:

- Reporting, tracking, and segregation of incurred costs;
- Reporting on job creation and preservation;
- Publication of information on the internet;
- Access to records by Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office;
- Requiring all of the iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials used in the infrastructure activities of applicable projects are produced in the United States;
- Ensuring laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors on BIL-funded projects are paid wages equivalent to prevailing wages on similar projects in the area;
- Protecting whistleblowers and requiring prompt referral of evidence of a false claim to an appropriate inspector general; and
- Certification and registration.

Recipients of funding appropriated by the BIL must comply with requirements of all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, DOE policy and guidance, and instructions in this

FOA. Recipients must flow down the requirements to subrecipients to ensure the recipient's compliance with the requirements.

Reporting requirements will be identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, attached to the award agreement. Additional reporting requirements apply to BIL-funded projects. DOE may require specific data collection to track progress toward key departmental goals: ensuring justice and equity, investing in the American workforce, boosting domestic manufacturing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing a pathway to private sector deployment. Examples of data that may be collected include:

- New manufacturing production or recycling capacity
- Jobs data, including:
 - Number and types of jobs provided, wages and benefits paid
 - Workforce demographics, including local hires
 - Efforts to minimize risks of labor disputes and disruptions
 - Contributions to training; employee certificates and training credentials; ratio of apprentice- to journey-level workers employed · Number of trainings completed, trainees placed in full-time employment, or number of trainings with workforce partnerships involving employers, community-based organizations, or labor unions
- Justice and Equity data, including:
 - Minority Business Enterprises, minority-owned businesses, woman-owned businesses, and veteran-owned businesses acting as vendors and subcontractors for bids on supplies, services, and equipment
 - Value, number, and type of partnerships with MSIs
 - Stakeholder engagement events, consent-based siting activities
 - Data Relevant to the Justice40 Initiative
 - Other relevant indicators from the Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan
- Number and type of energy efficient and clean energy equipment installed
- Funding leveraged, follow-on-funding, intellectual property generation and utilization

II.I. JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

The Justice40 initiative, established by E.O. 14008 “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”, January 27, 2021, sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Pursuant to E.O. 14008 and the Office of Management and Budget’s Interim Justice40 Implementation Guidance M-21-28 and M-23-09,

DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as defined and identified by the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), located at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>. DOE's Justice40 Implementation Guidance is located at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Final%20DOE%20Justice40%20General%20Guidance%20072522.pdf>.

Section III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

III.A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Only domestic small business concerns (SBCs) are eligible to submit applications and receive awards under this FOA. Additional eligibility requirements apply to the different Phase II mechanisms as described below.

Letters of Intent are required for all potential applicants. Details of how, where, and when to submit Letters of Intent may be found in [Section IV.B.](#) below. Only those applicants that submit an LOI which is received by DOE by the due date are eligible to submit an application under this FOA.

All applicants must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration at the award start date to be eligible to receive a Phase II award. Good practice is to keep your SAM registration active in order to submit applications and receive awards from the Federal government.

III.A.1. Initial Phase II Applicants:

Only the following groups are eligible to apply for an Initial Phase II award under this FOA:

1. Currently active DOE SBIR or STTR Phase I awardees with awards resulting from FOA DE- FOA-0002903; or
2. Currently active non-DOE SBIR or STTR Phase I awardees that (a) received the Federal Phase I award in Federal FY 2023, (b) have received a written determination from the Director of the SBIR/STTR Programs Office that the topic under which they received funding is the same as the topic in FOA DE-FOA-0002903, and (c) are not submitting a Phase II application based on the award described in (a) to another Federal agency.*

To be eligible for an initial Phase II award, applicants must have completed their Phase I period of performance prior to the start date listed in this FOA. Phase I awardees are cautioned not to request no-cost extensions to their Phase I awards beyond this date.

DOE plans to issue initial Phase II awards as either grants or cooperative agreements. It is anticipated that cooperative agreements will be awarded to applicants selected under the following topics with all other Initial Phase II selections being awarded as grants:

DOE SBIR or STTR Phase I grantees from FOA DE-FOA-0002903 for the following topics:

- Topics 2-7 (Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation)
- Topics 8-9 (Electricity)

- Topic 10b Buildings (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)
- Topic 14 Water (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)
- Topics 15-16 Solar (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)
- Topics 22-24 (Environmental Management)

3. Eligible awardees include SBCs that were eligible to submit an application under the FY 2023 Phase II Release 2 FOA but requested and received permission to submit under the FY 2024 Phase II Release 2 FOA due to COVID-19 impacts. Applications submitted without prior approval will be declined without review.

*NOTE: Applicants that received their FY 2023 Phase I award from another Federal agency must request a written determination from the Director of the SBIR/STTR Programs Office that the topic under which they received funding is the same as the topic in FOA DE-FOA-0002903. Send requests to e-mail: sbir-sttr@science.doe.gov. Applicant must: 1) provide Phase I award number, contact information for the Phase I Contracting Officer (or Grants/Agreements Officer); 2) Phase I FOA number and topic; and 3) the DOE Phase II topic number. Applicant must complete all close-out activities for the Phase I prior to award of a Phase II from the DOE.

III.A.2. Phase IIA and IIB Applicants:

DOE SBIR/STTR initial Phase II awardees are eligible to receive a second Phase II award from DOE if they have not already received a second Phase II award from another agency. There are two types of second Phase II awards: Phase IIA and Phase IIB.

PHASE IIA

Only award recipients resulting from the following FY 2022 SBIR/STTR Phase II FOAs AND from the following eligible topics may apply for Phase IIA awards:

Eligible Phase II FOA	Eligible Topics	SBIR/STTR Funding Program	Anticipated Award Type
DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C52-04a	Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	Cooperative Agreement

DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C-50 can be found at DE-FOA-0002146. Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C50-06a, C50-08d, C50-10a, C50-13c, C50-16b, C52-09b, C52-10a, C52-10b, C52-11a, C52-12b, C52-12c, C52-12e, C52-13b, C52-13c, C52-15a, C52-17c, C52-17d, C52-18a, C52-18b, C52-19a, C52-19b, C52-20c, C52-20g, C52-20h	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Grant, or Cooperative Agreement (Cooperative Agreement topics BUILDINGS: C50-08d, C52-12b, C52-12c, C52-12e, C52-13b, C52-13c; WATER: C50-13c, C52-18a, C52-18b)
DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C52-21b	Environmental Management	Cooperative Agreement
DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C52-24a, C52-25a, C52-27a, C52-27c	Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	Grant
DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C-48 can be found at DE-FOA-0001941. Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C48-24a, C52-31a, C52-31c	Fusion Energy Sciences	Grant
DE-FOA-0002572 <i>(Phase I topics for C-48 can be found at DE-FOA-0001941. Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)</i>	C48-30b, C52-34a, C52-35b, C52-37b, C52-37c	High Energy Physics	Grant

DE-FOA-0002572 (Phase I topics for C52 can be found at DE-FOA-0002360.)	C52-39a, C52-39b, C52-39c, C52-39d, C52-39h, C52-39q, C52-39r, C52-40b, C52-40c	Nuclear Energy	Grant
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Eligible Phase II awardees must successfully complete their Phase II awards (including no fund extensions) prior to the award start date in this FOA to be eligible to receive a Phase IIA award.

PHASE IIB

Only award recipients of an initial Phase II award from either the FY 2021 Phase II Release 2, DE-FOA-0002381, or FY 2022 Phase II Release 2, DE-FOA-0002572 may apply for Phase IIB awards.

III.A.3. Phase IIC Applicants

Some second Phase II awardees are eligible to receive a third SBIR Phase II award, referred to as Phase IIC, with this FOA. Third Phase II awards are restricted only to SBIR; no third Phase II awards will be made under the STTR program. In order to be eligible for a third SBIR Phase II award, a small business must meet the following criteria:

1. Have received both an initial SBIR Phase II award and a second SBIR Phase II award from DOE.
 - a. Both awards must be SBIR and have the same award number; neither award can be STTR.
 - b. The second SBIR Phase II award must have been awarded from the FY 2022 Phase II Release 2 FOA (DE-FOA-0002572) from the following program offices:
 - Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation
 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
 - High Energy Physics
 - Nuclear Energy
2. Have secured an offer of matching funds, contingent on receipt of the DOE award, from an eligible third-party investor prior to award as described below.
 - The term ‘eligible third-party investor’ means a small business concern (500 or fewer employees) other than the small business applicant, a venture capital firm, an individual investor, a non-SBIR Federal, State or local government of the United States, or any combination thereof. SBIR/STTR Phase I, II, or III funds from a Federal agency may not be used as matching funds.
 - The matching amount (excluding any fees collected by the SBC) must be equal to the

amount of the award.

- The matching funds cannot come from the following ineligible sources:
 - The applicant's internal research and development funds,
 - Funding in forms other than cash, such as in-kind or other intangible assets.
 - Funding from the owners of the eligible entity, or the family members or affiliates of such owners.
 - Funding attained through loans or other forms of debt obligations.
- Applicants that have secured matching funds at time of application must include a letter of commitment from each eligible third-party investor. Applicants that have not secured matching funds at time of application must submit a letter of commitment from each eligible third-party investor prior to 11:59 pm ET, May 17, 2024, to sbir-sttr@science.doe.gov. Applicants that fail to provide a letter of commitment from each eligible third-party investor by this deadline will be ineligible for award.
- A letter of commitment, signed by a person with authority, from each investor must include the following information:
 - A statement that the investment is contingent on the receipt of an award from DOE;
 - A statement that the investor was/is not a current owner of the small business prior to the investment, or a family member or affiliate of an owner;
 - The amount of the investment;
 - A statement that the amount of the investment will be available to the small business concern during the entire period of the award from DOE; and
 - The expectations of the investor.
- Alternatively, if an investment has been executed, you may submit a copy of the agreement (e.g. term sheet) and supplement the copy of the agreement with a statement of information, if the copy of the agreement does not contain all of the information listed above. If for reasons of confidentiality you do not wish to submit the agreement, you may submit a letter of commitment from each investor.

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to expend all matching funds by the period of performance end date may result in the DOE reducing the Phase IIC award amount accordingly. Also, DOE will not grant no-fund extensions for the sole purpose of exhausting any unspent matching funds.

To be eligible to receive a Phase IIC award, Phase IIA or IIB awardees must complete their awards (including no fund extensions) prior to the award start date in this FOA.

In addition, SBCs applying under Phase IIC need to submit an updated Commercialization Plan per the legislative text for the commercialization assistance pilot program.

III.B. SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS

Applicants must meet the SBIR/STTR program eligibility requirements in 13 CFR 121, Small Business Size Regulations. The eligibility requirements are in place to ensure that the funds go

only to small, independent U.S. businesses. The regulations include restrictions about (1) the type of firm, (2) its ownership structure, and (3) the firm's size in terms of the number of employees. An SBC is one that, at the time of award for both Phase I and Phase II SBIR/STTR awards and continuation of the Phase II SBIR/STTR award, meets the requirements of all three restrictions.

SBCs must meet these criteria at both time of submission and time of award.

III.B.1. Type of Business

The purpose of the requirement regarding type of firm is to target the awards to firms with an economic interest in developing the idea or research into a commercial application. Joint ventures, as defined in "Appendices/Reference Material," may apply, provided the entity created also qualifies as a small business at the time of the award. An SBC is one that, at the time of award for both Phase I and Phase II SBIR/STTR awards and continuation of the Phase II SBIR/STTR award, is:

- Organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States (U.S.), and which operates primarily within the U.S., or which makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor.
- May be in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust or cooperative, except that where the form is a joint venture, each entity to the joint venture must meet the requirements set forth in paragraphs 1-3 under III.B.2. Ownership Structure below.

III.B.2. Ownership Structure

The purpose of the ownership requirement is to limit the program to independent firms controlled by U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens as a way of maximizing the likelihood that the funding will stimulate innovative activity within the U.S. economy. A majority (more than 50%) of your firm's equity (e.g., stock) must be directly owned and controlled by one of the following:

1. One or more individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the U.S. Each individual you include as part of the eligible ownership majority of your company must be either a citizen or permanent resident alien of the U.S. The term "individual" refers only to actual people—it does not refer to companies or other legal entities of any sort. "Permanent resident alien" refers to an alien admitted to the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. If a size determination is conducted of your firm, you may be asked to show proof of this ownership;
2. Other for-profit SBCs (each of which is more than 50% directly owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the U.S.). If you include other for-profit SBCs as part of the eligible ownership majority of your firm, you must verify that

each such concern is more than 50% owned and controlled by individuals who are U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens of the U.S.;

3. A combination of (a) and (b) above. Additional ownership structures are identified in 13 CFR 121.702.

Ownership by venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms:

- An SBC may be owned by venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms only under the following circumstances:
 1. An SBC may be majority owned by one or more other concerns (including a venture capital operating company, hedge fund, or private equity firm) that qualify as a small business that is majority owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or resident aliens of the U.S.
 2. Any firm may own 50% or less of an SBC so long as it does not have the power to control the SBC.
- SBIR only: DOE has not elected to make a portion of its SBIR awards to SBCs that are majority-owned by multiple venture capital operation companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms under 15 U.S.C. § 638(dd)(1); this agency decision does not affect the statement above that an SBC may be majority owned by one or more other concerns (including a venture capital operating company, hedge fund, or private equity firm) that qualify as a small business that is majority owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or resident aliens of the U.S.

III.B.3. Business Size

An SBC must meet the following size requirements:

- Has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees and meets the other regulatory requirements found in 13 CFR 121. Business concerns, other than investment companies licensed, or development companies qualifying under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, 15 U.S.C. 661, et seq., are affiliates of one another when either directly or indirectly, (a) one concern controls or has the power to control the other; or (b) a third-party/parties controls or has the power to control both. Control can be exercised through common ownership, common management, and contractual relationships. The term “affiliates” is defined in greater detail in 13 CFR 121. The term “number of employees” is defined in 13 CFR 121.
- Further information may be obtained by contacting the Small Business Administration Size District Office at <https://www.sba.gov/size>.

III.C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All funded research or R&D must be performed in the U.S. for both Phases I and II, except under exceptional circumstances, for which an explanation must be submitted to DOE and an approval, if made, has been conveyed in writing by DOE. “U.S.” means the 50 states, the territories, and

possessions of the U.S., the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the District of Columbia. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to perform work on SBIR/STTR projects provided they are legally empowered to work in the U.S. at the time that an award is made and throughout the duration of the project. That is, a foreign national working on an SBIR/STTR project must NOT be an illegal alien and must be an immigrant alien or a foreign national visiting the U.S. on an approved visa.

In exceptional circumstances, where expertise or facilities do not exist in the U.S. to perform the R&D, applicants may propose to perform R&D outside the U.S. in their application. In these situations, the applicant must clearly justify the need for foreign R&D including details of domestic experts and facilities that were contacted to make this determination. No pre-approval of foreign R&D will be granted in advance of the application. DOE will make a determination on whether performance of R&D outside the U.S. is justified as part of the application review process. Insufficient justification may result in declination of the application.

None of the employees or owners of the applicant small business may be paid as consultants. None of the employees or owners of the applicant small business may be employees of a subcontractor, except when the subcontractor is a research institution. Consultants must not be employees of any proposed subcontractor. Please note, a person listed on the budget form (Section A - Key/Senior Person or Section B - Other Personnel) as an employee of the SBC is required to be either (a) an owner of the business, (b) paid using a W-2 form, or (c) possess an Internal Revenue Service Form SS-8 determination that the person is an employee. Persons receiving a 1099 (and not possessing an employee determination using Form SS-8) are to be treated as independent contractors and should be listed on the budget form in Section F - Other Direct Costs.

Increased minimum performance standards: Effective April 1, 2023, an SBC that received or receives more than 50 Phase II awards during the consecutive period of 10 fiscal years preceding the most recent 2 fiscal years (“covered period”), must have an average of \$250,000 of aggregate sales and investments per Phase II award received during such covered period. An SBC that received or receives more than 100 Phase II awards during the consecutive period of 10 fiscal years preceding the most recent 2 fiscal years (“covered period”) must have an average of \$450,000 of aggregate sales and investments per Phase II award received during such covered period.

The SBA is charged with implementation of the increased minimum performance standards. Each SBC that is subject to an increased minimum performance standard must submit to the SBA supporting documentation evidencing that all covered sales of the SBC were properly used to meet the increased minimum performance standard. Covered sales are defined at 15 U.S.C. § 638(qq)(3)(B)(iii)(II).

There are consequences of failure to meet the increased minimum performance standards,

including prohibition against receiving more than 20 total Phase I awards and Phase II awards from each agency during the 1-year period beginning on the date on which such determination is made.

III.C.1. Restrictions on Submitting Applications

Applications for Phase II, IIA or IIB may be submitted to either the SBIR or STTR program, or both, regardless of which program (SBIR or STTR) your Phase I award was granted. However, the respective minimum level of effort requirements, i.e., small business participation, must be met. Please refer to “Restrictions on the Level of SBC participation” below. Please note that some topics only allow the submission of SBIR applications; awardees under those topics may only submit Phase II, IIA, or IIB SBIR applications.

III.C.2. Mandatory Application Documents

Applicants must include all mandatory documents described in [Section IV.D.9](#). Failure to include mandatory documents is grounds for administrative declination of the application.

III.C.3. Classified Applications

Classified applications are not accepted under the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs and will be appropriately destroyed. Applications that have a probability of resulting in classified work will be administratively declined. Applicants are expected to comply with the following clause, which will be included in any award:

NATIONAL SECURITY: CLASSIFIABLE RESULTS ORIGINATING UNDER AN AWARD
(DECEMBER 2014)

- a. This award is intended for unclassified, publicly releasable research. You will not be granted access to classified information. DOE/NNSA does not expect that the results of the research project will involve classified information. Under certain circumstances, however, a classification review of information originated under the award may be required. The Department may review research work generated under this award at any time to determine if it requires classification.
- b. Executive Order 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707 (January 5, 2010)) states that basic scientific research information not clearly related to the national security shall not be classified. Nevertheless, some information concerning (among other things) scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security or cryptology may require classification. If you originate information during the course of this award that you believe requires classification, you must promptly:
 1. Notify the DOE Project/Program Manager and the DOE Award Administrator;

2. Submit the information by registered mail directly to the Director, Office of Classification and Information Control, SO-10.2; U.S. Department of Energy; P.O. Box A; Germantown, MD 20875-0963, for classification review.
 3. Restrict access to the information to the maximum extent possible until you are informed that the information is not classified, but no longer than 30 days after receipt by the Director, Office of Classification and Information Control.
- c. If you originate information concerning the production or utilization of special nuclear material (i.e., plutonium, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or 235, and any other material so determined under section 51 of the Atomic Energy Act) or nuclear energy, you must:
1. Notify the DOE Project Manager and the DOE Award Administrator;
 2. Submit the information by registered mail directly to the Director, Office of Classification and Information Control, SO-10.2; U.S. Department of Energy; P. O. Box A; Germantown, MD 20875-0963 for classification review within 180 days of the date the recipient first discovers or first has reason to believe that the information is useful in such production or utilization; and
 3. Restrict access to the information to the maximum extent possible until you are informed that the information is not classified, but no longer than 90 days after receipt by the Director, Office of Classification and Information Control.
- d. If DOE determines any of the information requires classification, you agree that the Government may terminate the award with consent of the recipient in accordance with 2 CFR 200.340(a)(3). All material deemed to be classified must be forwarded to the DOE, in a manner specified by DOE.
- e. If DOE does not respond within the specified time periods, you are under no further obligation to restrict access to the information.

III.C.4. Export Control

The SBIR/STTR programs support research with commercial potential. As such, research in fields subject to export control regulation is not within the scope of this FOA. Applications marked as containing material subject to export control regulation may be declined without merit review.

