

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQs SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://ARPA-E.ENERGY.GOV/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=faq/general-questions)) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQs AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

### I. Concept Paper Phase Questions:

**Q1. I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION ON WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE TOTAL PROJECT COST. I TOOK GUIDANCE FROM THE GENERAL FAQs PAGE. WITHIN SECTION 4 OF YOUR FAQs, IT STATES:**

**4.3 WHAT IS TOTAL PROJECT COST?**

**ANSWER: THE SUM OF THE PRIME RECIPIENT SHARE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE COSTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARE GENERALLY INCLUDES COSTS INCURRED BY FFRDCS AND GOGOS.**

**HOWEVER, THEN THE FOLLOWING IS STATED:**

**4.4 HOW IS THE COST SHARING REQUIREMENT CALCULATED?**

**ANSWER: COST SHARE IS CALCULATED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST, WHICH IS THE SUM OF THE PRIME RECIPIENT SHARE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE COSTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARE GENERALLY INCLUDES COSTS INCURRED BY FFRDCS AND GOGOS.**

**THIS PARTICULAR ALGAL MINING FOA STATES THAT "AWARDS MAY VARY BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 AND \$2,500,000."**

**THEREFORE, IT SEEMS THAT THESE THREE THINGS TOGETHER CAN BE INTERPRETED AS FOLLOWS: THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE COST FOR A FOA IS THE MAX OF THE PROVIDED RANGE. THE "PRIME RECIPIENT SHARE" WOULD BE THE COST SHARE. THIS MEANS THE (COST SHARE) + (FEDERAL FUNDING) <= MAX OF THE PROVIDED RANGE (\$2.5M IN THIS CASE).**

**HOWEVER, IN THE INTERMODAL FAQs, IT WAS CLARIFIED THAT INSTEAD IT SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS THE FEDERAL SHARE OF THE AWARDS MAY VARY BETWEEN THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS PROVIDED, SPECIFICALLY \$500,000 AND \$2,500,000 FOR THIS FOA TOPIC. CAN YOU PLEASE VERIFY THAT THIS SECOND INTERPRETATION IN INTERMODAL IS ACTUALLY CORRECT?**

**ANSWER** Yes, the Federal Government share of awards made under DE-FOA-0002784 Topic E – Algal Mining may vary between approximately \$500,000 and \$2,500,000. The Federal share would also generally include costs incurred by FFRDCs and GOGOs, if applicable. The Prime Recipient share (or

“cost share”) is calculated as a percentage of total project cost, which is the sum of Prime Recipient share and Federal Government share of total allowable costs.

## **Q2. I HAVE A PI WHO PLANS TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO EXPLORATORY TOPIC E - CRITICAL MINERAL EXTRACTION FROM OCEAN MACROALGAL BIOMASS. I HAVE ONE QUESTION. CAN THE PI USE THE START DATE OF 11/01/2023?**

**ANSWER:** Yes, the PI can use 11/01/2023 as a proposed project start date on the application.

## **Q3. WHO IS CONSIDERED THE ARPA-E PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THIS TOPIC OF THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E Program Directors (PDs) develop and manage their own funded programs to address national-scale energy problems that are unlikely to be solved by industry alone. They identify problems that are both important and challenging enough to warrant the expenditure of taxpayer dollars in the development of solutions. PDs lead teams with technical and management support to create Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). They manage the proposal evaluation process and make selection recommendations to the ARPA-E Director. PDs are then responsible for negotiating the technical milestones for each project. After award, PDs actively manage the projects with the performing teams. Upon the issuance of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), ARPA-E Program Directors and other ARPA-E personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with Applicants, or potential Applicants regarding the FOA. This “quiet period” remains in effect until ARPA-E’s public announcement of its project selections. During the “quiet period,” Applicants may submit questions regarding the FOA to [ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov) with the FOA name and number in the subject line. Applicants may also submit questions regarding ARPA-E’s online application portal, ARPA-E eXCHANGE, to [ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov) with the FOA name and number in the subject line. ARPA-E will not accept or respond to communications received by other means (e.g., fax, telephone, mail, hand delivery). E-mails sent to other e-mail addresses will be disregarded.

