



## DE-FOA-0002531 – ONWARD SBIR/STTR

Questions can be sent to [ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov)

FIRST DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: 5 PM ET, JUNE 30, 2021  
SECOND DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: TBD

### 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. Can I speak or meet with the ARPA-E program director or other ARPA-E personnel about this funding opportunity announcement?

**ANSWER:** No. 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.

#### Q2. I submitted a Concept Paper to the ARPA-E OPEN 2021 funding opportunity that would be a good fit for the the DE-FOA-0002531 ONWARD SBIR/STTR funding Opportunity. Should I submit my Concept Paper to the ONWARD SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunity also?

**ANSWER:** Applicants who submitted ONWARD eligible Concept Papers to the OPEN 2021 FOA but would rather submit to either the ONWARD or ONWARD SBIR/STTR FOA, should send a withdrawal request to [ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov) including their OPEN 2021 Concept Paper Control Number. ARPA-E can then withdraw that Concept Paper and the Applicant can then submit a Concept Paper to the applicable ONWARD FOAi nstead.

#### Q3. Is ONWARDS focused on the fuel cycles of winners of the recent Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP) (either Tier I demonstration or Tier II risk reduction)? Would teams with ARDP winners be weighted more favorably in review? Or would a proposal on any reactor under commercial development (with overlap to other AR fuel cycles) be considered equally?

**ANSWER:** ONWARDS is not specifically focused on the fuel cycles of winners of the recent Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP). **Submissions are evaluated against the program goals and technical performance targets, in addition to the merit review criteria provided in the FOA.**

#### Section D: Technical Categories of Interest states:

"Three AR fuel cycle concepts, and their variants, that are presently considered most promising; however, a fourth fuel cycle concept, "Other FC", has been provided to capture breakthrough fuel cycle technologies:

- 1) TRi-structural ISOtropic particle (TRISO) fuel cycles[1]



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- 2) Metallic fuel cycles[2]
- 3) Molten salt fuel cycles[3]
- 4) Other FC[4]

(references found in FOA)

**Q4. Would you please clarify what the funding avenue for FFRDC's will be? Will funding be received via a Fin Plan or from the SBIR partner?**

**ANSWER:** Funding for the FFRDC will be provided directly from ARPA-E.

**Q5. In the FOA for "DE-FOA-0002531: OPTIMIZING NUCLEAR WASTE AND ADVANCED REACTOR DISPOSAL SYSTEMS SBIR/STTR (ONWARDS)", the requirements for SBIR eligibility are given on page 27, with a link to the SBIR.gov website. What isn't included in the FOA itself is the typical language concerning ineligibility of small businesses with majority ownership by venture capital firms. Are small businesses with ownership of >50% by venture capital eligible for the SBIR version of the FOA?**

**ANSWER:** Small businesses that are majority-owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms are eligible. In general, eligibility for the SBIR/STTR FOA (DE-FOA-0002531) is in Section III(A). The Small Business Administration rules and guidelines govern eligibility to apply to the SBIR/STTR FOA. For additional information on program eligibility, please refer to the SBIR/STTR website, available at <https://www.sbir.gov>, and refer to the "Eligibility" section for SBIR/STTR programs at <https://www.sbir.gov/about>.