III.C.5. Restrictions on the Level of SBC Participation

SBC's submitting to both the SBIR and STTR programs must meet eligibility requirements of both SBIR and STTR applicants. If an application is submitted to both programs but fails to meet the eligibility requirements for one of the programs, it will only be considered for the one program for which it does meet the eligibility requirements.

- SBIR - At least 50 percent of the research or analytical effort must be performed by the SBC. Accordingly, at least 50 percent of the total funding requested on the budget form must be allocated to the SBC.
- STTR - Awards will be made to SBCs for cooperative R&D to be conducted jointly with a research institution. At least 40 percent of the work must be performed by the SBC, and at least 30 percent of the work must be performed by a single research institution. Accordingly, at least 40 percent of the total funding requested on the budget form must be allocated to the SBC, and at least 30 percent must be allocated to a single research institution.

A Level-of-Effort and Max Funding worksheet in both PDF and Microsoft Excel versions is available to assist in calculating the analytical effort and checking that funding limits are not exceeded for the project at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>.

III.C.6. Restrictions of the Principal Investigator (PI)

GENERAL PI REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

The PI is the individual designated by the applicant to direct the project. The PI must be knowledgeable in all technical aspects of the application and be capable of leading the research effort. Because DOE's evaluation of the application is critically dependent on the qualifications of the PI, changes in the PI that are made after award selection are strongly discouraged. Requests for PI changes will be closely scrutinized and may cause delays in award execution.

In addition, the PI must devote a minimum of 520 hours to the project or at least five hours per week if the project is less than 24 months in duration. If the project is less than 24 months in duration, applicants must state in the Performance Schedule of the Project Narrative the duration of the project in weeks, in order to make clear that this requirement is fully met. If the application is selected for funding, the PI may be required to sign a statement certifying adherence to all PI requirements.

In order to ensure appropriate technical guidance for the project, only one PI will be accepted per project. Processing of applications that include co-PIs may be delayed while the error is corrected by the applicant. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to perform work on SBIR/STTR projects provided he/she is legally empowered to work in the U.S. at the time that an award is made.

ADDITIONAL PI RESTRICTIONS WHEN SUBMITTING TO SBIR ONLY

To receive an SBIR award, the applicant must meet the general requirements and the PI's primary employment must be with the SBC at the time of award and during the conduct of the proposed research. Primary employment means that no less than 20 hours per week is spent in the employment of the SBC during the conduct of the project and no more than 19 hours per

week spent in the employment of another organization.

ADDITIONAL PI RESTRICTIONS WHEN SUBMITTING TO STTR ONLY

To receive an STTR award, the applicant must meet the general requirements and the PI's primary employment may be with the SBC or the research institution. However, the SBC must still provide technical control and oversight of the project. If the PI is employed by the research institution, his/her primary employment must be with the research institution in order to qualify under STTR. If the PI is employed by the SBC, his/her primary employment must be with the SBC. The PI must be listed and funds must be requested on the budget submitted from the entity that is the primary employer of the PI.

III.C.7. Restrictions on the Management of SBIR/STTR Projects

All SBIR and STTR funding agreements are made with the SBC regardless of the proportion of the work or funding of each of the performers (SBC, research institution, subcontractor, etc.) under the award. As the primary awardee, the SBC has the overall responsibility of the project, including financial management and the direction and control of the performance. For STTR projects, even if the PI is from the research institution, the SBC must provide overall direction and supervision of the project while the PI will manage the research portion of the project.

It is recommended that all agreements between the SBC and any subcontractor (including the research institution collaborating in a STTR project) reflect the controlling management position of the SBC during the performance of the Phase I and/or Phase II. This includes, but is not limited to, any business plan concerning agreements and responsibilities between the parties or for the commercialization of the resulting technology.

III.C.8. Restrictions on the Subcontracting and Consultants

None of the employees or owners of the applicant SBC may be consultants. None of the employees or owners of the applicant SBC may be employees of a Subcontractor except when the Subcontractor is a Research Institution. Consultants must not be employees of any proposed Subcontractor. SBC personnel cannot be reimbursed with DOE funding as a consultant under the project. SBC personnel cannot be reimbursed with DOE funding as an employee of a Subcontractor except when the Subcontractor is a Research Institution under the project. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to perform work on SBIR/STTR projects provided they are legally empowered to work in the U.S. at the time the award is made.

III.C.9. Technology Transfer Opportunity Requirements

Each Phase II Technology Transfer Opportunity (TTO) application requires a written statement certifying that the small business and Research Institution have executed at least an option to

license any patents owned by the Research Institution related to the TTO topic and that option can be extended to cover the Phase II/IIA/IIB/IIC award period. The written statement must affirm that the Research Institution provided the awardee, prior to the start of its Phase I award, with a no-cost, six-month option to license the technology. However, it is the responsibility of the small business to demonstrate adequate progress towards commercialization and to negotiate an extension to the option or convert the option to a license with the Research Institution. A small business' failure to maintain suitable commercialization rights (at least an option to a license) makes the small business ineligible to apply for a Phase II/IIA/IIB/IIC award. The small business should also ensure that it has secured any other intellectual property rights necessary to successfully commercialize the technology.

III.D. PARTICIPATION BY FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) are not eligible for an award under this FOA, but they may be proposed as a subcontractor or consultant subject to the following guidelines:

III.D.1. Authorization for Non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCS

The Federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of a FFRDC must be consistent with the contractor's authority under its award and must not place the FFRDC in direct competition with the private sector.

III.D.2. Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs

1. Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs

The Federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of an FFRDC must be consistent with its award and must not place the FFRDC in direct competition with the private sector.

2. Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDCs

The cognizant DOE Contracting Officer must authorize in writing the use of a DOE/NNSA FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization should be submitted with the application, if available. The following wording is acceptable for this authorization.

“Authorization is granted for the (insert name) National Laboratory and its Contractor

to participate in the proposed project entitled _____. The work proposed for the National Laboratory Contractor is consistent with or complementary to the missions of the Laboratory, will not adversely impact execution of the DOE/NNSA assigned programs at the Laboratory, and will not place the Laboratory in direct competition with the domestic private sector.”

Failure to obtain such approval in a timely manner may delay the project if a grant is awarded, as work may not be performed by the FFRDC until DOE Contracting Officer approval is provided.

III.D.3. Responsibility

A successful applicant 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 the FFRDC.

III.E. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY (TTO) (NATIONAL LABORATORY)

Applicants must be aware of potential conflicts of interest in the event their SBIR or STTR application includes a subcontract to a research institution (e.g., National Laboratory, University, etc.) and the applicant’s employee(s)/owner(s) is (are) also an employee(s) of the research institution. A potential conflict of interest can also arise when an applicant obtains a license or option license for a TTO from a National Laboratory Contractor (Contractor) and the applicant subcontracts to the same Contractor for work to be performed in commercializing the TTO. (The subcontracted work might either be through a Strategic Partnership Project (formerly called Work for Others) or a CRADA.)

Such a conflict of interest shall be addressed prior to award by providing to the DOE Grants/Agreements Officer a statement from the DOE Contracting Officer at the Laboratory Site Office, that he/she confirmed that the Contractor is aware of the potential conflict of interest (e.g., ownership or dual employment) and that the Contractor has conducted a conflict review in accordance with its approved conflict procedures. A similar statement should be obtained from the Sponsored Program Office or similar business office in the event the subcontract is with a university or other research institution.

In addition, the recipient shall provide to DOE prior to award, a document detailing how it will exercise both financial and managerial control over the project and how the recipient will isolate the Research Institution employee(s) from influencing control of the project.

Section IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

IV.A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <https://www.Grants.gov>, select “Search Grants”, and then enter the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number (81.049) and/or the FOA number shown on the cover of this FOA. Select the “Apply” button to access the application package.

Applications submitted through www.FedConnect.net will not be accepted. Applications may not be submitted through PAMS at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>.

IV.B. LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) AND PRE-APPLICATION

IV.B.1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE

The LOI due date is printed on the cover of this FOA. Only those applicants that submit an LOI which is received by DOE by the due date are eligible to submit an application under this FOA.

LOI SUBMISSION

LOIs are created in the software system of your choice and must be submitted electronically through the DOE SC Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) website <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/>. You cannot draft or edit an LOI in PAMS. Do not submit an LOI through [FedConnect](http://www.FedConnect.net) or [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).

It is important that the LOI be a single file with extension .pdf, .docx, or .doc. LOIs may be submitted by a PI or by other users at the SBC with the “Submit to DOE” privilege in PAMS. Anyone submitting an LOI must register for an account in PAMS before it will be possible to submit the LOI. Anyone submitting an LOI is encouraged to establish a PAMS account as soon as possible to avoid submission delays.

The LOI must contain the following information:

- Business Official name and contact information (telephone number and email address)
- Name(s) of any proposed subcontractor(s) or consultant(s)
- DOE Award Number DE-SC000XXXX
- Type of Phase II submission: Phase IIA, IIB or IIC
- Project Title (The project title should be the same as the award title.)
- Phase I topic and subtopic number (same as your Phase I and initial Phase II)

- Technical abstract that sufficiently describes your technology and application. The abstract should not exceed 500 words and two pages and it must provide sufficient technical depth to allow DOE to assign technical reviewers for your application. Please note that your abstract should not contain any proprietary information. The abstract file, itself, must contain the award number and the award title.

There is no requirement to seek approval if teaming arrangements, proposed personnel, topics, or the anticipated title change between submitting the LOI and when an application is submitted.

Detailed instructions about how to submit an LOI are in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

IV.B.2. Pre-application

Not applicable.

IV.C. GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT PROCEDURES

Applications in response to this FOA must be submitted through Grants.gov. Detailed instructions for registering in and using Grants.gov are in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

IV.D. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS

IV.D.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 <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms> under Certifications and Assurances¹. Applicants are bound by their representations and certifications in SAM.gov.

TYPE OF SUBMISSION (FIELD 1)

Select the checkbox for “Application” for an initial submission. Select the checkbox for “Changed/Corrected Application” if submitting an updated version of an application. Do not submit pre-applications via Grants.gov: Do not select the checkbox for “Pre-application.”

IDENTIFYING NUMBERS (FIELD 4)

¹ No separate form or submission is required for the Certifications and Assurances.

Enter the DOE award number in Field 4a. Do not enter any other number in Field 4a. Do not enter anything in Field 4b. If submitting an updated version of an application, you may enter the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID in Field 4c, though this is not required.

UEI AND EIN NUMBERS (FIELDS 5 AND 6)

The Uniform Entity Identifier (UEI) and Employer Identification Number (EIN) 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 the UEI as a 12-digit alpha-numerical sequence.
- Enter the EIN as a nine-digit number.
- Do not use hyphens or dashes.
- SC does not use the 12-digit EIN format required by some other agencies.
- Applications will not be rejected if an applicant's system-to-system service uses a 12-digit EIN format or inserts hyphens or dashes in an EIN.

TYPE OF APPLICATION (FIELD 8)

A **renewal** application requests additional funding for a period of time following a current award. If the application requests a significant change in the scope of work, please consult with the Program contact identified in this FOA to determine if the application should be considered new or a renewal.

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.

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT (FIELD 11)

The title listed in this field must match the project title listed on uploaded documents.

PROPOSED PROJECT (FIELD 12)

Initial Phase II – 09/10/2024

Second or third Phase II awards whose period of performance (without additional extensions) extends beyond September 10, 2024 will have project start dates commensurate with the end of their budget period but no later than November 25, 2024.

- For second Phase II awardees, a second Phase II award may not overlap with an initial Phase II award and must start by November 25, 2024.

- For third Phase II awardees, a third Phase II award may not overlap with a second Phase II award and must start by September 30, 2024.

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS REQUESTED (FIELD 15A)

Funding listed in this field must match the total amount in the Research and Related Budget form.

Do not attach pre-applications to Field 20 of the SF-424(R&R) form or letters of intent to Field 21 of the SF-424(R&R) form.

NOTICE: By signing the SF-424, you are certifying that the statements contained in the SF-424 and all other documents submitted as part of your application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge. DOE relies on your certification and all documents submitted as part of your application which includes all mandatory, required, and optional information identified in this FOA. Further, DOE relies on all information that you voluntarily provide which was not requested in this FOA. All information and documents provided by you materially affect the decision to make an award even if the information is not listed as a review criterion in [Section V](#) of this FOA.

IV.D.2. Research and Related Other Project Information

Complete questions in fields 1 through 6 of the SF-424 Research and Related Other Project Information form.

Note regarding question 1:

Applicants that plan to include human subjects as part of their research, should be aware that there are requirements that must be met for this type of research to be federally funded. Please refer to the following webpage to learn about these requirements: <https://science.osti.gov/ber/human-subjects>.

Note regarding question 3:

If the answer to question 3 is “Yes”, you must identify proprietary information with a legend on the first page of your project narrative and on each page that contains proprietary information in accordance with instructions provided in [Section VIII.B.25](#). Proprietary Application Information. Failure to comply may result in DOE’s inability to treat such information as proprietary and may delay the award process.

Note regarding question 4.a. and 4.b.:

If any environmental impact, positive or negative, is anticipated, indicate “yes” in response to question 4.a., “potential impact – positive or negative - on the environment.” Disclosure of the impact should be provided in response to question 4.b. First indicate whether the impact is positive or negative and then identify the area of concern (e.g., air, water, exposure to radiation, impacts to endangered species or historic properties, etc.). Should the applicant have any uncertainty, they should check “yes.”

DOE understands the phrase in field 4.a., “potential impact ... negative” to apply if the work described in the application could potentially have any of the impacts listed in (1) through (5) of 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, Conditions that Are Integral Elements of the Classes of Action in Appendix B. (<https://www.ecfr.gov>)

Additionally, for actions which could have any other adverse impacts to the environment or have any possibility for adverse impacts to human health (e.g., use of human subjects, Biosafety Level 3-4 laboratory construction/operation, manufacture or use of certain nanoscale materials which are known to impact human health, or any activities involving transuranic or high level radioactive waste, or use of or exposure to any radioactive materials beyond de minimis levels), applicants should indicate a “negative” impact on the environment.

Lastly, 1) if there would be extraordinary circumstances (i.e., factor or circumstance that could increase the level of significance of environmental effects normally associated with the proposed action) (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(2)), 2) if the work is connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3), or 3) if the work is related to other nearby actions with the potential for cumulatively significant impacts (10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3)), applicants should indicate a “negative” impact on the environment.

The bulk of your application will consist of files attached to the Research and Related Other Project Information form. The files must comply with the following instructions:

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT (FIELD 7 ON THE FORM)

The Project Summary/Abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as DOE may make it available to the public. The Project Title, Abstract and Summary must not exceed 500 words of text. Save this information in a file named “Summary.pdf,” and click on “Add Attachment” to attach it.

The purpose of the Project Summary/Abstract is to communicate the overall sense of the project, not every step of the work plan or every accomplishment in Phase I. Statements of future applications or benefits belong in the section on Commercial Applications and Other Benefits. Do not use acronyms, abbreviations, first-person references, or any proper names (including the name of the SBC, any subcontractors or institutions, or any trade/product name) in the body of the summary.

The header must include:

- Company name
- Project Title
- Principal Investigator
- Topic number/subtopic letter

The body must include:

- Statement of the problem or situation that is being addressed. Describe the problem or situation being addressed – be sure that the DOE interest in the problem is clear, but not in such a way that implies that any service or products are being provided for the direct benefit of DOE rather than for the advancement of a public purpose. (Typically one to three sentences).
- General statement of how this problem is being addressed. This is the overall objective of the combined Phase I and Phase II projects. How is this problem being addressed? What is the overall approach of the combined Phase I/Phase II project? (Typically one to two sentences).
- What was done in Phase I (and, if applicable, Phase II awards)? (Typically two to six sentences).
- What is planned for the Phase II project? (Typically two to three sentences).
- Commercial Applications and Other Benefits (limited to the space provided). Summarize the future applications or public benefits if the project is carried over into Phase III and beyond. Do not repeat information already provided above.
- Key Words - Provide listing of key words that describe this effort.
- Summary for Members of Congress: (layman's terms, two sentences with a maximum of 50 words). The DOE notifies members of Congress of awards; therefore, please provide, in clear and concise layperson's terms, a very brief summary of the project, suitable for a possible press release from a Congressional office.

Suggested Format: To ensure that the research need is clearly identified, please state the problem to be addressed in the first sentence. In the second sentence, state what is being done to address the problem.

PROJECT NARRATIVE (FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

The project narrative **must not exceed a page limit of 20 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5-inch x 11-inch) paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The body text font of all main text 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 Title Page, Budget Page(s), Budget Justification, biographical material, publications and references, appendices, and an optional table of content, each of which may have its own page limit defined later in this FOA.

Do not include any websites (URLs) that provide supplementary or additional information that constitutes a part of the application. Merit reviewers are not required to access websites; however, Internet publications in a list of references will be treated identically to print publications. See [VIII.B.25](#) of this FOA for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. To attach a Project Narrative, click “Add Attachment.”

Phase II applications must propose R&D required to meet the DOE objectives stated in the technical topic of the Phase I FOA and provide sufficient information to convince DOE and members of the research community who review the application that it is worthy of support under the stated evaluation criteria in [Section V](#). The work proposed in Phase II, assuming that it proceeds successfully, should be suitable in nature for subsequent progression into Phase III. To attach a Project Narrative, click “Add Attachment.”

The Project Narrative must include ALL of the following using this outline:

- Title page - Provide company-specific and project information including company name and address, principal investigator, project title, topic number, subtopic letter, and award number.
- Table of Contents
- Significance, Background Information, and Technical Approach
 - Identification and Significance of the Problem or Opportunity, and Technical Approach - Define the specific technical problem or opportunity addressed by your application. Provide enough background information, so that the importance of the problem/opportunity is clear. Indicate the overall technical approach to the problem/opportunity and the part that the proposed research plays in providing needed results.
 - Anticipated Public Benefits - Discuss the technical, economic, social, and other benefits to the public as a whole, if the project is successful and is carried over into Phase III. Identify specific groups in the commercial sector as well as the Federal government that would benefit from the projected results. Describe the resultant product or process, the likelihood that it could lead to a marketable product, and the significance of the market.
 - Degree to which Technical Feasibility has been Demonstrated - For Initial Phase II applications, discuss the purpose of your Phase I research, the research carried out, the research findings or results, and your estimate of technical feasibility. In particular,

address the degree to which the Phase I objectives have been met. The Initial Phase II application should include all relevant information concerning the research carried out in Phase I. Technical reviewers are not always the same as used in Phase I, therefore, may not be familiar with the Phase I application.

- For Technology Transfer Opportunities, you must include an update on the status of the option agreement with the Research Institution.
- Phase IIA: Please discuss the R&D that was originally proposed for Phase II and the R&D that was or will be completed by the end of Phase II. The scope of work proposed for Phase IIA is limited to completing that originally proposed for Phase II.
- Phase IIB: Please discuss how the originally proposed work for Phase II has or will be successfully completed during the Phase II project period. Also discuss how the proposed Phase IIB R&D builds upon the successful Phase II work to enhance the opportunity for commercialization. If you have completed your Phase II Final Technical Report, you may cite it here and attach it to Field 12 of the RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information form.
- Phase IIC: Please discuss your plans to continue the research conducted in either Phase IIA or IIB and how this will enable you to transition your innovation to commercialization. Also discuss the following information regarding matching funds: (1) the third party providing the matching funds and the amount of funds provided (The matching amount (excluding any fees collected by the SBC) must be equal to the amount of the award); (2) the expectations of the third party for the use of the funds and the expected outcomes; and (3) your plan for expending the funds during the period of performance of the award.
- The Phase II Project
 - Technical Objectives - State the specific technical objectives of the Phase II research and development. If submitting a Phase IIA or IIB application, please clearly indicate the need for additional funding beyond that provided in the initial Phase II award. If submitting a Phase IIC application, please clearly indicate the need for additional funding beyond the first and second Phase II awards.
 - Work Plan - This section should be a substantial part of the technical application. Provide an explicit, detailed description of the Phase II research approach and work to be performed. Indicate what will be done, by whom (SBC, subcontractors, or consultants) where it will be done, and how the work will be carried out, both programmatically and in regard to protection of human health and the environment.
 - Link the work plan to the objectives of the proposed project. Discuss methods planned to achieve each objective or task explicitly and in detail. Be sure to address how the research or research and development effort could lead to a product, process, or service in Phase III. Show how the management direction and control of the project will be assured. Regardless of the proportion of the work or funding of each of the performers under the award, the SBC is to be the primary awardee with overall responsibility for its performance.
 - Performance Schedule - Phase II projects are typically for 24 months. Please note that the

performance period should cover two budget periods of up to 12 months each; however, the first budget period should be 12 months. Funding for the 2nd budget period will be contingent on the demonstration of adequate progress, evaluation of programmatic priorities, availability of funds, and compliance with the terms and conditions of the award. Please state in this section if the project will be completed in less than 24 months and identify the proposed project length in weeks. Briefly describe the important milestones and the estimated amount of time for completing each task described in the work plan.