## **Q4. TOPIC E, RELATED TO ALGAL MINING SETS WRITTEN BOUNDARIES AS TO WHAT IS EXPECTED REGARDING RESEARCH TOPICS 1 AND 2. ACCORDING TO THE FOA, RESEARCH TOPIC 1 IS ALL ABOUT MECHANISMS OF ABSORPTION. WOULD YOU CONSIDER STUDIES RELATED TO REE UPTAKE? OR ARE MECHANISMS OF SOLE INTEREST?**

**ANSWER:** Work related to REE uptake is intrinsic to and part of an understanding of the mechanisms of absorption, and is only of interest for this Topic studied alongside mechanisms.

## **RESEARCH TOPIC 2 IS RELATED TO THE RECOVERY PROCESS OF REE FROM MACROALGAE. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN STUDIES EXPLORING THE GEOCHEMISTRY OF REE? OR NOT AT THIS TIME?**

**ANSWER:** Refer to FOA pg 101, Section 4 - “Technical Areas of Interest” for details on what is in the scope of interest for this Topic. Refer to FOA pg 105, Section 6 – “Technical Performance Targets” for more insight into the influence of REE concentration / uptake for Technical Area 1. Details on what is in scope for Technical Area 2 can be found in Section 4, starting on FOA pg 103 as well as what is not of

interest in Section 7 starting on FOA pg 106. The correlation between geochemical parameters and location-specific macroalgal REE concentration is within scope for TA1.

**Q5. CAN YOU PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE DE-FOA-0002784: EXPLORATORY TOPICS, TOPIC E: ALGAL MINING PROGRAM DIRECTOR SINCE IT IS A REQUIRED FIELD IN THE FWP?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Q.3 above. The Program Director will be provided if your application is selected for award negotiations, so you may include "TBD" for now.

**Q6. 1. IS A TYPICAL SOPO REQUIRED OF THIS SUBMISSION WITH MULTIPLE MILESTONES AND GO/NO GO, OR IS THE TIMELINE EXAMPLE IN TABLE 2 OF THE RFA SUFFICIENT AS LONG AS THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS ARE ADDRESSED ELSEWHERE IN THE PROPOSAL?**

**2. CAN YOU CLARIFY THAT BOTH THE TARGET PURITY AND THE EXTRACTION EFFICIENCY OF METALS IS 99%?**

**ANSWER:** 1. A SOPO is required. Refer to the "Required Documents Checklist" on page 8 of the FOA, as well as Section 2.2 of the Technical Volume for this FOA.

2. The FOA specifies extraction efficiency requirements by extraction method type in Sections 4 and 6 of the FOA.

**Q7. IF A TEAM IS APPLYING FOR RESEARCH TOPICS 1 AND 2 IN THE SAME PROPOSAL, WOULD IT BE ALLOWABLE TO HAVE A BUDGET EXCEEDING \$2.5M**

**ANSWER:** The Federal share of any individual award issued under FOA DE-FOA-0002784 Topic E – Algal Mining may not exceed \$2,500,000.

**Q8. I AM CTO OF --- REDACTED--- A COMPANY INVOLVED IN A CONSORTIUM PREPARING A PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS DE-FOA-0002784.**

**THE CONSORTIUM IS LED BY---REDACTED---. WE ARE A UK REGISTERED AND BASED COMPANY. I UNDERSTAND THAT FOREIGN ENTITIES CAN PARTICIPATE WITHIN THE RULES DETAILED IN THE FOA.**

**IS IT ESSENTIAL FOR US TO SET UP A US SUBSIDIARY OR AFFILIATE? IS IT POSSIBLE TO APPLY WHILE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REGISTERING A US SUBSIDIARY?**

**ANSWER:** Please refer to Section III.A.3 of the FOA: eligibility information for foreign entities.