- Go/No Go Milestones and Go/No Go Technical Metrics, if applicable - Applications submitted under topics with awards designated as cooperative agreements (see [Section III, Eligibility Information](#)) must also include one to four go/no go milestones and/or technical metrics that can be achieved by month nine and reported in month ten. These go/no go milestones and technical metrics should be included in the performance schedule. In addition, a separate table listing just the nine month go/no go milestones and technical metrics should be attached in field 12. A template for this table along with a completed example is available here: <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources>. For cooperative agreements, achievement of the go/no go milestones and technical metrics is a requirement for demonstrating adequate progress during the first budget period. The go/no go milestone and technical metric decision and funding decision for the second budget period is distinct from a non-compliance determination.
- Facilities/Equipment - Describe available equipment and physical facilities necessary to carry out the Phase II effort. Equipment is defined in 2 CFR 200.33 as “tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.” Items of equipment to be leased or purchased must be described and justified in this section. If the equipment, instrumentation, and facilities are not the property of the applicant and are not to be purchased or leased, the source must be identified and their availability and expected costs specifically confirmed in this section. A principal of the organization that owns or operates the facilities/equipment must provide written verification regarding the availability and cost of facilities/equipment and any associated technician cost. SBCs may get credit for obtaining this equipment as an in-kind Phase II commercial contribution as described in section 6 below.
- To the extent possible in keeping with the overall purposes of the program, only American-made equipment and products should be purchased with the funds provided by the Phase II awards.
- Consultants and Subcontractors (including Research Institutions for STTR)
 - Research Institution - If the application contains substantial collaboration with a research institution (required for STTR, optional for SBIR), (1) identify the name and address of the institution, the name, phone number, and email address of the certifying official from the research institution, and the total dollar amount of the subcontract; (2) describe in detail the work to be done by this institution in the Work Plan section; (3) provide a

- budget and budget justification; (4) and provide a specific statement certifying that they have agreed to serve in the manner and to the extent described in the Work Plan section of the application.
- The research institution will be considered a subcontractor to the SBC applicant. The research institution must provide a letter of commitment on official letterhead from an authorized representative of the institution which commits the institution to participate in the project as described in the application. The letter should be attached as an “Other Attachment” in field 12, on the Research & Related Other Project Information form. If selected for award, participation of the research institution will be verified by the Contracting Office.
 - Consultants and Other Subcontractors - Involvement of consultants or subcontractors in the planning and research stages of the project is permitted provided the work is performed in the United States. If consultants and/or subcontractors are to be used, this section of the application must identify them by name, identify whether the party is being proposed as a consultant versus as a subcontractor, and should provide “Letters of Commitment” from an authorized representative of the consultants and/or subcontractors. The letters must provide a detailed cost estimate including costs for labor, equipment, and materials, if any for the consultant or subcontractor, as well as a specific statement certifying that they have agreed to serve in the manner and to the extent described in the Work Plan section of the application. Each letter must be on official letterhead with an authorizing representative’s contact information provided and submitted as an “Other Attachment” to the application. If selected for award, the Contracting Office will verify the participation of any subcontractors and/or consultants and will require budget and budget justifications for subcontractors and verification of the rates for consultants.
 - Note: None of the employees or owners of the applicant SBC may be consultants. None of the employees or owners of the applicant SBC may be employees of a Subcontractor except when the Subcontractor is a Research Institution. Consultants must not be employees of any proposed Subcontractor. SBC personnel cannot be reimbursed with DOE funding as a consultant under the project. SBC personnel cannot be reimbursed with DOE funding as an employee of a Subcontractor except when the Subcontractor is a Research Institution under the project. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to perform work on SBIR/STTR projects provided they are legally empowered to work in the U.S. at the time the award is made.
 - Phase II Funding Commitment (Commercial Contribution) [OPTIONAL for Phase II, Phase IIA, or Phase IIB; MANDATORY FOR Phase IIC]
 - While not a requirement to obtain Phase II, IIA, or IIB funding, applicants are encouraged to submit a Phase II commitment from the private sector or non-SBIR/STTR funding sources.
 - Phase IIC: This section should state the source and amount of the matching funds and the planned use of the matching funds. You must ensure that the matching amount (excluding any fees collected by the SBC) must be equal to the amount of the award. Although Phase II award funds (with the exception of commercialization assistance and patent

costs) are to be used solely for research and development, matching funds can be used for research and development or other purposes associated with commercialization of technology developed under the award. Note: do not include matching funds in your budget, budget justification, or SF-424 form. Those forms are only for the research and development funds you are requesting from DOE.

- Phase III Follow-On Funding Commitment [OPTIONAL] - Applicants are encouraged to submit a Phase III follow-on funding commitment. The commitment must indicate when the funds will be made available, and contain specific technical objectives which, if achieved in Phase II, will make the commitment exercisable by the applicant. If the commitment is firm regardless of technical objectives achieved, it should state so. The commitment may include: (1) third party financing; (2) self-financing (in which case the proposing SBC must demonstrate the ability to provide the Phase III funding); (3) state or local government financing; or (4) Federal funding. In-kind contributions are allowed; however, the applicant or donor must estimate the dollar value of any in-kind contributions. The Phase III commitment must be submitted with the Phase II application as a separate attachment. Add as an attachment in field 12, "Other Attachments," on this form. You should also reference it in the technical proposal in the "Work Plan" section.
- Bibliography & References Cited (Field 9 on the form). [DO NOT USE THIS FIELD] - Include this information, if any, in the project narrative. Do not attach a file in this field.
- Facilities & Other Resources (Field 10 on the form) [DO NOT USE THIS FIELD] - Include this information, if any, in the project narrative. Do not attach a file in this field.
- Equipment (Field 11 on the form) [DO NOT USE THIS FIELD] - Include this information, if any, in the project narrative. Do not attach a file in this field.
- Appendix: **NEW REQUIREMENT: Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan (DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE PROJECT NARRATIVE PAGE LIMIT OR WORD COUNT)**

In compliance with the Office of Science's (SCs) Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan requirement, DOE SBIR/STTR has added the PIER Plan requirement to all funding opportunities, beginning in FY 2024.

All applications must provide a Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as an appendix to the research project narrative. The PIER plan should describe the strategies and activities of the applicant to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and/or accessibility as an integrated element of the research and development project within the proposing small business concern. Plans may include, but are not limited to: plans of your small business concern and collaborating institutions (if applicable) to recruit and retain individuals from diverse backgrounds and/or groups historically underrepresented in the research community; plans to contribute to a research and development environment that fosters a safe, positive, accessible and inclusive workplace and/or a sense of belonging among all personnel; training, mentoring and partnering with underrepresented communities; and/or substantial

partnering with, or benefits to, a disadvantaged community as defined by the CEJST tool (See Section II.I. Justice40 Initiative for CEJST tool information). Plans may leverage existing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility efforts of the applicant small business concern but should not be a statement of broad principles.

Provided as an appendix to the Project Narrative, the PIER Plan should describe the activities and strategies to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the proposed research project:

- The PIER Plan should be between 1 and 3 pages in length.
- The complexity of a PIER Plan is expected to increase with the size of the small business, duration of the project and the number of personnel to be supported. Thus, a PIER Plan for a Phase I project is expected to be focused and relatively limited.
- PIER Plans are to be evaluated as part of the merit review criterion: Quality and Efficacy of the Plan for Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research.
- The scope should be integral to and tailored to the research project.
- Applicants are encouraged to focus on areas, including but not limited to:
 - The composition of the project team and partnering institutions.
 - The research environment - cultivating respectful, professional and accessible environments.
 - Equitable and inclusive implementation of the research project.
- Funds may be requested for execution of the PIER Plan

PIER Plans for BIL funded projects must include the following additional information:

- A workforce section of the PIER Plan articulating the future workforce implications of the innovation or a milestone-driven plan for understanding those implications.
 - The workforce section should document the skills, knowledge, and abilities that would be required of workers installing, maintaining, and operating the technology that may be derivative of the applicant's research, as well as the training pathways and its accessibility for workers to acquire the necessary skills, and/or plans to provide workers with above-average wages and benefits (benchmarked to industry and occupation), involve workers in health and safety plans, and make investments in education and training programs.

Additional resources to support PIER Plan development can be found at:

<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/PIER-Plan>

OTHER ATTACHMENTS (FIELD 12)

Note: Field 12 will hold more than one attachment. If you need to elaborate on your responses to questions 1-6 on the "Other Project Information" document, provide the information in a single file named "projinfo.pdf." Click on "Add Attachments" in Field 12 to attach file. See the

instructions in the subsections below.

DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN [REQUIRED]

All SBIR and STTR applicants must select one of the following options for their Data Management Plan (DMP):

Option 1)

The Option 1 DMP is: “It is anticipated that all generated digital data will be protected as SBIR/STTR data and therefore will not be publicly shared during the applicable SBIR/STTR data protection period. If any data generated under this award are published, an effort will be made to also release any related digital data that is not protected SBIR/STTR data.”

Please note that if you do not include a DMP with your application, Option 1 for the DMP will be assumed for your application. However, if you plan to publicly disclose generated digital data, you must provide a DMP under Option 2.

Option 2)

If you plan to publicly disclose technical data during the data protection period or, for data not expected to be asserted as protected SBIR/STTR rights data, please submit a DMP using the standards in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

CYBERSECURITY SELF-ASSESSMENT [REQUIRED]

All Phase II applicants (Phase II, Phase IIA, Phase IIB, and Phase IIC) must submit a Cybersecurity Self-Assessment with their application. The purpose of the Cybersecurity Self-assessment is to evaluate whether the cybersecurity practices of the SBC are sufficient to protect the work being done under the SBIR/STTR award from disclosure. DOE will be using the cybersecurity performance goals (CPGs) issued by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) as the basis for the cybersecurity self-assessment. Applicants are encouraged to utilize the cybersecurity resources available from CISA (<https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-guidance-small-businesses>) to improve their cybersecurity posture.

Applicants will use the CISA CPG Checklist (<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/cisa-cpg-checklist>) to submit their Cybersecurity Self-Assessment. There are 39 CPGs included in the checklist. For the purpose of the DOE Cybersecurity Self-Assessment, Phase II applicants are required to complete the checklist for the following CPGs: 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2D, 2E, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2K, 2L, 2M, 2R, 2S, 2W, and 4A. Applicants may complete the checklist for other CPGs that are not specifically required above.

DOE will use this information as part of its assessment of risk when determining which applicants will be selected for award. Phase II applicants that failed to fully implement the 16

CPGs at time of application, will be required to submit an updated cybersecurity self-assessment demonstrating that the 16 CPGs are fully implemented with their first progress report, which is due 4 months after the start date of their award. If the first progress report fails to document that all 16 CPGs were implemented, this will be considered inadequate progress in the performance of your Phase II award and DOE may elect not to award funding for the next budget period.

Pursuant to 15 USC 638(vv)(2), DOE reserves the right to conduct a post-award onsite review or audit to ensure Phase II awardees are accurately reporting their cybersecurity practices, the accuracy of the self-assessment and the implementation of the 16 CPGs previously mentioned.

DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS [REQUIRED]

All SBIR and STTR applicants must disclose their foreign relationships as required by the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022. The required form that must be used to disclose these relationships is available here: <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>. Instructions are included on the form. Please note that even if you do not have any foreign relationships, you must complete this form to certify that such relationships do not exist. Failure to include this form may result in declination of your application without review at DOE's discretion.

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS (FIELD 12) [MANDATORY]

Also, attach the following files. Do not attach these to the SF-424 but attach these files to Field 12 of the "Other Project Information" form.

- Phase I Final Technical Report [mandatory for Initial Phase II applications]. If your Phase I project period ends less than 14 days before the Phase II application due date or after the Phase II application due date, you must attach in Field 12 an interim Final Technical Report [mandatory] on your progress to date. Please note that your Phase I Final Technical Report may contain SBIR/STTR data per your Phase I award terms and conditions. However, no company proprietary information should be included in the report. Please refer to the following tutorial that explains the difference between SBIR/STTR data and proprietary information: <https://www.sbir.gov/tutorials/data-rights>.
- Latest Phase II progress report or final technical report [mandatory for Phase IIA, IIB or IIC applications].
- Signed Letter of Phase II Funding Commitment, if applicable.
- Phase III Follow-On Funding Commitment, if applicable
- Signed Letter of Commitment from any subcontractors (including Research Institutions).
- Letters of Commitment from consultants, subcontractors, or other third parties.
- Level-of-Effort Worksheet (discussed in [Section III](#)) located at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>. If the Microsoft Excel version is used, it must be converted to PDF before attaching it to the application.

- A copy of the SBIR.gov SBC Registration PDF file received from the Small Business Administration (when a Control ID was provided), after the completion of the SBA Company Registration at <http://sbir.gov/registration>.
- For STTR-only applications, Company Commercialization Report from SBIR.gov, if the applicant SBC has received SBIR/STTR Phase II awards from any Federal agency.
- Table of Go/No Go Milestones and Technical Metrics, if applicable. Only required for applications for cooperative agreements. See discussion of the Performance Schedule above.

IV.D.3. Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Complete the Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form in accordance with the instructions on the form and the following instructions. Complete this form before the Budget form to populate data on the Budget form.

Principal Investigator and other Key Personnel - The PI is the key individual designated by the applicant to direct the project. Only one PI is acceptable per project and all work must be performed in the United States. See “Restrictions of the Principal Investigator” in [Section III.C.](#), Other Eligibility Requirements, Restriction of the Principal Investigator (PI).

The principal investigator should be named in the application and be an employee of the small business (or Research Institution for STTR) as of the start date of the award. Senior/key personnel should only be named in the application if the person will be an employee of the small business as of the start date of the award. If the person will be joining the small business at a later date to fulfill the research needs, please list them by the position title (E.g. Senior Engineer) only.

You must submit this information for the PI and all senior/key personnel who will be identified by name in Section A of the application’s budget. List all other personnel who contribute in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of the project, whether or not salaries are requested. Consultants should be included in this “Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)” Form if they meet this definition. List individuals that meet the definition of senior/key regardless of what organization they work for. Senior/key personnel must be aware that they are included in the application and must agree to perform the work if awarded. The form will pre-populate with the PI identified on the SF-424(R&R) form. For each senior/key person:

- Complete the required sections in their profile.
- In the “credential” field, enter the person’s PAMS username, if known.
- Attach the person’s biographical sketch, following in instructions in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA for crafting a biographical sketch.
- Attach the person’s current and pending support, following the instructions in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA for crafting current and pending support.

The Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form will support the PI and up to 99 additional senior/key personnel. On the addition of the 99th senior/key person, you will be presented with an option to upload an additional file with the required information for all other senior/key personnel.

IV.D.4. 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. All fields with a red border are required, but you may enter a zero “0” in any field in which funds are not being requested. 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.

Additional information is found in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (FIELD L ON THE FORM)

Provide a justification that explains all costs proposed in the budget. The following items of advice are offered to assist you in developing a justification.

- Organize the justification by listing items in the same order as presented on the budget.
- Ensure that the narrative matches the budget in dollar amounts and language.
- Explain the line items. If costs are estimated, provide a basis for the estimate. Explain if costs are based on prior experience of similar activities. If a cost is based on the product of two numbers (such as a number of items at a per-item price), ensure that your math is correct.
- If including an inflationary factor for future budget periods, explain the basis for the inflationary factor.

Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request. Including items in the budget justification is not considered a form of cost-sharing: Provide the details of all personnel (key or other) who will be working on the award, regardless of their source(s) of compensation. Explain their source(s) of compensation if it is not from this award. Include the indirect cost rate agreement as a part of the budget justification.

Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in field L. The file automatically carries over to each budget year.

Additional information is found in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

IV.D.5. R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form

Budgets for Subawards: You must provide a separate R&R budget and budget justification for each subrecipient. Download the R&R Budget Attachment from the R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM and either email it to each subrecipient that is required to submit a separate budget or use the collaborative features of Workspace. After the subrecipient has either emailed its completed budget back to you or completed it within Workspace, attach it to one of the blocks provided on the form. All fields with a red border are required, but you may enter a zero “0” in any field in which funds are not being requested. Use up to 10 letters of the subrecipient’s name (plus.pdf) as the file name (e.g., ucla.pdf or energyres.pdf). Filenames must not exceed 50 characters.

If the project involves more subrecipients 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 L.

Applicants should consult their local information technology (“IT”) support resources for any necessary assistance in converting the forms downloaded from Grants.gov into plain PDF files that can be combined into one non-Portfolio PDF file (the Budget Justification).

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

IV.D.6. 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), including a subcontractor, 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.

IV.D.7. SBIR/STTR INFORMATION FORM

Complete all the required forms in accordance with the pop-up instructions on the form. Applications that lack the required documents will be administratively declined. The

commercialization plan (Question 8) must be prepared in accordance with the instructions in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA.

COMMERCIALIZATION HISTORY (FIELD 8, IF APPLICABLE)

Applicants must utilize the Company Commercialization Report (CCR) from SBIR.gov to provide their company commercialization history of past SBIR/STTR awards). The CCR allows companies to report funding outcomes resulting from prior SBIR and STTR awards. SBIR and STTR awardees are required by the SBA Policy Directive to update and maintain their organization's CCR on SBIR.gov. Companies may complete this report by logging into the company's account on SBIR.gov and starting a new Company Commercialization Report.

To complete and include a CCR within your application you should:

1. Log into the company account at <https://www.sbir.gov/>.
2. Navigate to My Dashboard > My Documents to view or print the information currently contained in the Company Registry Commercialization Report.
3. Create or update the commercialization record, from the company dashboard, by scrolling to the "My Commercialization" section, and clicking the create/update Commercialization tab under "Current Report Version". Please refer to the "Instructions" and "Guide" documents contained in this section of the Dashboard for more detail on completing and updating the CCR. Ensure the report is certified and submitted.
4. Click the "Company Commercialization Report" pdf under the My Documents section of the dashboard to download a pdf of the CCR.
5. For SBIR Applicants including applicants submitting to both SBIR and STTR Programs, the CCR should be attached to Question 8 of the SBIR/STTR Information form. For STTR-only applicants, the

If the CCR cannot be attached to field 8 of this form, then it should be attached to Question 12 of the Research and Related – Other Project Information Form. The attached document should be titled "Commercialization History.pdf"

IV.D.8. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)

If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying." Applicants that have never paid any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress do not need to submit this form.

IV.D.9. Summary of Required Forms/Files

Your application must include the following items:

NAME OF DOCUMENT	FORMAT	ATTACH TO
Application for Federal Assistance, SF 424(R&R) Form	FORM	
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	PDF	Field 18
Research and Related: Budget Form	FORM	
Additional Senior Key Persons, if applicable	PDF	Field A.9
Additional Equipment, if applicable	PDF	Field C.11
Budget Justification	PDF	Field K
Research and Related: Senior/Key Person Profile Form	FORM	
Biographical Sketch for each person	PDF	Appropriate Block
Current & Pending Support for each person, if applicable	PDF	Appropriate Block
Research and Related: Other Project Information Form	FORM	
Project Title, Abstract and Summary	PDF	Field 7
Project Narrative NEW – Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan	PDF	Field 8 PIER Plan is included as an appendix to Project Narrative
Bibliography and References Cited, if applicable	PDF	Include in Project Narrative
Facilities and Other Resources, if applicable	PDF	Include in Project Narrative
Equipment, if applicable	PDF	Include in Project Narrative
Other - Data Management Plan	PDF	Field 12
Other - Disclosure of Foreign Relationships	PDF	Field 12
Other - Level of Effort and Max Funding Worksheet	PDF	Field 12
Other - Cybersecurity Self -assessment	PDF	Field 12
Other - Letter of Commitment for consultant, sub-award, or research institution, as applicable	PDF	Field 12
Other - SBA Company Registration	PDF	Field 12

Other - Company Commercialization Report from SBIR.gov for STTR-only applications, if applicable	PDF	Field 12
Other - Interim or Final Phase I Technical Report (For initial Phase II applicants)	PDF	Field 12
Other - Latest Phase II progress report or final technical report [mandatory for Phase IIA, IIB or IIC applications].	PDF	Field 12
Other – Reporting if required by the COI Policy	PDF	Field 12
Other – Table of Go/No Go Milestones and Technical Metrics for Cooperative Agreements, if applicable	PDF	Field 12
Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, if applicable	PDF	Field 12
Authorization for DOE/NNSA FFRDC, if applicable and if available	PDF	Field 12
Research and Related: Sub-award Budget Form, if applicable	FORM	
Budget Justification for each Sub-award	PDF	Appropriate Block
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	FORM	
SBIR/STTR Information Form	FORM	
Phase II Commercialization Plan (include LOS, ROI worksheet and income statement – upload as a single PDF)	PDF	Field 8
Company Commercialization Report from SBIR.gov for SBIR or Both SBIR/STTR applications, if applicable	PDF	Field 9

IV.E. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

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

Indirect cost information – If you are proposing indirect costs and do not already have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or documentation of indirect rates accepted for estimating purposes by DOE or another Federal agency, it is recommended that you begin preparing an Indirect Rate Model (IRM) to be submitted, upon request. For your convenience, IRM templates are available at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>;

- 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
- Consultant documentation/verification of rates.

CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCE

By submitting an application in response to this FOA the applicant certifies that:

- It is not a corporation that has been convicted (or had an officer or agent of such corporation acting on behalf of the corporation 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 Corporation. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

If selected for award, applicants will be required to sign and submit one or more of the certifications available at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources/Awardee-Documents>. Any forms required will be provided by the DOE Contract/Grants Management Specialist during award negotiation.

IV.F. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

IV.F.1. Letter of Intent Due Date

The LOI due date is printed on the cover of this FOA.

You are encouraged to submit your LOI well before the deadline. LOIs may be submitted at any time between the publication of this FOA and the stated deadline.

IV.F.2. Application Due Date

The application due date is printed on the cover of this FOA.

You are encouraged to submit your application well before the deadline. Applications may be submitted at any time between the publication of this FOA and the stated deadline.

IV.F.3. Late Submissions

Delays in submitting letters of intent and applications may be unavoidable. DOE has accepted late submissions when applicants have been unable to make timely submissions because of

widespread technological disruptions or significant natural disasters. DOE has made accommodations for incapacitating or life-threatening illnesses and for deaths of immediate family members. Other circumstances may or may not justify late submissions. Unacceptable justifications include the following:

- Failure to begin submission process early enough.
- Failure to provide sufficient time to complete the process.
- Failure to understand the submission process.
- Failure to understand the deadlines for submissions.
- Failure to satisfy prerequisite registrations.
- Unavailability of administrative personnel.

You are responsible for beginning the submission process in sufficient time to accommodate reasonably foreseeable incidents, contingencies, and disruptions.

Applicants must email the Agency Contact listed in [Section VII.B.](#) of this FOA (sbir-sttr@science.doe.gov) no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline to request a late submission. Applicants may be requested to submit a copy of the current draft of their application including attachments in response to a late submission request.

DOE notes that not all requests for late submission will be approved.

Late applications will only be accepted from applicants that have received permission, and only one such request will be permitted.

Section V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

V.A. CRITERIA

V.A.1. Initial Review Criteria

The SBIR/STTR Office will perform an initial review to ensure that the applications meet minimum requirements and include all required forms and documentation as sought in the FOA. If it is determined that the minimum requirements for any application have not been met, the application will be administratively declined and will not undergo merit review.

All applications to the FOA must comply with the relevant objectives of Phase II, Phase IIA, Phase IIB, or Phase IIC applications. These awards should continue the research and development completed under the Phase I award and remain consistent with the original topic under which it was funded. Applications proposing research and development that is determined by DOE not to be a continuation of the Phase I research and development or to be outside the score of the original topic may be administratively declined.

V.A.2. Merit Review Criteria: Initial Phase II Applications

The Phase II application must contain enough information on progress accomplished under Phase I to enable an evaluation of the project's promise.

DOE plans to make selections for Phase II awards from those applications judged to have the highest overall merit within their technical program area. The first three review criteria are equally weighted and of greater weight than the fourth criterion.

STRENGTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL APPROACH

As evidenced by: (1) the innovativeness of the overall idea and approach for the combined Phase I/Phase II project, (2) the significance of the scientific or technical challenge, and (3) the thoroughness of the presentation.

ABILITY TO COMPETENTLY CARRY OUT THE PROJECT

As evidenced by: (1) the qualifications of the PI, other key staff, consultants and subcontractors, if any, and the level of adequacy of equipment and facilities; (2) the soundness and level of adequacy of the work plan to meet the problem or opportunity; (3) with regard to the Phase I objectives, the degree to which Phase I has proven feasibility of the concepts; and (4) the degree to which the DOE investment in the project would be justified by the level of proposed research effort.

IMPACT

As evidenced by: (1) the significance of the technical and/or economic benefits of the proposed

work, if successful, (2) the likelihood that the proposed work could lead to a marketable product or process, (3) the likelihood that the project could attract further development funding after the SBIR or STTR project ends and (4) the appropriateness of the data management plan for the proposed work. Phase II applications will be evaluated for commercial potential using the Commercialization Plan criteria (see [Section VIII.A. How to Prepare a Commercialization Plan](#) for details): (1) Market Opportunity, (2) Company/Team, (3) Competition/Intellectual Property, and (4) Finance and Revenue Model. Each section should be developed with careful analysis of your company's position within the industry and the market opportunity that is enabled by the proposed innovation.

Applications that receive poor commercialization potential reviews may not be eligible for funding. The key points required for each section are further described below in [Section V.B. "REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS."](#)

PIER PLAN

Quality and Efficacy of Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as evidenced by: (1) The suitability of the proposed PIER Plan for the size of the small business concern, proposed project and whether it is integrated into the proposed project, (2) Whether the PIER plan is likely to lead to participation and mentoring of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the proposed project, including individuals historically underrepresented in the research community, (3) Whether the PIER plan includes substantial partnering with, or benefits to, a disadvantaged and/or underrepresented community, and/or (4) Whether the PIER Plan is likely to support a sense of belonging among project personnel. Please refer to [Section VIII.A.](#) of this FOA for guidance on what to include in your Commercialization Plan.

In addition, PIER Plans for BIL funded projects include the following criteria:

- (5) The extent to which the PIER Plan ensures jobs created by this award attract and retain a skilled workforce by providing: prevailing wages and benefits (benchmarked to industry and occupation), worker involvement in health and safety, and education and training investments, and
- (6) The extent to which the PIER Plan articulates the future workforce implications of the innovation or a milestone-driven plan for understanding those implications.

V.A.3. Merit Review Criteria: Phase IIA Applications

The Phase IIA application must contain information on progress accomplished under Phase II to enable an evaluation of the project's promise.

DOE plans to make selections for Phase IIA awards from those applications judged to have the highest overall merit within their technical program area. The first three review criteria are

equally weighted and of greater weight than the fourth criterion.

STRENGTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL APPROACH

As evidenced by: (1) the innovativeness of the overall idea and approach for the combined Phase I/Phase II/Phase IIA project, (2) the significance of the scientific or technical challenge, and (3) the thoroughness of the presentation.

ABILITY TO COMPETENTLY CARRY OUT THE PROJECT

As evidenced by: (1) the qualifications of the PI, other key staff, consultants and subcontractors, if any, and the level of adequacy of equipment and facilities; (2) the soundness and level of adequacy of the work plan to meet the problem or opportunity; (3) with regard to the Phase II objectives, the degree to which Phase II has proven the soundness of the technical approach; and (4) the degree to which the DOE investment in the project would be justified by the level of proposed research effort.

IMPACT

As evidenced by: (1) the significance of the technical and/or economic benefits of the proposed work, if successful, (2) the likelihood that the proposed work could lead to a marketable product or process, and (3) the likelihood that the project could attract further development funding after the SBIR or STTR project ends, and (4) the appropriateness of the data management plan for the proposed work. Phase IIA applications will be evaluated for commercial potential using the Commercialization Plan criteria (see [Section VIII.A.](#) for details): (1) Market Opportunity, (2) Company/Team, (3) Competition/Intellectual Property, and (4) Finance and Revenue Model. Each section should be developed with careful analysis of your company's position within the industry and the market opportunity that is enabled by the proposed innovation. Applications that receive poor commercialization potential reviews will not be eligible for funding. The key points required for each section are further described below in [Section V.B. "REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS."](#)

PIER PLAN

Quality and Efficacy of Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as evidenced by: (1) The suitability of the proposed PIER Plan for the size of the small business concern, proposed project and whether it is integrated into the proposed project, (2) Whether the PIER plan is likely to lead to fairly compensated participation and mentoring of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the proposed project, including individuals historically underrepresented in the research community in such a way that leads to direct career pathways, (3) Whether the PIER plan includes substantial partnering with, or benefits to, a disadvantaged and/or underrepresented community, and/or (4) Whether the PIER Plan is likely to support a sense of belonging among project personnel. Please refer to [Section VIII.A.](#) of this FOA for guidance on what to include in your Commercialization Plan and Commercialization History.

V.A.4. Merit Review Criteria: Phase IIB Applications

The Phase IIB application must contain information on progress accomplished under Phase II to enable an evaluation of the project's promise.

DOE plans to make selections for Phase IIB awards from those applications judged to have the highest overall merit within their technical program area. The first criterion (Impact) has the greatest weighting, the second two (Strength and Ability) are equally weighted and are of greater weight than the fourth (PIER) criterion.

IMPACT

As evidenced by: (1) the significance of the technical and/or economic benefits of the proposed work, if successful, (2) the likelihood that the proposed work could lead to a marketable product or process, and (3) the likelihood that the project could attract further development funding after the SBIR or STTR project ends, and (4) the appropriateness of the data management plan for the proposed work. Phase IIB applications will place significant emphasis on the existence of Phase II funding commitments and Phase III follow-on funding commitments. Applicants who lack these commitments are not encouraged to apply. Phase IIB applications will be evaluated for commercial potential using the Commercialization Plan (see [Section VIII.A.8. "How to Prepare a Commercialization Plan"](#) for details): (1) Market Opportunity, (2) Company/Team, (3) Competition/Intellectual Property, and (4) Finance and Revenue Model. Each section should be developed with careful analysis of your company's position within the industry and the market opportunity that is enabled by the proposed innovation. Applications that receive poor commercialization potential reviews will not be eligible for funding. The key points required for each section are further described below in [Section V.B. "REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS."](#)

STRENGTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL APPROACH

As evidenced by: (1) the innovativeness of the overall idea and approach for the combined Phase I/Phase II/Phase IIB project, (2) the significance of the scientific or technical challenge, and (3) the thoroughness of the presentation.

ABILITY TO COMPETENTLY CARRY OUT THE PROJECT

As evidenced by: (1) the qualifications of the PI, other key staff, consultants and subcontractors, if any, and the level of adequacy of equipment and facilities; (2) the soundness and level of adequacy of the work plan to meet the problem or opportunity; (3) with regard to the Phase II objectives, the degree to which Phase II has proven soundness of the technical approach; and (4) the degree to which the DOE investment in the project would be justified by the level of proposed research effort.

PIER PLAN

Quality and Efficacy of Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as evidenced by: (1) The suitability of the proposed PIER Plan for the size of the small business concern,

proposed project and whether it is integrated into the proposed project, (2) Whether the PIER plan is likely to lead to participation and mentoring of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the proposed project, including individuals historically underrepresented in the research community, (3) Whether the PIER plan includes substantial partnering with, or benefits to, a disadvantaged and/or underrepresented community, and/or (4) Whether the PIER Plan is likely to support a sense of belonging among project personnel. Please refer to [Section VIII.A.](#) of this FOA for guidance on what to include in your Commercialization Plan and Commercialization History.

V.A.5. Merit Review Criteria: Phase IIC Applications

The Phase IIC application must contain information on progress accomplished through Phase IIA or IIB to enable an evaluation of the project's promise.

DOE plans to make selections for Phase IIC awards from those applications judged to have the highest overall merit within their technical program area. The first criterion (Impact) has the greatest weighting, the second two (Strength and Ability) are equally weighted and are of greater weight than the fourth (PIER) criterion.

Phase IIC applicants that do not submit an updated Commercialization Plan are ineligible for award.

IMPACT

As evidenced by: (1) the significance of the technical, economic and/or societal benefits of the proposed work, if successful, (2) the likelihood that the proposed work, and the work accomplished with matching funds, could lead to a marketable product or process, and (3) the likelihood that the project could attract further development funding after the SBIR project ends, (4) the expectations of the third party investor providing the matching funds, and (5) the appropriateness of the data management plan for the proposed work. Phase IIC applications require the existence of Phase II matching fund commitment; applicants who lack a Phase II matching funds commitment are ineligible to receive Phase IIC awards. Phase III follow-on funding commitments are also strongly encouraged. Phase IIC applications will be evaluated for commercial potential using the Commercialization Plan (see [Section VIII.A.8. "How to Prepare a Commercialization Plan"](#) for details):

(1) Market Opportunity, (2) Company/Team, (3) Competition/Intellectual Property, and (4) Finance and Revenue Model. Each section should be developed with careful analysis of your company's position within the industry and the market opportunity that is enabled by the proposed innovation. Applications that receive poor commercialization potential reviews will not be eligible for funding. The key points required for each section are further described below in [Section V.B. "REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS."](#)

STRENGTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL APPROACH

As evidenced by: (1) the innovativeness of the overall idea and approach for the combined Phase I/Phase II/Phase IIA or IIB/Phase IIC project, (2) the significance of the scientific or technical challenge, and (3) the thoroughness of the presentation.

ABILITY TO COMPETENTLY CARRY OUT THE PROJECT

As evidenced by: (1) the qualifications of the PI, other key staff, consultants and subcontractors, if any, and the level of adequacy of equipment and facilities; (2) the soundness and level of adequacy of the work plan to meet the problem or opportunity; (3) with regard to the Phase II objectives, the degree to which Phase II has proven soundness of the technical approach; and (4) the degree to which the DOE investment in the project would be justified by the level of proposed research effort.

PIER PLAN

Quality and Efficacy of Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as evidenced by: (1) The suitability of the proposed PIER Plan for the size of the small business concern, proposed project and whether it is integrated into the proposed project, (2) Whether the PIER plan is likely to lead to participation and mentoring of individuals from diverse backgrounds in the proposed project, including individuals historically underrepresented in the research community, (3) Whether the PIER plan includes substantial partnering with, or benefits to, a disadvantaged and/or underrepresented community, and/or (4) Whether the PIER Plan is likely to support a sense of belonging among project personnel. Please refer to [Section VIII.A.](#) of this FOA for guidance on what to include in your Commercialization Plan and Commercialization History.

V.B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

V.B.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: <https://science.osti.gov/grants/policy-and-guidance/merit-review-system/>.

Phase II applications will be subject to a detailed technical evaluation by experts, both inside and outside the Government. The DOE will not fund any application for which there are significant weaknesses identified with respect to any of the three evaluation criteria, as determined by the review process. In addition, because the DOE supports only high-quality research and development, applications will be considered candidates for funding only if they receive the highest rating with respect to at least two of the three criteria. In addition, Phase IIB applications will be considered candidates for funding only if they receive the highest rating for the impact criterion.

V.B.2. Program Policy Factors

The Selection Official will consider the findings of the merit review and may consider any of the Program Policy Factors described above and/or the review of risk described below.

- Ensuring an appropriate balance of activities
- Funds distribution
- Needs of the technical programs
- The applicant's performance under prior DOE SBIR/STTR awards including timely submittal of all reports
- Availability of funds
- Promoting the diversity of institutions receiving awards
- Promoting institutions not previously funded by a DOE SBIR/STTR award

V.B.3. Selection

Each technical program area participating in the SBIR/STTR programs is provided a predetermined target number of applications that they may select for funding. The applications that are considered candidates for funding are ranked in order of the highest quality and strongest program relevance based on the results of the evaluation. Selections are made from this ranked list until the program's SBIR/STTR Phase II budget is exhausted. The Selection Official may also consider program balance of funds distribution, needs of the technical programs, risk reviews, and the applicant's performance under prior DOE SBIR/STTR awards including timely submittal of all reports as Program Policy Factors.

V.B.4. Review of Risk

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.206, DOE will conduct a review of any potential risks posed by the applicant. Such review of risk will include:

- Quality of the application,
- Reports and findings from audits performed under 2 CFR 200 and/or 2 CFR 910, and
- Systems maintained under 2 CFR 180

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.

DOE may incorporate specific award conditions of a programmatic and/or administrative nature

if an applicant exhibits one or more high-risk factors under 2 CFR 200.208.

The result(s) of any pre-award review of risk may supersede the results of merit review under 2 CFR 200.205, preventing DOE from selecting an application for award, reversing a selection for award, or requiring the disengagement of specific personnel. The results of any post-award review of risk may result in requiring the disengagement of specific personnel, the imposition of other requirements, or the termination of an award that “no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities” under 2 CFR 200.340(a)(2). 2 CFR 200.206(c). DOE will share at its discretion the result(s) of any pre- and post-award review of risk with the applicant/recipient; DOE will share its deciding action in response to any result(s) of the review of risk with the applicant/recipient.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 910.128, the results of any pre-award review of risk are not appealable. Any pre- award decision to not select an application for award, reverse a selection for award, or require the disengagement of specific personnel will be made by the Selection Official or SC Program Official. Pursuant to 2 CFR 910.128, the results of any post-award review of risk may be appealable. Any post- award decision to require the disengagement of specific personnel, the imposition of other requirements, or the termination of an award will be made by the Contracting Officer.

DOE may conduct a review, through Government resources, of the applicant and project personnel with a connection to a foreign country. This includes, but is not limited to, (1) performance of work in, (2) travel to, and (3) awardee personnel’s higher education in a foreign Country, as well as (4) partnerships with international collaborators. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the applicant and/or proposed project team members for additional information to inform the review.

Pursuant to the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022, DOE will not make an award under the SBIR or STTR program to a small business concern if DOE has determined that:

- the small business concern submitting the proposal or application
 - has an owner or covered individual that is party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program;
 - has a business entity, parent company, or subsidiary located in the People’s Republic of China or another foreign country of concern; or
 - has an owner or covered individual that has a foreign affiliation with a research institution located in the People’s Republic of China or another foreign country of concern; and
- the relationships and commitments described above
 - interfere with the capacity for activities supported by DOE to be carried out;
 - create duplication with activities supported by DOE;
 - present concerns about conflicts of interest;
 - were not appropriately disclosed to DOE;

- violate Federal law or terms and conditions of DOE; or
- pose a risk to national security.

“Foreign countries of concern” means the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Burma, Eritrea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

“Covered individual” means an individual who contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of a research and development (R&D) project proposed to be carried out with a R&D award from DOE, i.e. senior/key personnel. DOE may further designate covered individuals during award negotiations or the award period of performance.

“Foreign affiliation” means a funded or unfunded academic, professional, or institutional appointment or position with a foreign government or government-owned entity, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary (including adjunct, visiting, or honorary).

“Malign foreign talent recruitment program” has the meaning given such term in section 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (division B of Public Law 117–167)

Further, as DOE invests in critical infrastructure and funds critical and emerging technology areas, DOE also considers possible threats to United States research, technology, and economic security from undue foreign government influence when evaluating risk. If high risks are identified and cannot be sufficiently mitigated, DOE may elect to not fund the applicant. As part of the research, technology, and economic security risk review, DOE may contact the applicant and/or proposed project team members for additional information to inform the review.

V.B.5. 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.

V.C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES

DOE anticipates sending a notice of selection for award negotiations on July 29, 2024, and the anticipated award start date is September 10, 2024 for initial Phase II awards. Applicants for

second or third Phase II awards whose period of performance (without additional extensions) extends beyond September 10, 2024, will have award start dates commensurate with the end of their budget period but no later than September 30, 2024.

Section VI – AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

VI.A. AWARD NOTICES

This FOA is intended for informational purposes and reflects current planning. If there is any inconsistency between the information contained herein and the terms of any resulting SBIR or STTR award, the terms of the award shall control.

VI.A.1. Notice of Selection for Award Negotiation

The SBIR/STTR Programs Office will notify all applicants of the outcomes of award selections via email.

VI.A.2. Notice of Award

An Assistance Agreement issued by the Contracting Officer is the authorizing award document. The initial funding Assistance Agreement normally includes, either as an attachment or by reference: 1. Special Terms and Conditions; 2. General Terms and Conditions for DOE SBIR and STTR awards; 3. Application as approved by DOE; 4. National Policy Assurances to be incorporated as award terms; 5. Budget; 6. Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions; and 7. Regulations at 2 CFR 200 as amended by 2 CFR 910.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at <https://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: <https://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>

NATIONAL POLICY ASSURANCES

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

VI.B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Additional policy provisions applicable to this FOA are included in the list below. Awards made under this FOA are subject to the respective Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

The full text of each provision is in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA and may be accessed by navigating to the hyperlinks below:

1. [Administrative Requirements](#)
2. [Availability of Funds](#)
3. [Audit Requirements](#)
4. [Conference Spending \(February 2015\)](#)
5. [Commitment of Public Funds](#)
6. [Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Representations \(March 2014\)](#)
7. [Cost Sharing](#)
8. [Environmental, Safety and Health \(ES&H\) Performance of Work at DOE Facilities](#)
9. [Evaluation and Administration by Non-Federal Personnel](#)
10. [Federal, State, and Local Requirements](#)
11. [Funding Restrictions](#)
12. [Government Right to Reject or Negotiate](#)
13. [Intellectual property development under this program](#)
14. [Intergovernmental Review](#)
15. [Logos and Wordmarks](#)
16. [Matching Funds](#)
17. [Modifications](#)
18. [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Compliance](#)
19. [Notice Regarding Eligible/Ineligible Activities](#)
20. [Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Representations \(June 2015\)](#)
21. [Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment](#)
22. [Prohibition on Discrimination and Harassment](#)
23. [Prohibition on Lobbying Activity](#)
24. [Prohibition Related to Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Programs](#)
25. [Proprietary Application Information](#)
26. [Publications](#)
27. [Registration Requirements](#)
28. [Subaward and Executive Reporting](#)

VI.C. REPORTING

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions DOE F 4600.2, attached to the SBIR or STTR award agreement. The current version of the checklist will be available at: <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources/Awardee-Documents>. Please review the checklist carefully as requirements have recently changed.

Final technical reports are required for each SBIR or STTR award. DOE will protect final technical reports containing marked SBIR/STTR data from disclosure during the data protection period in accordance with the award terms. The data protection period extends from the date the SBIR/STTR award is issued for a period of 20 years. At the end of the data protection period,

final technical reports will be released to the public to comply with DOE statutory data dissemination requirements [e.g. Atomic Energy Act of 1954, Public Law 83-703; Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, Public Law 93- 438; Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977, Public Law 95-91].

VI.D. REPORTING OF MATTERS RELATED TO RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 2015)

DOE, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (see 41 USC 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.

DOE will consider any written comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

VI.E. STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

Cooperative agreements may be awarded under this FOA. DOE will provide a Statement of Substantial Involvement prior to award, similar to the example provided below.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT (SSI)

The U.S. Department of Energy (hereinafter "DOE") and Awardee enter into a Cooperative Agreement ("Agreement") for the purpose of conducting a two year mutually agreeable research project.

Therefore, in accordance with the Financial Assistance Regulations contained in 2 CFR 200 as amended by DOE's Financial Assistance Regulations at 2 CFR 910, the following statements describe the anticipated substantial involvement between DOE and the Awardee under the Agreement.

Project Involvement

VI.E.1. DOE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Substantial involvement of DOE is required to assure success in meeting the overall objectives of the project.

VI.E.2. RECIPIENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Awardee shall provide all personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies and services, and otherwise do all things necessary for, or incident to, conducting the project. Awardee is responsible for the overall management of the effort necessary for timely and professional execution of the project, and for coordination with other participants and collaborators in conjunction with guidance from the DOE Program Manager.

VI.E.3. TECHNICAL DIRECTION

DOE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DOE may provide technical direction to Awardees as follows: (1) redirect the work effort; (2) shift work emphasis between work areas or tasks; (3) require pursuit of certain lines of inquiry; and/or (4) fill in details or otherwise provide technical guidance to Awardee in order to accomplish the tasks and requirements stated in the financial assistance application incorporated into this Agreement. To be valid, technical direction must be issued in writing. Technical direction may not: (1) constitute an assignment of additional or different work outside the tasks and requirements stated in the financial assistance application incorporated into this Agreement; (2) in any manner cause an increase or decrease in the total estimated project cost or the time required for project performance; (3) change any of the expressed terms and conditions of the Agreement; or (4) accept non-conforming work.

DOE will actively monitor Awardee's project. DOE may actively collaborate with the Awardee.

RECIPIENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Awardee shall proceed promptly with the performance of technical directions duly issued by the DOE Program Manager in the manner described in DOE Roles and Responsibilities, above, and which are within the DOE Program Manager's authority. Awardee shall immediately cease performance of any technical direction upon receipt of a written instruction to that effect from the Grants/Agreements Officer. If, in the opinion of Awardee, any technical direction issued by the DOE Program Manager is not within the authorities defined in DOE Roles and Responsibilities, above, Awardee shall not proceed but shall notify the Grants/Agreements Officer in writing within five working days after the receipt of any such technical direction and shall request the Grants/Agreements Officer to rescind such direction or mutually agree to modify the Agreement accordingly. The Grants/Agreements Officer shall have the authority to

make the final determination with respect to technical direction. If Awardee disputes the determination and cannot informally resolve the dispute with DOE, Awardee shall follow the procedures set forth in 2 CFR 910.128. The only persons authorized to give technical direction to Awardee under this Agreement are the Grants/Agreements Officer and any DOE Program Manager as listed in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement. Any action taken by Awardee in response to any direction given by any person other than the Grants/Agreements Officer or DOE Program Manager shall not be binding upon the Government.

VI.E.4. DURATION OF SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

The substantial involvement by DOE under this Agreement will remain for the term of the Agreement unless otherwise amended. Moreover, this Statement of Substantial Involvement by DOE does not increase DOE's liability under this Agreement.

VI.F. INTERIM CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

VI.F.1. Policy

The DOE interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance (COI Policy) can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/department-energy-interim-conflict-interest-policy-requirements-financial-assistance>. This policy is applicable to all non-Federal entities applying for, or that receive, DOE funding by means of a financial assistance award (e.g., a grant, cooperative agreement, or technology investment agreement) and, through the implementation of this policy by the entity, to each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award. DOE's interim COI Policy establishes standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of projects funded wholly or in part under DOE financial assistance awards will be free from bias resulting from financial conflicts of interest or organizational conflicts of interest. The applicant is subject to the requirements of the interim COI Policy and within each application for financial assistance, the applicant must certify that it is, or will be by the time of receiving any financial assistance award, compliant with all requirements in the interim COI Policy. The applicant must flow down the requirements of the interim COI Policy to any subrecipient non-Federal entities.

Note: An applicant must be aware of a potential conflict of interest in the event its SBIR or STTR application includes a subcontract to a research institution (e.g., National Laboratory, University, etc.) and the applicant's employee(s)/ownership is (are) also an employee(s) of the research institution. In furtherance of DOE's COI Policy, the applicant's application shall include a statement from the research institution's sponsored program office or similar business office, in the event the subcontract is with a University or other research institution, explaining that said office has conducted a conflict review in accordance with its approved conflict procedures. Further, the applicant's application shall include an explanation detailing how it will

exercise both financial and managerial control over the project and how the recipient will isolate the Research Institution employee(s) from influencing control of the project.

VI.F.2. SC Implementation

SC only requires that unmanaged or unmanageable financial conflicts of interest be included in the financial conflict of interest (FCOI) report.

VI.G. RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Research misconduct associated with DOE SBIR/STTR applications or awards may result in criminal, civil, and/or administrative sanctions, including but not limited to: (1) fines, restitution and/or imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. § 1001; (2) treble damages and civil penalties under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.); (3) double damages and civil penalties under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq.); (4) civil recovery of award funds; (5) suspension and/or debarment from all Federal procurement and non-procurement transactions (FAR subpart 9.4 or 2 CFR part 180); and (6) other administrative penalties including termination of SBIR/STTR awards.

Section VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

VII.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 is not allowed to address/answer these questions under any circumstances. Please only contact the Grants.gov help desk for questions related to Grants.gov.

For help with PAMS, click the “PAMS Help” 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, 9:00 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 FOA should reference the FOA number on the cover of this Announcement. 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.

VII.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	DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office, point-of-contact: Carl Hebron at 301-903-5707, sbir-sttr@science.doe.gov

VII.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL HOTLINE

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) maintains a Hotline to facilitate the reporting of allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in DOE programs or operations. If you wish to report such allegations, you may call, send a letter, or email the OIG Hotline ighotline@hq.doe.gov. Allegations may be reported by DOE employees, DOE contractors, or the general public. OIG contact information is available at <https://www.energy.gov/ig/ig-hotline>.

Section VIII – SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

VIII.A. HOW-TO GUIDES

VIII.A.1. How to Submit Letters of Intent

Do not submit an LOI unless an FOA requires or allows their submission.

It is important that the LOI be a single file with extension .pdf, .docx, or .doc. The filename must not exceed 50 characters. The PI and anyone submitting on behalf of the PI must register for an account in PAMS before it will be possible to submit a LOI. **All PIs and those submitting LOIs on behalf of PIs are encouraged to establish PAMS accounts as soon as possible to avoid submission delays.**

Submit Your Letter of Intent:

- Create your LOI 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 Letter of Intent” from the dropdown.
- On the Submit Letter of Intent page, select the institution from which you are submitting this LOI 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 PI per LOI; 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 LOI. Save the LOI for later work by clicking the “Save” button at the bottom of the screen. It will be stored in “My Letters of Intent” for later editing.
- Enter a title for your LOI.
- Enter the award number.

- To upload the LOI 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 LOI to DOE.
- Upon submission, the PI will receive an email from the PAMS system <PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov> acknowledging receipt of the LOI.
- If this FOA requires that LOIs be submitted only by an authorized institutional official, the PI (or the PI’s delegate) will only be able to send the LOI to a user at the PI’s institution with the institutional “submit to DOE” privilege. That user will then apply an institutional countersignature to the LOI when it is sent to DOE.

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

WARNING: The PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov/> will permit you to edit a previously submitted LOI in the time between your submission and the deadline. If you choose to edit, doing so will remove your previously submitted version from consideration. If you are still editing at the time of the deadline, you will not have a valid submission. Please pay attention to the deadline.

Do not attach pre-applications to Field 20 of the SF-424(R&R) form or letters of intent to Field 21 of the SF-424(R&R) form. Doing so will render your application unreadable.

VIII.A.2. How to Register and Submit an Application in Grants.gov

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for applications to SC. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

SC is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. SC requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

HOW TO REGISTER TO APPLY THROUGH GRANTS.GOV

- a. Instructions: Read the instructions below about registering to apply for SC funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information

before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

Organizations must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration which provides a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Grants.gov account to apply for grants. If individual applicants (those submitting on their own behalf) are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity, they need only refer to steps 2 and 3 below.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but SAM registration may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entity's ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Complete organization registration instructions can be found on Grants.gov here:
<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

- 1) *Register with SAM*: All organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>
- 2) *Create a Grants.gov Account*: The next step is to register an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions provided on the registration page.
- 3) *Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account*: A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all of your grant applications. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) for the organization in the UEI field. If you are an individual applicant submitting on your own behalf, you do not need a UEI to add the profile. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>
- 4) *EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles*: After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the organization applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC)². The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include

² Individuals with the EBiz POC role are commonly found in an Office of Sponsored Research or similar institutional business office. Other than small businesses, a PI would usually not have the EBiz POC role.

the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been assigned the AOR role. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:

<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html>

5) *Track Role Status*: To track your role request, refer to:

<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>

- b. **Electronic Signature**: When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC **must** authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role; **this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

HOW TO APPLY TO SC VIA GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each FOA, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:

<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>

- 1) **Create a Workspace**: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- 2) **Complete a Workspace**: Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.
 - a. **Adobe Reader**: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the

appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

- b. **Mandatory Fields in Forms:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
 - c. **Complete SF-424 Fields First:** These forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant's name, address, and SAM UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.
- 3) **Submit a Workspace:** An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package *at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date* to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
 - 4) **Track a Workspace:** After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:

<https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@Grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for funding.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist SC with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

TIMELY RECEIPT REQUIREMENTS AND PROOF OF TIMELY SUBMISSION

Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When SC successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and may not be considered for funding by SC.

Applicants using unreliable internet connections should be aware that the process of completing the Workspace can take some time. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time to prepare and submit the application before the package closing date.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received submission message in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role attempting to submit the application.

If you do not promptly receive an email from Grants.gov with an agency tracking number, indicating receipt of the application by SC, please contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 800-518-4726 (toll-free) or support@Grants.gov immediately. SC will have no records of your attempted submission without the second email from Grants.gov.

VIII.A.3. How to Prepare an Application

APPLICATION PREPARATION

You must submit the application through Grants.gov at <https://www.Grants.gov/>, using either the online webforms or downloaded forms. (Additional instructions are provided in [7., above.](#))

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 software compatibility page at <https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>.

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 PDF files unless otherwise specified in this FOA. 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 the following restrictions that apply to the names of all files attached to your application:

- Please limit file names to 50 or fewer characters
- Do not attach any documents with the same name. All attachments must have a unique name.
- Please use only the following characters when naming your attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, period, parenthesis, curly braces, square brackets, ampersand, tilde, exclamation point, comma, semi colon, apostrophe, at sign, number sign, dollar sign, percent sign, plus sign, and equal sign. Attachments that do not follow this rule may cause the entire application to be rejected or cause issues during processing.

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

For renewal applications only, the PI is required to submit a Renewal Proposal Products section through the PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>. The PI must enter into PAMS each product created during the course of the previous project period. Types of products include publications, intellectual property, technologies or techniques, and other products such as databases or software. As soon as the renewal application is assigned to a DOE Program Manager, the PI will receive an automated email from PAMS (<PAMS.Autoreply@science.doe.gov>) instructing him or her to navigate to the PAMS Task tab to complete and submit the Renewal Proposal Products. The submitted product list will be sent for merit review as part of the application. The application will not be considered complete and cannot be sent for review until the product list has been submitted.

RESUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under this FOA may be withdrawn from consideration by using the PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>. Applications may be withdrawn at any time between when the applicant submits the application and when DOE makes the application available to merit reviewers. Such withdrawals take effect immediately and cannot be reversed. Please exercise due caution. After the application is made available to merit reviewers, the applicant may contact the DOE program office identified in this FOA to request that it be withdrawn.

After an application is withdrawn, it may be resubmitted, if this FOA is still open for the submission of applications. Such resubmissions will only count as one submission if this FOA restricts the number of applications from an applicant.

Note that there may be a delay between the application's submission in Grants.gov and when it is available to be withdrawn in PAMS. SC will usually consider the last submission, according to its Grants.gov timestamp, to be the intended version. Please consult with your program manager to resolve any confusion about which version of an application should be considered.

IMPROPER CONTENTS OF APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted under this FOA will be stored in controlled-access systems, but they may be made publicly available if an award is made. As such, it is critical that applicants follow these guidelines:

- Do not include information that a non-Federal entity may not openly distribute, whether classified, export control, or unclassified controlled nuclear information. Non-Federal entities are not subject to any restrictions on distributing controlled unclassified information (CUI).
- Do not include sensitive and protected personally identifiable information, including social security numbers, birthdates, citizenship, marital status, or home addresses. Pay particular attention to the content of biographical sketches and curriculum vitae.
- Do not include letters of support from Federal officials.
- Do not include letters of support on Federal letterhead. Letters that are not letters of support (such as letters confirming access to sites, facilities, equipment, or data; or letters from cognizant Contracting Officers) may be on Federal letterhead.
- Clearly mark all proprietary or trade-secret information.
- Applicants should not include the DOE logo or seal in their applications. Use of the DOE logo and seal require permission of DOE as discussed on the DOE website: <https://energy.gov/management/office-management/employee-services/graphics/doe-logo-seal-and-word-mark>.

VIII.A.4. How to Prepare a Biographical Sketch

A biographical sketch is to provide information that can be used by reviewers to evaluate the PI's potential for leadership within the scientific community. Examples of information of interest are invited and/or public lectures, awards received, scientific program committees, conference or workshop organization, professional society activities, special international or industrial partnerships, reviewing or editorship activities, or other scientific leadership experiences.

SC requires the use of the format approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which may be generated by the Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENCv), a cooperative venture maintained at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>. The fillable PDFs provided by the National Science Foundation are no longer available. If an interagency common format for a biographical sketch has been promulgated, that format must be used in an application. The use of a format required by another agency is intended to reduce the administrative burden to researchers by promoting the use of common formats.

The biographical information (curriculum vitae) must include the following items within its page limit:

- **Education and Training:** Undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral training, provide institution, major/area, degree and year.
- **Research and Professional Experience:** Beginning with the current position, list professional/academic positions in chronological order with a brief description. List all

current academic, professional or institutional appointments, foreign or domestic, at the applicant institution or elsewhere, whether remuneration is received, and, whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary.

- **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. An abbreviated style such as the Physical Review Letters (PRL) convention for citations (list only the first author) may be used for publications with more than 10 authors.
- **Synergistic Activities:** List no more than five professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

Requested information may be appended to a biographical sketch, whether produced from a fillable PDF or in SciENcv.

Do not attach a listing of individuals who should not be used as merit reviewers: This information is no longer collected as part of a biographical sketch.

SC strongly recommends the use of SciENcv to reduce administrative burden by allowing the use of digital persistent identifiers, including the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID). Biographical sketches must be attached to the Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form in an application.

Personally Identifiable Information: Do not include sensitive and protected personally identifiable information including social security numbers, birthdates, citizenship, marital status, or home addresses. Do not include information that a merit reviewer should not make use of.

VIII.A.5. How to Prepare Current and Pending Support

<p>WARNING: These instructions have been significantly revised to require disclosure of a variety of potential conflicts of interest or commitment, including participation in foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs.</p>

Current and Pending support is intended to allow the identification of potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support. The PI and each senior/key person, graduate student and post-doctoral associate, at the prime applicant and any proposed subaward must provide a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether paid or unpaid; provided as a gift with terms or conditions or provided as a gift without terms or conditions; full-time, part-time, or voluntary; faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary; cash or in-kind; foreign or domestic; governmental or private-sector; directly supporting the individual's research or indirectly supporting the individual by supporting

students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses. Include the current application and any application submitted to any source of funding in a list of current and pending support. All sources of support must be disclosed, but for work that is subject to government classification or enforceable non-disclosure agreements, the general area of the research should be described without disclosing sensitive details and the sponsor should be listed as “Government Agency” or “private sponsor.” All foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs must be identified in current and pending support.

SC requires the use of the format approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which may be generated by the Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENCv), a cooperative venture maintained at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>. The fillable PDFs provided by the National Science Foundation are no longer available. If an interagency common format for current and pending support has been promulgated, that format must be used in an application. The use of a format required by another agency is intended to reduce the administrative burden to researchers by promoting the use of common formats.

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. If the title of the award or activity is not descriptive, add a brief description of the research being performed that would identify any overlaps or synergies with the proposed research.
- 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 award period (start date – end date).
- The person-months of effort per year being dedicated to the award or activity.

If required to identify overlap, duplication of effort, or synergistic efforts, append a description of the other award or activity to the current and pending support.

Requested information may be appended to current and pending support, whether produced from a fillable PDF or in SciENCv.

SC strongly recommends the use of SciENCv to reduce administrative burden by allowing the use of digital persistent identifiers, including the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID). Current and pending support must be attached to the Research and Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) form in an application.

Details of any obligations, contractual or otherwise, to any program, entity, or organization sponsored by a foreign government must be provided on request to either the applicant institution or DOE.

VIII.A.6. How to Prepare an Option 2 Data Management Plan

In general, a DMP should address 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 below). 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 digitally 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 in the SC Statement on Digital Data Management (<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Digital-Data-Management>). 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 this 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 SC User Facilities, researchers should consult the published description of data management resources and practices at that facility and reference it in the DMP.
4. DMPs must protect confidentiality, personal privacy, sensitive and protected 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 and regulations. There is no requirement to share proprietary data.

ADDITIONAL DMP GUIDANCE

- In determining which data should be shared and preserved, researchers must consider the data needed to validate research findings as described in the Requirements noted above, and are encouraged to consider the potential benefits of their data to their own fields of research, fields other than their own, and society at large.

- DMPs should reflect relevant standards and community best practices for data and metadata, and make use of community accepted repositories whenever practicable.
- Costs associated with the scope of work and resources articulated in a DMP may be included in the proposed research budget as permitted by the applicable cost principles.
- To improve the discoverability of and attribution for datasets created and used in the course of research, the applicant is encouraged to cite publicly available datasets within the reference section of publications, and the identification of datasets with persistent identifiers such as Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). In most cases, the SC can provide DOIs free of charge for data resulting from DOE-funded research through its Office of Science and Technical Information (OSTI) Data ID Service.
- The following list of elements for a DMP provides suggestions regarding the data management planning process and the structure of the DMP:
 - Data Types and Sources. A brief, high-level description of the data to be generated or used through the course of the proposed research and which of these are considered digital research data necessary to validate the research findings.
 - Content and Format. A statement of plans for data and metadata content and format including, where applicable, a description of documentation plans, annotation of relevant software, and the rationale for the selection of appropriate standards. (Existing, accepted community standards should be used where possible. Where community standards are missing or inadequate, the DMP could propose alternate strategies that facilitate sharing, and should advise the sponsoring program of any need to develop or generalize standards.)
 - [Sharing](#) and Preservation. A description of the plans for data sharing and preservation. This should include, when appropriate:
 - the anticipated means for sharing and the rationale for any restrictions on who may access the data and under what conditions;
 - a timeline for sharing and preservation that addresses both the minimum length of time the data will be available and any anticipated delay to data access after research findings are published;
 - any special requirements for data sharing, for example, proprietary software needed to access or interpret data, applicable policies, provisions, and licenses for re-use and re-distribution, and for the production of derivatives, including guidance for how data and data products should be cited;
 - any resources and capabilities (equipment, connections, systems, software, expertise, etc.) requested in the research proposal that are needed to meet the stated goals for sharing and preservation. (This could reference the relevant section of the associated research proposal and budget request);
 - cost/benefit considerations to support whether/where the data will be preserved after direct project funding ends and any plans for the transfer of responsibilities for sharing and preservation;
 - whether, when, or under what conditions the management responsibility for the research data will be transferred to a third party (e.g. institutional, or community

- repository);
 - any other future decision points regarding the management of the research data including plans to reevaluate the costs and benefits of data sharing and preservation.
- Protection. A statement of plans, where appropriate and necessary, to protect confidentiality, personal privacy, sensitive and protected [personally identifiable information](#), and U.S. national, homeland, and economic security; recognize proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights; and avoid significant negative impact on innovation, and U.S. competitiveness.
- Rationale. A discussion of the rationale or justification for the proposed data management plan including, for example, the potential impact of the data within the immediate field and in other fields, and any broader societal impact.

VIII.A.7. How to Prepare a Research and Related Budget and Justification

The following advice will improve the accuracy of your budget request:

- Funds requested for personnel (senior, key, and other) must be justified as the product of their effort on the project and their institutional base salary.
- Funds requested for fringe benefits must be calculated as the product of the requested salary and, if present, the negotiated fringe benefit rate contained in an institution's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.
- Funds requested for indirect costs must be calculated using the correct indirect cost base and the negotiated indirect cost rate.
- You are encouraged to include the rate agreement used in preparing a budget as a part of the budget justification.
- Do not prepare a budget justification using the expired DOE form F4260.1.

If you are proposing indirect costs and do not already have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with your Cognizant Federal Agency or documentation of rates accepted for estimating purposes by DOE or another Federal agency, it is recommended that you begin preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to be submitted, upon request, to the DOE contract specialist/grants management specialist who will evaluate your application if you are selected for award.

For your convenience in preparing an Indirect Cost Rate proposal, a link to applicant resources, including indirect rate model templates, has been provided below:

<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/applicant-resources/grant-application/>.

Initial Phase II applicants may request funding of up to \$1,100,000 (or up to \$1,600,000 if designated in the Phase I topic header) for up to 24 months over two budget periods. Phase IIA, IIB, or IIC applicants may request up to \$1,100,000. The first budget period should cover a period of 12 months. Funding for the second budget period will be contingent on the demonstration of adequate progress, evaluation of programmatic priorities, availability of funds and compliance with the terms and conditions of the award. The amount budgeted for the first

12-month budget period should not exceed 50% of the total budget. If an applicant requires more than 50% of the total budget during the first 12-month budget period, a thorough explanation is required in the budget justification, and is subject to DOE approval.

Cost sharing or matching funds are not to be included in the Research and Related Budget form. The amount and planned use of these funds can be described in the technical narrative.

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form 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 as allowable under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this FOA (See [Section II.C.](#) Maximum and Minimum Award Size). Note, however, that foreign travel and participant/trainee costs are typically considered unallowable costs unless approved by the DOE Contracting Officer.

Round all funds to the nearest dollar across all budget documents including the budget justification. The dollar amounts in the budget justification must match the amounts found on the Research and Related Budget form. The Research and Related Budget form is only to be used for funding requested from DOE.

TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE (FORMERLY COMMERCIALIZATION ASSISTANCE)
(SECTION F, FIELD 3, CONSULTANT SERVICES) [OPTIONAL]

In accordance with Sec. 854 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for 2019, Pub.L. 115-232, DOE is able to fund discretionary TABA to all DOE SBIR and STTR Phase II awardees. Recipients must identify their own TABA providers in their application in order to receive TABA. Unlike Phase I, there are no services provided by a DOE TABA vendor

To wish to use TABA services, you are required to include this as one or more subcontracts or consultants in your budget and to provide a detailed budget justification. You may include up to \$50,000 per project. The total amount of Phase II assistance that a company may receive during a fiscal year is subject to Small Business Administration policy per the statute. Please note that TABA does not count toward the maximum award size listed in [Section II.C.](#); e.g., seeking TABA from your provider could result in a maximum award in the amount of \$1,150,000 for topics that specify a maximum award amount of \$1,100,000. You may propose services in the following areas:

- product sales
- intellectual property protections
- Patent prosecution costs related to obtaining United States patent protection for subject

inventions of this award may be budgeted under TABA. All subject inventions must be properly reported through the iEdison system at <https://www.nist.gov/iedison> as described in the award terms. For assistance with iEdison, please contact iedison@nist.gov. If you have any questions regarding the patent and data provisions of your agreement, please contact (630) 283-7117 or Chicago-IP@science.doe.gov. Patent prosecution costs include attorney fees and United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) fees. United States patent protection includes filings with the USPTO related to provisional, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), non-provisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part patent applications. Patent prosecution costs related to foreign patent protection (e.g. foreign attorney, foreign patent office or translation fees) are unallowable.

- market research
- market validation
- development of certifications and regulatory plans
- development of manufacturing plans

Services are defined as acts of assistance in which no goods are exchanged. In some situations, incidental goods, such a report on the services provided, are exchanged. The following examples are provided for clarification:

- market research: Conducting market research in the planned area of commercialization is a service, and a report describing the finding is typically provided.
- advertising: Developing an advertising strategy or designing advertising campaign materials are services. Paying to place ads or print brochures would not be considered a service.
- website development: Developing website content is a service.

Third party vendors or a federal entity issuing patents, certifications or regulatory approvals, must be used when spending TABA funds. Vendor(s) may not be the SBIR/STTR applicant or awardee or its research partner or a research institution performing part of the research and development portion of the award.

In the event some or the entire amount listed is not expended on TABA services, the remaining funds cannot be re-budgeted to other project costs. Re-budgeting of these funds to other project costs is not allowable.

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
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	need for requested personnel. Within the justification, explain the fringe benefit rate used if it is not the standard faculty rate.
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. Within the justification, provide the number of positions being filled in each category of other 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, unless a different threshold is specified in a negotiated Facilities and Administrative Cost Rate. (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. Within the budget justification, detail the number of personnel planning to travel and the estimated per-traveler cost for each trip.
Section E Participant/Trainee Support Costs	If applicable, submit training support costs. Educational projects that intend to support trainees (precollege, college, graduate and postgraduate) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Cloud computing costs must be included under this item. 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

	<p>experience of similar items, or some other basis).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, including the rates and bases being used, 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. Within the budget justification, explain the use of multiple rates, if multiple rates are used.
Section I Total Direct and Indirect Costs	This is the total of Sections G and H.

Provide supporting information for all proposed costs. Personnel justification must include a brief justification explaining the need for individual personnel and also the total hours and hourly rates for each individual. Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in Field K. A budget justification template may be found here:

<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>. The file automatically carries over to each budget year. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request including, but not limited to, any recent audits, clearly defined indirect cost rate bases, and voluntary reductions of indirect rates. If your organization has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement in effect with your Cognizant Federal Agency [Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), etc.] supporting the indirect rate(s) proposed and dated within one year of your anticipated award start date, then please provide this information with your application. Although there is no absolute cap on indirect costs, applications will be evaluated for overall economy and value to DOE.

If you are selected for an award, additional budget explanation will most likely be required.

All proposed purchases of equipment will be carefully reviewed relative to need and appropriateness for the research or R&D proposed.

Travel funds must be justified and related to the needs of the project, as in travel to DOE

Headquarters to meet with DOE program managers. Travel expenses for technical conferences are not permitted unless the purpose of attending the conference directly relates to the project (e.g., to present results of the project). Foreign travel is not normally an appropriate expense. Funds to cover travel expenses outside of the United States are considered an unallowable direct cost unless concurrence has been obtained by the DOE Program Manager and unless written approval has been obtained from the DOE Contracting Officer.

Tuition expenses are allowable only if requested from a subcontractor that is a university and the amount requested for tuition is reasonable and comparable to what a student would be paid for performing research during the award performance period.

Awards may include a profit or fee for the applicant. Fees are subject to negotiation and shall not exceed 7% of the total award amount. Profit or fee is not “program income” and shall not be included in field 15.d. of the SF 424 (R&R) application. The fee applies solely to the small business concern receiving the award and for-profit R&D subcontractors participating in the project. In addition, the awardee may pay a profit/fee to a contractor providing routine goods or non-R&D services in accordance with normal commercial practice.

Any commercial and/or in-kind contribution to the project should be reflected in the project narrative and not included on the budget pages.

Round all funds to the nearest dollar across all budget documents including the budget justification. The dollar amounts in the budget justification must match the amounts found on the Research and Related Budget form. Cost sharing or matching funds provided by the small business or third parties shall not be included on the Research and Related Budget Form—this form should only include funds being requested from DOE. Cost sharing or matching funds can be included in the budget justification and must be clearly marked as cost sharing or matching funds.

Complete the Level-of-Effort worksheet located at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>. If the Microsoft Excel version is used, it must be converted to PDF before it is attached to the application in Field 12 – Research & Related Other Project Information.

VIII.A.8. How to Prepare a Commercialization Plan

Your Commercialization Plan narrative **must not exceed a page limit of 15 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5-inch x 11-inch) paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The body text font of all main text must not be smaller than 11 point. Reviewers will only consider the number of pages specified in the first sentence of this paragraph. This page limit does not include return on investment and net present value worksheets, pro forma

worksheet, and Letters of Support, which must be appended to the commercialization plan narrative. Your Commercialization Plan must be uploaded to field 8 as a single document. This information will be evaluated and considered part of the score for the “Impact” criterion discussed in [Section V](#). Phase IIC applicants must submit an updated Commercialization Plan.

DOE recognizes that each innovation requires a varied strategy to generate returns on invested capital and that no two businesses are exactly alike. Therefore, DOE supports a broad array of commercialization strategies. Each strategy requires varied emphasis on the parts of the plan depending on your innovation and the market landscape. For instance, the strategy and mechanisms for leveraging and protecting intellectual property (IP) vary according to industry and innovation.

The Commercialization Plan is your roadmap for the future and should convey how you plan to generate profits from your innovation. It should represent a compelling vision that describes a unique business opportunity that could be addressed with continued support from Phase II funding. The depth and quality of the analysis within your Commercialization Plan is a critical element of the DOE SBIR/STTR application review.

Please Note: All assumptions and estimates provided should be clearly stated as such and evidence of validation should be provided in a footnote. Where you provide numerical data (e.g. market size, price, etc.) or data about customer needs, market forces, barriers to entry and the like, you should indicate the source of the data using footnotes. Market research reports, articles by experts in trade publications or professional journals, interviews, focus groups, surveys, are among commonly used sources of data.

The following four sections must be addressed in your Commercialization Plan using a narrative format. Do not submit your Commercialization Plan in a question and answer format:

1. Market Opportunity

- a) Describe succinctly what product or service you are planning to deliver based on your innovation.
 - Identify your target customer(s) providing generally known examples.
 - Describe the critical needs that your product or service will fulfill for your customer(s) (i.e. these can be current or emerging).
 - How does the target customer(s) currently meet the need that you are addressing and what do they pay to meet the need?
 - What is/are your customer(s) willing to pay for your product or service? How have you validated this assumption?
 - What features of your product or service will allow you to provide a compelling value proposition? How have you validated the significance of these features? State the value proposition for your product or service.
- b) Address Market Opportunity

- What is the current size of the broad market you plan to enter? How large is your “niche” market opportunity, in terms of either numbers of customers or revenues? (If you use number of customers, estimate revenues based on the anticipated selling price of your product or service.)
 - Is the target market domestic, international, or both?
 - What are the growth trends for the market and the key market drivers that will affect whether customers will buy your product or service?
 - What barriers to entry exist in this market which will inhibit sales of your product or service?
- c) Describe the channels you would employ to reach the targeted customer.
- d) What business model will you adopt to generate revenue from your innovation?
- Will you make and sell? License? Form a strategic alliance with a company already in the industry? Use a different model?
 - Explain why this model makes sense for the market opportunity described.
- e) If there are potential societal, educational, or scientific benefits beyond commercial considerations that will generate goodwill for your company or the product or service, they should be included here and explained in sufficient detail to convey the significance of the effort.
2. Company/Team
- a) Provide a short description of the origins of the company.
- b) What type of corporate structure is in place?
- c) What is the current capitalization and is it sufficient for implementing your Commercialization Plan?
- d) What is the revenue history for the past three years? What is your anticipated revenue history through Phase II? Provide a table with percentages or sums of operating capital or revenue: product sales, consulting/services, license revenues, research and development grants/contracts, and others.
- e) What is the current employee count?
- f) Give a brief description of the experience and credentials of the personnel responsible for taking the innovation to market and clarify how the background and experience of the team enhance the credibility of the Commercialization Plan.
- g) What specific experience does the team lack and how will this be addressed during the Phase II effort and beyond? From what additional resources do you have commitments to address these limitations e.g., Board of Directors, technical advisors, or retained legal counsel? Please provide details on names, affiliations, and expertise of these resources.
3. Competition/Intellectual Property
- a) Describe currently existing products or services that are found in the patent literature (and if relevant, copyright and trademark literature) or that is emerging from research or R&D which may be substitutes for your product or service.
- How does your product or service match up to these substitutes in terms of the needs customers are seeking to meet?

- Who is developing, making, and selling those products or services and what do you anticipate the competitive landscape to look like when you get to market?
- b) Describe IP rights you have secured for your technology to date and if any procedures are underway to expand or enhance the protection provided by those rights. Please describe your actions to protect these rights.
 - c) Describe which IP is closest and which is most threatening to your “freedom to operate” and how you are different enough to be able to secure your freedom to operate.
 - d) What other IP will you need to secure rights to make, use, or sell in order to address the market opportunity described above?
4. Finance and Revenue Model
- a) Describe an appropriate staged finance plan given the market opportunity. Outline the level of funding required for each stage along the path to commercialization.
 - What are your costs to complete research and development, product, and production development/design/engineering, and to produce the product or service?
 - What are the costs required to implement your commercialization strategy?
 - How will you access the appropriate funds?
 - b) Provide a table with anticipated costs identifying the anticipated source of each detailing revenues or other operating capital you can devote to these. If there is a shortfall, explain how you will raise or access the appropriate funds. If no additional cash is needed explain why you are confident that is the case.
 - c) Provide specific contacts, leads, previous relationships, and agreements already in place. Are any other commitments in place which will affect your ability to raise Phase III follow-on funding?
 - d) Provide an estimate of the DOE Return on Investment (ROI) or Net Present Value (NPV) for this project. A template for estimating ROI is provided at the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office web site at <http://science.energy.gov/sbir/applicant-and-awardee-resources/>. This estimate should incorporate the profit before taxes (positive cash flow) for the first 10 years of commercialization and treat the DOE SBIR or STTR funding as an investment (negative cash flow). Describe the revenue streams (licensing, product sales or other) associated with your Commercialization Plan. When do you anticipate “first revenues” from each stream? When do you expect to reach “break even”? To help project NPV, please refer to following worksheets on the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office web site at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Grant-Application>.
 - e) Provide annual pro formas for the next five years (two years of the Phase II effort + three years post Phase II). Income Statements are required. Cash Flow and Balance Sheets may be included if they are considered critical for your strategy. If not included, Cash Flow and Balance Sheets should be made available, upon request from DOE.

Please Note: You must indicate the assumptions and estimates being made in this part of your application and clearly state the source of the data you have used to validate these assumptions or as a basis for making assumptions or estimates. You must also indicate the source for any numerical or other hard data provided, such as market size, price, market drivers, and barriers to

entry. Evaluate the competitive advantages of this technology vs. alternate technologies that can meet similar market needs.

VIII.A.9. How to Register in 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 SC. 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 LOI.

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.

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 SC 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.

For help with PAMS, click the “PAMS Help” 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 FOA should reference the FOA number printed on the cover page.

VIII.A.10. How to View Applications in PAMS

Each Grants.gov application submitted to the DOE 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 PI (Block 14), Authorized Representative (Block 19), and Point of Contact (Block 5). In PAMS notation, applications are known as proposals, the PI 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 SC 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.

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 SC 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.

VIII.A.11. How to Register in Other Systems Before Submitting an Application

SYSTEMS TO REGISTER IN

Applicants must complete a series of registrations and enrollments to submit applications in response to this FOA. Applicants not currently registered with SAM and Grants.gov should allow **at least four weeks** to complete these requirements. Applicants refers to the legal entity submitting an application: This is usually a corporate entity, not an individual investigator.

You should start the process as soon as possible.

You may not be able to use your preferred Internet browser: Each system has its own requirements.

Applicants must register with SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/> and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Assistance is available at <https://sam.gov/content/help>.

Applicants must provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to complete their registration in www.SAM.gov. An applicant's TIN is an 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 <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process, they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue.

Do not use a SSN as a TIN.
Obtain a TIN from the 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.fhrs.gov>. This registration must be completed before an award may be made: you are advised to register while preparing your application.

REGISTERING IN GRANTS.GOV

Applicants must register with Grants.gov, following the instructions at <https://www.Grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html> and described above.

WHERE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

You must submit the application through Grants.gov at www.Grants.gov, using either the online webforms or downloaded forms, or a system-to-system service

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.

DOE SC PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PAMS)

Applicants must register in the Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS) to submit letters of intent and pre-applications, to view merit reviewer comments, or to take a number of post-award actions.

VIII.A.12. How to Request a Diversity Supplement

Only DOE SBIR and STTR awardees that received a Phase II award under this FOA are eligible to apply for a diversity supplement to be effective in the summer months of their Phase II second year project period as outlined below.

PURPOSE

The purpose of a Phase II supplement is to improve the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting undergraduate and graduate students from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in federal SBIR/STTR research programs.

One of the Congressional findings and purposes of Section 9 of the Small Business Act is to foster and encourage participation by minority and disadvantaged persons in technological innovation, and this Congressional finding and purpose is identified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a specific program purpose of SBIR/STTR, to foster and encourage participation by socially and economically disadvantaged SBCs (SDBs), and by women-owned SBCs (WOSBs), in technological innovation. Fostering diversity by encouraging the participation of individuals from nationally underrepresented groups in the scientific research workforce is also a key component of the DOE SBIR/STTR outreach strategy to identify, develop, support, and maintain the quality of its scientific workforce. Scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds and life experiences bring different perspectives, creativity, and individual enterprise to address complex scientific problems. This diversity supplement is designed to provide support for research and entrepreneurial experiences for individuals from the identified groups throughout the continuum from undergraduate to the graduate level. Continuation of this program in the future will depend on evaluation of the career outcomes of the supported individuals as well as continuing assessments of the diversity of the small business programs by the SBA and the National Academies.

In all cases, the proposed research experience must be an integral part of the approved ongoing research of the eligible DOE Phase II award and must have the potential to contribute to the research and entrepreneurial career development of the candidates.

CANDIDATES

SBCs are encouraged to identify women, individuals from nationally underrepresented groups, individuals with a commitment to diversifying the science and engineering workforce, and/or individuals meeting the SBA definition of socially and economically disadvantaged at 13 CFR §124.103 and 13 CFR § 124.104. Only one diversity supplement application may be submitted for each Phase II award.

Members of designated underrepresented groups include:

- Black Americans;
- Hispanic Americans;
- Native Americans (Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, or enrolled members of a Federally or State recognized Indian Tribe);
- Asian Pacific Americans (persons with origins from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, China (including Hong Kong), Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Vietnam, Korea, The Philippines, U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Samoa, Macao, Fiji, Tonga,
- Kiribati, Tuvalu, or Nauru); and
- Subcontinent Asian Americans (persons with origins from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands or Nepal)

An economically disadvantaged individual candidate for a diversity supplement must have:

- a net worth less than \$850,000 (not including his or her primary residence and the value of the individual's ownership interest in a socially and economically disadvantaged SBC, if any),
- an average adjusted gross income of \$400,000 or less for the preceding three years, and
- the fair market value of all his or her assets (including his or her primary residence and the value of the individual's ownership interest in a socially and economically disadvantaged SBC, if any) does not exceed \$6,500,000.

Please review 13 CFR 124.103 and 13 CFR 124.104 for more information and for exclusions from the threshold amounts. For purposes of the diversity supplement, the definitions above apply to the individual candidates not the SBC Phase II awardee applying for the supplement.

Undergraduate Students: As part of this supplement program, undergraduate students who are enrolled in a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) undergraduate degree program may participate in a Phase II research project during the summer months. This experience is separate from any requirement of the regular academic program. Any eligible undergraduate student interested in STEM research and entrepreneurship is encouraged to participate in this program.

Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Holders: This supplement will provide opportunities for

baccalaureate or master's STEM degree holders. Students who plan to attend engineering and professional schools are encouraged to use this program to gain research and entrepreneurial experience.

Graduate Students: The objective of this program is to support graduate students in STEM fields who wish to develop their research and entrepreneurial capabilities.

The duration of the program is normally 10 weeks.

This supplement program is limited to citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions for their diversity supplement request. Conformance to documented requirements is required and strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review. Please visit the DOE Office of SBIR/STTR Programs website for the required budget forms documentation, under "Awardee Resources" at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources>.

SALARY, BUDGET, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All DOE diversity supplements are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the DOE SBIR/STTR Specific Terms and Conditions that accompany every Phase II award. Application budgets are limited to no more than \$20,000 and must reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. DOE will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed Phase II research. The request of up to \$20,000 for a ten-week internship will supplement and may exceed the maximum Phase II topic award amount. This program does not require cost sharing.

Undergraduate Students: The salary for an undergraduate student should be consistent with SBC salary policies. Rates for undergraduate salary that exceed \$20 per hour must be justified. An additional amount of \$3,000 per year for supplies and travel may also be requested. (PLEASE NOTE: The aforementioned \$3,000 additional amount is part of the \$20,000 maximum diversity supplement amount, and is not beyond the \$20,000 amount.) Students are expected to devote the equivalent of at least 10 weeks of full-time effort to the research project and related activities in a one-year period. Exceptions to these requirements will be considered, depending on the circumstances of the specific request.

Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Holders: The salary for baccalaureate and master's degree holders should be reasonable and consistent with the SBC salary policies and cannot exceed the compensation allowed for graduate students. Additional funds up to \$3,000 per year may be

requested for supplies and travel.

Graduate (Predoctoral) Students: The DOE will provide salary support in addition to other necessary expenses, such as supplies and travel, to enable the individual to participate as a graduate research assistant in a funded research project. DOE will provide compensation that (1) conforms to the established, consistently applied salary and wage policies of the SBC and (2) reflects the percentage of time devoted to the DOE-funded project. Additional funds up to \$3,000 per year may be requested for supplies and travel.

A limited number of mentoring hours by a key member of the SBC's technical staff is permitted in the budget with justification.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The diversity supplements are not peer reviewed. All diversity supplement requests will undergo an administrative evaluation and approval process by a DOE program manager.

DOE program managers will review requests for supplements to determine merit with respect to overall impact on diversity and entrepreneurship. Following program manager review and selection of Phase II diversity applications, you will be notified that your diversity supplement application was selected for negotiation and award. The DOE Contracting Officer will subsequently approve the funding of the diversity supplement through the issuance of a modification to the Phase II award, as appropriate. Please note, when submitting a request for a diversity supplement, you must submit a candidate, by name, as well. The DOE will not accept "To-Be-Determined" applications or those without a named candidate.

Only the administrative review criteria described below will be considered in the supplemental review process:

- The strength of the description of how this particular appointment will promote diversity in small business, particularly with regards to entrepreneurship.
- Evidence that the candidate will receive research and entrepreneurial career mentoring.
- Evidence that the proposed experience will expand and foster the research and entrepreneurial capabilities, knowledge, and/or skills of the candidate.
- The qualifications of the candidate including career goals, prior research training, research potential, and any relevant experience.
- Evidence that the activities of the candidate will be an integral part of the project.
- The plan and timeline for the proposed research and career development experiences in the supplemental request and its relationship to the Phase II award.

HOW TO REQUEST A DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENT

The request for an administrative diversity supplement must be submitted by the Phase II awardee in an email to the DOE Office of SBIR/STTR Programs email address at [sbir-](#)

sttr@science.doe.gov no later than December 5, 2025. You will be notified of final DOE selections by mid-January 2026.

In the event that the selected candidate declines the appointment after the diversity supplement application is either submitted or approved, a replacement candidate may be proposed. The small business should submit a revised diversity supplement application to the Program Manager for approval and cc sbir-sttr@science.doe.gov.

The Phase II Business Official and Principal Investigator from the award must be included on the email and the email must follow the following requirements and documentation. Please visit the DOE Office of SBIR/STTR Programs website at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources> for document templates.

- Subject Line: Diversity Supplement Request for DOE Award # [Award Number]
- Pdf Attachment: (Please refer to the DOE Office of SBIR/STTR Programs website at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources> for the acceptable template to be saved as one .pdf attachment). The attachment will constitute the diversity supplement application and include:
 - A header with Award Number, Company Name, Business Official Name, and PI Name.
 - Candidate's full name
 - Address of Primary Site where the proposed supplement activities will be performed. The supplemental activities must principally take place at the small business. Applications that request supplemental funding for activities that occur principally at a subrecipient location will be declined. If a portion of the proposed supplement activities will be performed at any other sites, identify all locations.
 - Diversity Justification: Address the six (6) review criteria listed above in two (2) pages or fewer and provide evidence to support a focus on the enhancement of the research and entrepreneurial capability of the underrepresented intern and how that experience is intended to provide opportunities for development as a productive researcher or future small business leader.
 - Research Plan: In one (1) page, please include a research and mentoring plan for the candidate intern to interact with other individuals on the Phase II award, to contribute intellectually to the research, and to enhance his/her research skills and knowledge regarding the selected area of R&D along with business and entrepreneurship.
 - Using the budget forms provided on the website (<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources>), please provide a budget and a separate abbreviated budget justification showing the amount requested and how the funds will be used.
 - Intern Biographical Sketch and/or resume (should not exceed 1 page) that includes:
 - Evidence of STEM achievement and entrepreneurial interest
 - Any source(s) of current funding
 - A statement from the candidate outlining his/her research objectives and career goals

REPORTING

Reporting requirements will be specified in the terms and conditions of award as applicable to the supplemental activities.

VIII.B. POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

VIII.B.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 Regulations).

VIII.B.2. 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.

VIII.B.3. Audit Requirements

Under 2 CFR 910.501, a for-profit recipient that expends \$750,000 or more in a year (including any pre- award costs) under DOE Financial Assistance awards must have an audit made for that year by an independent auditor (regardless of when the expenditures are presented to DOE for reimbursement). In determining whether the \$750,000 threshold is met, recipients should assess the amount of DOE funds expended under the award and shall not include any cost-sharing amounts.

VIII.B.4. 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.

VIII.B.5. 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.

VIII.B.6. 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.

VIII.B.7. Cost Sharing

For this FOA, cost sharing is defined as contributions made by the applicant to the proposed research and development project described in the technical narrative. Cost sharing is not required. However, any commercial contributions will be considered as part of the evaluation. See [Section IV.D.](#), Phase II Funding Commitment (Commercial Contribution) [OPTIONAL for Phase II, Phase IIA, or Phase IIB; MANDATORY for Phase IIC] and Phase III Follow-On Funding Commitment [OPTIONAL] and the review criteria in [Section V.A.](#), Criteria.

VIII.B.8. 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.

Prior to the performance on any work at a DOE-Owned or controlled site, the recipient shall contact the site facility manager for information on DOE and site specific ES&H requirements.

The recipient shall apply this provision to all subrecipients at any tier.

VIII.B.9. 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 and non-disclosure agreements prior to reviewing an application. Personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Data contained in successful and unsuccessful applications may be used by the Government for completing studies required by §9 of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. §638, as amended. The results of these studies will be available to the public, but will not include information that identifies individual small business applicants.

VIII.B.10. Federal, State, and Local Requirements

With respect to the performance of any portion of the work under this award, the recipient agrees to comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal ES&H regulations. The recipient shall apply this provision to all subrecipients at any tier.

VIII.B.11. Funding Restrictions

Funds will be allocated over the two budget periods. Funding for the 2nd budget period will be contingent on the demonstration of adequate progress, evaluation of programmatic priorities, availability of funds and compliance with the terms and conditions of the award.

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.

VIII.B.12. 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.

VIII.B.13. Intellectual property development under this program

U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

A primary objective of DOE's multi-billion-dollar research, development and demonstration investments is to cultivate new research and development ecosystems, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chains for and by U.S. industry and labor. Therefore, in exchange for receiving taxpayer dollars to support an applicant's project, the applicant must agree to the following U.S. Competitiveness Provision as part of an award under this FOA.

U. S. COMPETITIVENESS

The Recipient agrees that any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the Contractor can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible. In the event DOE agrees to foreign manufacture, there will be a requirement that the Government's support of the technology be recognized in some appropriate manner, e.g., alternative binding commitments to provide an overall net benefit to the U.S. economy. The Contractor agrees that it will not license, assign or otherwise transfer any subject invention to any entity, at any tier, unless that entity agrees to these same requirements. Should the Contractor or other such entity receiving rights in the invention(s): (1) undergo a change in ownership amounting to a controlling interest, or (2) sell, assign, or otherwise transfer title or exclusive rights in the invention(s), then the assignment, license, or other transfer of rights in the subject invention(s) is/are suspended until approved in writing by DOE. The Contractor and any successor assignee will convey to DOE, upon written request from DOE, title to any subject invention, upon a breach of this paragraph. The Contractor will include this paragraph in all subawards/contracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental or research work.

A subject invention is any invention conceived or first actually reduced in performance of work under an award. An invention is any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable. The contractor includes any awardee, recipient, sub-awardee, or sub-recipient.

As noted in the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, at any time in which an entity cannot meet the requirements of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision, the entity may request a modification or

waiver of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision. For example, the entity may propose modifying the language of the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in order to change the scope of the requirements or to provide more specifics on the application of the requirements for a particular technology. As another example, the entity may request that the U.S. Competitiveness Provision be waived in lieu of a net benefits statement or U.S. manufacturing plan. The statement or plan would contain specific and enforceable commitments that would be beneficial to the U.S. economy and competitiveness. Examples of such commitments could include manufacturing specific products in the U.S., making a specific investment in a new or existing U.S. manufacturing facility, keeping certain activities based in the U.S. or supporting a certain number of jobs in the U.S. related to the technology. If DOE, in its sole discretion, determines that the proposed modification or waiver promotes commercialization and provides substantial U.S. economic benefits, DOE may grant the request and, if granted, modify the award terms and conditions for the requesting entity accordingly. More information and guidance on the waiver and modification request process can be found in the DOE Financial Assistance Letter on this topic, available at <https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2022-09-fal-2022-01-implementation-doe-determination-exceptional-circumstances-under> Additional information on DOE's Commitment to Domestic Manufacturing for DOE-funded R&D is available at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/us-manufacturing>.

The U.S. Competitiveness Provision is implemented by DOE pursuant to a Determination of Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) under the Bayh-Dole Act and DOE Patent Waivers. See [Section II](#) of this FOA for more information on the DEC and DOE Patent Waiver.

PROPERTY AND COMMERCIALIZATION RIGHTS AGREEMENTS

When using subcontractors, including research institutions, the applicant is responsible for protecting its own interests with regard to the retention of intellectual property and commercialization rights.

It is in the best interest of the applicant, when collaborating with a research institution or other subcontractors, to negotiate a written agreement for allocating, between the parties, intellectual property rights, and rights to carry out any follow-on research, development, or commercialization.

A model agreement, found on the SBIR/STTR Programs Office web site at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Awardee-Resources/Awardee-Documents> and may be used or revised through negotiation between the applicant and the research Institution.

The completed agreement should not be submitted with the application, but retained by the parties to the agreement. The Federal government will not be a party to any agreement between the SBC and any subcontractor, including the STTR research institution. However, applicants are reminded that nothing in such agreements should conflict with any provisions setting forth the

respective rights of the U.S. and the SBC with respect to both intellectual property rights and any rights to carry out follow-on research.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INCLUDING INNOVATIONS, INVENTIONS, AND PATENTS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Information contained in unsuccessful applications will remain the property of the applicant. The Government will retain for at least three years one electronic file copy of each unsuccessful application. Public release of information in any application submitted will be subject to existing statutory and regulatory requirements, such as the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts.

If proprietary information is provided in an application that constitutes proprietary technical data, confidential personnel information, or proprietary commercial or financial information, it will be treated in confidence, to the extent permitted by law, provided this information is clearly marked by the applicant in accordance with paragraph D, above, and provided appropriate page numbers are inserted in the Proprietary Notice legend printed on the first page of the Project Narrative.

Applications will not automatically be withheld in their entirety unless justified by the applicant. The Government will limit dissemination of such information to official channels to the extent permitted by law. Any other legend may be unacceptable to the Government and may constitute grounds for removing the application from further consideration and without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure.

PROTECTION OF APPLICATION INFORMATION

DOE's policy is to use data included in applications for evaluation purposes only and to protect, to the extent allowed by law, such information from unauthorized use or disclosure.

In addition to Government personnel, scientists and engineers from outside the government may be used in the application evaluation process. The decision to obtain outside evaluation will take into consideration requirements for the avoidance of organizational conflicts of interest and the competitive relationship, if any, between the applicant and the prospective outside evaluator. The evaluation will be performed under an agreement with the evaluator that the information contained in the application will be used only for evaluation purposes and will not be further disclosed.

RIGHTS IN DATA DEVELOPED UNDER SBIR/STTR FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Rights in technical data, including software developed under the terms of any funding agreement resulting from applications submitted in response to this FOA, shall remain with the awardee, except that the Government shall have the limited right to use such data for Government purposes. DOE will protect properly marked SBIR/STTR data from disclosure from the date the

SBIR/STTR award is issued for a period of 20 years in accordance with the award terms.

COPYRIGHTS

The awardee may copyright and publish (consistent with appropriate national security considerations, if any) material developed with DOE support. DOE receives a royalty-free license for the Federal Government and requires that each publication contain an appropriate acknowledgment and disclaimer statement.

PATENTS

SBCs (and any nonprofit organizations under a subaward) may retain the principal worldwide patent rights to any invention developed with Federal support. The government receives a royalty-free license for Federal use, reserves the right to require the patent holder to license others in certain circumstances, and requires that anyone exclusively licensed to sell must normally manufacture it domestically. Information regarding patent rights is available at: <https://science.osti.gov/-/media/sbir/word/2023/GenI-TC-for-SBIR-STTR---FEB-2023.docx>

On June 07, 2021, DOE approved a DETERMINATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (DEC) UNDER THE BAYH-DOLE ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE OF DOE SCIENCE AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES. In accordance with this DEC, all awards, including sub-awards, under this FOA shall include the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in accordance with [Section II](#) of this FOA. A copy of the DEC can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/determination-exceptional-circumstances-decs>. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 401.4, any nonprofit organization or small business firm as defined by 35 U.S.C. 201 affected by this DEC has the right to appeal it by providing written notice to DOE within 30 working days from the time it receives a copy of the determination.

DOE may require additional submissions or requirements as authorized by any applicable DEC. Any nonprofit organization or small business firm as defined by 35 U.S.C. 201 affected by a DEC has the right to appeal it by providing written notice to DOE within 30 working days from the time it receives a copy of the determination.

On August 28, 2020, DOE approved a DETERMINATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER THE BAYH-DOLE ACT FOR QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES. In accordance with this DEC, all awards, including sub-awards, under this FOA shall include the U.S. Competitiveness Provision in accordance with [Section II](#) of this FOA. A copy of the DEC can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/determination-exceptional-circumstances-decs>. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 401.4, any nonprofit organization or small business firm as defined by 35 U.S.C. 201 affected by this DEC has the right to appeal it by providing written notice to DOE within 30 working days from the time it receives a copy of the determination.

With justification, TABA funds may be used to pay patent prosecution costs for inventions developed under the Phase I or Phase II projects.

DISTRIBUTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMMERCIALIZATION RIGHTS BETWEEN THE SBC AND SUBCONTRACTOR

When using subcontractors, including research institutions, the SBC is responsible for providing that its subcontractors retain all rights provided for the SBC. Large business subcontractors will need to petition DOE to retain title to inventions.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER

- DOE has issued Class Patent Waiver W(C) 2022-03 which allows domestic large businesses providing at least 20% cost share to elect to retain title to their subject inventions. Class Patent Waiver W(C) 2022-03 includes a U.S. Competitiveness provision requiring any products embodying or produced through the use of a subject invention first created or reduced to practice in the performance of work under this FOA to be substantially manufactured in the United States. A domestic large business is any for-profit entity that does not qualify as a “small business” and is incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States and is not owned, controlled, or influenced by a foreign government, agency, firm, corporation, or person. 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 <https://www.energy.gov/gc/office-assistant-general-counsel-technology-transfer-and-intellectual-property> Nonprofit organizations and small business firms do not need a patent waiver in order to retain title to their subject inventions (see above).

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.

VIII.B.14. Intergovernmental Review

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

VIII.B.15. Logos and Wordmarks

DOE created a logo that recipients may use. The logos and best practices may be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/pf-2023-19-department-energy-awardee-usage-branding-and-logo-guide>. Information about the DOE logo, seal, and wordmark may be found at <https://www.energy.gov/management/doe-logo-seal-and-word-mark>. Information about the SC logo may be found at <https://science.osti.gov/About/Resources/Logos>.

VIII.B.16. Matching Funds

For this FOA, matching funds are defined as contributions made by the applicant either (1) for research and development costs NOT requested in your budget or (2) other costs associated with commercialization of the proposed innovation. Matching funds are required for Phase IIC applications and must be expended during the period of performance of the award. See [Section IV.D](#). Phase II Funding Commitment (Commercial Contribution) [OPTIONAL for Phase II, Phase IIA, or Phase IIB; MANDATORY FOR Phase IIC].

VIII.B.17. 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 www.FedConnect.net.

VIII.B.18. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance

If question 4.a. 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 (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). If DOE

determines the latter documentation is necessary, this process would need to be completed, funded by and with the participation of the awardee, prior to them taking any action on the proposed project that could have adverse environmental effects or that could limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Note that in most cases, even when “Potential Impact to the Environment” is checked “Yes,” preparation of such NEPA documents is rarely necessary, but DOE has the expectation that the Applicant will disclose the potential, which would serve to initiate dialog with DOE if necessary. The inability to satisfy the NEPA requirements after an award would result in cancellation of the award.

VIII.B.19. 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.

VIII.B.20. 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 contractors 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.

VIII.B.21. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

As set forth in 2 CFR 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending project funds (federal funds and recipient cost share) to procure or obtain; extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Section 889 of Public Law 115-232, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

See Public Law 115-232, Section 889, 2 CFR 200.216, and 2 CFR 200.471 for additional information.

VIII.B.22. Prohibition on Discrimination and Harassment

All people conducting, supporting, or participating in scientific research under this award must be able to do so on the basis of their abilities and without any unnecessary barriers. Recipients of awards resulting from this FOA are prohibited from engaging in discrimination on any basis prohibited by law, including harassment (sexual or non-sexual) as contained in 10 CFR 1040, 1041, and 1042.

Recipients may contact the DOE's Office of Civil Rights for technical assistance in meeting their institutional requirements under these regulations, including assistance in addressing complaints of discrimination or harassment (<https://www.energy.gov/diversity/title-ix>). The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission also makes a number of resources available at <https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/index.cfm> to ensure that employees may perform their work without hindrance. Graduate students and post-doctoral researchers are understood to have

a dual role as both trainees and employees, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.400 (f).

VIII.B.23. 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.

VIII.B.24. Prohibition Related to Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Programs

a. Prohibition

Persons participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk are prohibited from participating in projects selected for federal funding under this FOA. Should an award result from this FOA, the recipient must exercise ongoing due diligence to reasonably ensure that no individuals participating on the DOE-funded project are participating in a Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk. Consequences for violations of this prohibition will be determined according to applicable law, regulations, and policy. Further, the recipient must notify DOE within five (5) business days upon learning that an individual on the project team is or is believed to be participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program of a foreign country of risk. DOE may modify and add requirements related to this prohibition to the extent required by law.

b. Definitions

1. Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program. An effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement

opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.

2. Foreign Country of Risk. DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

VIII.B.25. Proprietary Application Information

An application may include technical data and other data, including trade secrets and commercial or financial information that are privileged or confidential, which the applicant does not want disclosed to the public or used by the Government for any purpose other than application evaluation. Only the following documents may contain proprietary information: (1) the commercialization plan, (2) the project narrative, (3) the budget justification, (4) letters of support, (5) SBA commercialization history and (6) foreign relationships disclosure form.

Note that the SBA Commercialization History and the Foreign Relations Disclosure form documents are permitted to contain proprietary information and do not require applicant markings as they are pre-populated with data protection legends.

To protect such data, the following guidelines must be followed:

1. The following legend must appear on the title page of the document:

This proposal contains information that shall not be disclosed outside the Federal Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed in whole or in part for any purpose other than evaluation of this proposal, unless authorized by law. The Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract if award is made as a result of the submission of this proposal. The information subject to these restrictions are contained on all pages of the proposal except for pages [insert page numbers or other identification of pages that contain no restricted information.]
and

2. The following legend must appear on each page of the proposal that contains information the Applicant wishes to protect:

Use or disclosure of information contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.

To see an example of proper IP markings, please visit the SBIR/STTR Programs web site at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/Protecting-your-Trade-Secrets> .

Please ensure this information is consistent with question number three (3) of the Research and Related Other Project Information form.

VIII.B.26. Publications

The recipient is expected to publish or otherwise make publicly available the results of the work conducted under any award resulting from this FOA. Publications and other methods of public communication describing any work based on or developed under an award resulting from this FOA must contain an acknowledgment of SC support. The format for such acknowledgments is provided at <https://science.osti.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 (OSTI) and made publicly available in accordance with the instructions contained in the Reporting Requirements Checklist incorporated in all Assistance Agreements.

VIII.B.27. Registration Requirements

Additional administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR 25 (See: www.eCFR.gov). Prime awardees must keep their data in SAM current at www.SAM.gov. Subrecipients at all tiers must obtain DUNS numbers and provide the DUNS to the prime awardee before the subaward can be issued.

VIII.B.28. 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: www.eCFR.gov). Prime awardees must register with the new FSRS database at <https://www.fsrs.gov> and report the required data on their first tier subrecipients. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in SAM.

VIII.C. REFERENCE MATERIAL

VIII.C.1. Definitions

COMMERCIALIZATION

This concerns the process of developing markets and producing and delivering products for sale (whether by the originating party or by others). As used here, commercialization includes both Government and private sector markets.

CONSULTANT

A consultant is generally an individual who is not using any institutional or organizational

facilities and is acting as a direct agent. The individual usually bills by the hour, submitting invoices. Invoices occasionally include additional direct expenses incurred. Consultants are normally subject matter experts and are not directly supervised by the awardee.

EMPLOYEE

A person listed on the budget form (Section A - Key/Senior Person or Section B - Other Personnel) as an employee of the SBC is required to either (a) be paid using a W-2 form or (b) possess an Internal Revenue Service determination that the person is an employee using Form SS-8. Persons paid by a 1099 (and not possessing an employee determination using Form SS-8) are to be treated as independent contractors and should be listed on the budget form in Section F - Other Direct Costs.

GRANT AGREEMENT

Grant agreement means a legal instrument of financial assistance between a Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and a non-Federal entity that, consistent with 31 U.S.C. 6302, 6304:

- (a) Is used to enter into a relationship the principal purpose of which is to transfer anything of value from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to the non-Federal entity to carry out a public purpose authorized by a law of the United States (see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)); and not to acquire property or services for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity's direct benefit or use;
- (b) Is distinguished from a cooperative agreement in that it does not provide for substantial involvement between the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and the non-Federal entity in carrying out the activity contemplated by the Federal award.
- (c) Does not include an agreement that provides only:
 - (1) Direct United States Government cash assistance to an individual;
 - (2) A subsidy;
 - (3) A loan;
 - (4) A loan guarantee; or
 - (5) Insurance.

GRANTEE

Grantee means the organization or individual awarded a grant 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.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS ZONE (HUBZONE)

An SBC Meeting the Following Criteria:

Located in a “historically underutilized business zone” or HUBZone area located in one or more of the following:

- A qualified census tract (as defined in section 42 (d)(5)(c)(i)(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or
- A qualified “non-metropolitan county” (as defined in section 143(k)(2)(B) of the International Revenue Code of 1986) with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the state median household income or with an unemployment rate of not less than 140 percent of the statewide average, based on U.S. Department of Labor recent data; or
- Lands within the boundaries of Federally recognized Indian reservations.
- Owned and controlled by one or more U.S. citizens
- At least 35 percent of its employees must reside in a HUBZone.

To find out if your business is in a HUBZone, use the mapping utility provided by the U. S. SBA at its HUBZone Contracting website at <https://www.sba.gov/hubzone/>.

INNOVATION

Something new or improved that has marketable potential, including (1) development of new technologies, (2) refinement of existing technologies, or (3) new applications for existing technologies.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The separate and distinct types of intangible property that are referred to collectively as “intellectual property,” including but not limited to: patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, SBIR/STTR technical data, ideas, designs, know-how, business, technical and research methods, and other types of intangible business assets, and including all types of intangible assets either proposed or generated by an SBC as a result of its participation in the SBIR or STTR program.

JOINT VENTURE

A joint venture is an association between two or more firms and or individuals to participate jointly in a single business enterprise. There must be a community of interests, a sharing of profits and losses, and, for the purposes of this FOA, the new entity must qualify as a small business. If a joint venture is selected for award, a DOE Contract Specialist will request a signed agreement from the parties involved. The agreement must state which company will negotiate the award and serve as the main point of contact. See 13 CFR 121.103(h) Affiliation based on joint ventures.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Long Title describes it as follows: “An Act to establish a national policy for the environment, to provide for the establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality, and for other purposes.” NEPA requires Federal Agencies to assess and consider potential impacts from Federal actions in their decision-making.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DOE understands “potential impact on the environment” to apply if the work described in the application could potentially have any of the impacts identified below:

- (1). Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health;
- (2). Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators);
- (3). Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment;
- (4). Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:
 - i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, Federally recognized Indian tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;
 - ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state- listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson- Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);
 - iii) Floodplains and wetlands, as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, “Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: Definitions,” or its successor;
 - iv) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;
 - v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), “Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions,” or its successor;
 - vi) Special sources of water (such as sole source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and

- vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests; or
- (5). Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.

In addition, DOE understands “potential impact on the environment,” to apply if the work described in the application could potentially have any of the impacts identified below:

Any other high consequence impacts to the environment which have any possibility for high consequence impacts to human health (e.g., use of human subjects, Biosafety Level 3-4 laboratory construction/operation, manufacture or use of certain nanoscale materials which are known to impact human health, or any activities involving transuranic or high level radioactive waste or materials or exposure to any radioactive materials beyond de minimis levels) or:

- a) Have extraordinary circumstances (i.e., scientific or related public controversy) related to the significance of environmental effects [see 10 CFR 1021.410(b)(2)];
- b) Are connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts [see 10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3)]; or
- c) Are related to other nearby actions with the potential for cumulatively significant impacts [see 10 CFR 1021.410 (b)(3)].

RESEARCH OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D)

Research or R&D is any scientific or engineering activity which is (1) a systematic, intensive study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the subject; (2) a systematic study directed specifically toward applying new knowledge to meet a recognized need; and/or (3) a systematic application of knowledge toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.

RESEARCH INSTITUTION

A research institution is one that has a place of business located in the United States, which operates primarily within the United States or which makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor, and is:

- 1) A non-profit institution as defined in section 4(3) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (that is, an organization that is owned and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes, no part of the net earnings, which benefits any private shareholder or individual); or
- 2) A Federally funded R/R&D center (FFRDC) as identified by the National Science

Foundation (NSF) in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation issued in accordance with section 35(c)(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (or any successor regulation) may be included as a research institution. The Master Government List of FFRDCs is accessible at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.

- A non-profit institution can include hospitals and military educational institutions if they meet the definition above.
- Research institutions may include a non-profit college or university.
- DOE FFRDCs include Ames National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, Savannah River National Laboratory, SLAC National Accelerator Facility, and the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility. DOE-sponsored FFRDC's may be viewed by selecting the Department of Energy under the Sponsoring agency tab at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.
- Research institutions may include government-owned, government-operated facilities. However, for this FOA, the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) may not participate as a research institution on topics managed by the Office of Fossil Energy listed in the table below.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & MATERIALS FOR FOSSIL ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES
ADVANCED REMEDIATION
ADVANCED TURBINES TECHNOLOGIES
CARBON CAPTURE
CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGIES
CARBON CAPTURE, CONVERSION, AND STORAGE
CARBON STORAGE (SUBSURFACE) TECHNOLOGIES
CARBON STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES
ENERGY SYSTEMS CYBERSECURITY
FUEL CELLS
HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGIES
METHANE MITIGATION
NATURAL GAS TECHNOLOGIES: NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE
RARE EARTH ELEMENTS AND CRITICAL MINERALS FROM COAL-BASED RESOURCES

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results, but does not include honest error or differences of opinion. 2 CFR 910.132 Research misconduct.

SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS

A socially and economically disadvantaged small business is one:

- That is at least 51 percent owned by (i) an Indian tribe or a native Hawaiian organization, or (ii) one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and,
- Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. A socially and economically disadvantaged individual is defined as a member of any of the following groups: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, other groups designated from time to time by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to be socially disadvantaged, or any other individual found to be socially and economically disadvantaged by SBA pursuant to section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 637(a).

SUBCONTRACT

A subcontract is any agreement, other than one involving an employer-employee relationship, entered into by the recipient of a Federal Government award, calling for supplies or services required solely for the performance of the original award.

WOMAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

A woman-owned small business is a small business that is at least 51 percent owned by a woman or women who also control and operate it. “Control” in this context means exercising the power to make policy decisions. “Operate” in this context means being actively involved in the day-to-day management.

VIII.C.2. Working with National Labs, Universities, Research Institutions, and Other Subcontractors

DOE USER FACILITIES

DOE operates a number of major scientific user facilities to serve researchers from universities, national laboratories, and industry. These facilities enable the acquisition of new knowledge that often cannot be obtained by any other means. Thousands of researchers collaborate with these facilities and analyze their respective data from the experiments to publish new scientific

findings in peer-reviewed journals. These facilities may be found at the following web addresses: <https://science.osti.gov/bes/suf/User-Facilities> and <https://science.osti.gov/ber/Facilities/User-Facilities>.

Potential applicants to the SBIR or STTR programs should consider whether the use of any of these facilities would contribute to the scientific efforts proposed in either Phase I or II. For approved experiments (access to these facilities is through a peer-reviewed system), operating time is available without charge to those scientists whose intent is to publish their results in the open literature. If the investigator wishes to perform proprietary research, the user must pay the full-cost recovery rate with private funds (not SBIR/STTR funds) for facility usage; in return, the facility will treat all technical data generated as proprietary, and the user may take title to any inventions resulting from the research. Information on other laboratory facilities which may be available on a case- by-case basis may be obtained through the Federal Laboratory Consortium Locator or directly from the DOE laboratory involved.

USE OF FEDERAL FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL, E.G., NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (NNSA) PLANTS AND SITES

The SBA may issue a case-by-case waiver to DOE or other Federal Government agency to permit the applicant to use a Federal facility or personnel, after review of the applicable agency's waiver request to the SBA. The applicant must submit to its point of contact at the Federal facility, as soon as possible, before the application due date, a letter from the SBC Official explaining why the SBIR/STTR research project requires the use of the facility or personnel, including data that verifies the absence of non- Federal facilities or personnel capable of supporting the research effort. The applicable agency will provide to the SBA: a) the applicant's explanation and b) agency's statement, signed by the appropriate Government official at the facility, verifying that the facility will be available for the required effort and that the agency will not and cannot fund the use of the facility or personnel for the SBIR/STTR project with non-SBIR/STTR money. DOE cannot guarantee that a waiver will be obtained from SBA. A waiver must be obtained before award. Federal facilities designated as Federal (National) laboratories are exempt from this waiver requirement.

IDENTIFYING INSTITUTIONS

Experts at institutions such as DOE contractor-operated national laboratories, universities, colleges, or other research institutions, may be consulted during the preparation of the application. Any of these institutions may also serve as a subcontractor to SBIR/STTR Phase I or Phase II projects, providing technical expertise, facilities, or equipment. In such cases, the SBC must have the necessary expertise to direct the project.

For STTR, the SBC must conduct cooperative R&D with a research institution (see definition list). An alliance between the SBC and a research institution must be formed before submitting

the application. Awards will be awarded to the applicant, which will receive all funding for the project and disperse the appropriate funds to the research institution.

A list of DOE National Laboratories and relevant small business contacts is available at <https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Applicant-Resources/National-Labs-Profiles-and-Contacts>. For help in contacting personnel at other Federal agency laboratories, go to <https://www.federallabs.org>, or contact the FLC Management Support Office by, Phone: (856) 667-7727 or email: flcmso@utrs.com.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Applicants may want to obtain scientific and technical information related to their proposed effort as background or for other purposes. Sources of this information are listed in the references for each technical topic and below (<https://science.osti.gov/sbir/Funding-Opportunities/FY-2023>).

National Technical Information Service – Reports resulting from Federal research and those received from exchange agreements with foreign countries and international agencies are available to the public in both paper copy and microfiche through the National Technical Information Service. They may be ordered electronically from <https://www.ntis.gov/> or by phone at 1-800-553-6847.

DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) - OSTI is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to maintain "... publicly available collections of scientific and technical information resulting from research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities supported by the Department." OSTI collects, preserves, and disseminates research results via web-based information systems developed on behalf of DOE.

SBIR and STTR applicants may obtain scientific and technical information related to their proposed effort as background or for other purposes. Sources of this information are listed in the references for each technical topic and below.

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disseminates research results via web-based information systems developed on behalf of DOE.

SBIR and STTR applicants may obtain information from the following OSTI sources, available via the web at <https://www.osti.gov> or at the specific web addresses below.

- Information Bridge (<https://www.osti.gov/bridge>), over 125,000 searchable full-text documents reporting results of DOE-funded research.
- Energy Citations Database (<https://www.osti.gov/energycitations>), over 2 million searchable citations covering disciplines of interest to DOE from 1948 to the present, with links to full-text when available.
- E-print Network (<https://www.osti.gov/eprints>), which offers single-query access to a network of scientific and technical information and communication, searching more than 900,000 manuscripts, scholarly papers, and other scientific documents residing on approximately 35,300 websites and databases worldwide, containing over 5.5 million e-prints in basic and applied sciences.
- DOE R&D Accomplishments (<https://www.osti.gov/accomplishments>), a central forum for information about the outcomes of past DOE R&D.

OTHER RESOURCES

Literature and database searches for abstracts, publications, patents, lists of Federal research in progress, and names of potential consultants in the specific research area can be obtained at good technical libraries (especially those of universities), and from some state organizations.

Science.gov (<https://www.science.gov/>), a web portal providing single-query search of more than 50 million pages of science information and research results from DOE and 11 other Federal science agencies.

Technical Assistance for Application Preparation and Project Conduct - SBCs may wish to contact their local National Institute of Standards and Technology Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) for manufacturing and other business-related support services.

The MEP works with small and mid-sized companies to help them create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. The nationwide network provides a variety of services, from business development assistance to innovation strategies to process improvements and the identification of commercialization opportunities. MEP is a nationwide network of locally managed extension centers with over 1,400 technical experts - located in every state. To contact an MEP center, call 1-800-MEP-4- MFG (1-800-637-4634) or visit MEP's website at <https://www.nist.gov/mep>.