

## FastForward RFP Frequently Asked Questions

Questions	Answers
Is there a preferred file format for proposal documents?	Submit proposal documents in Microsoft Office or Adobe .pdf file formats.
<b>Conceptual Exascale Program Roadmap</b>	
Please clarify the relationship of this RFP to an eventual RFP for an exascale system.	DOE expects to establish an ongoing program to continue innovation in these and additional technology areas. Future RFPs on these and other work scopes to accelerate further the critical technology R&D may be forthcoming if Congress approves funding for this purpose.
<b>Prototypes</b>	
If the deliverable for the proposed R&D includes a hardware prototype, will delivery to one of the laboratories be required, or can it be evaluated at the industry team's site? Will such deliverables have some formal "acceptance criteria" or are they intended as experimental/validation demonstrations?	Prototypes delivered as part of a FastForward subcontract need not be delivered to a DOE Laboratory. Their purpose is to demonstrate the value of the R&D performed under a FastForward subcontract. Delivery of a prototype may be proposed as a milestone. Performance or acceptance criteria, as required, will be negotiated prior to subcontract award.
If additional funding is required for a prototype will it require a separate procurement?	Any follow-on work needed to develop a prototype could be proposed in response to a future RFP, if one is issued. We are asking Offerors to provide a separate, non-binding budgetary estimate for this follow-on work as part of this RFP. Please do <b>not</b> include the estimated amount for this activity in the price for the R&D being proposed in response to the FastForward RFP.
<b>Technology and Exascale System Goals</b>	
<b>Cross Cutting R&amp;D</b>	
We have technology that fits into multiple areas. Should we submit one integrated RFP response or separate responses for each area? How is possible funding impacted if we submit an integrated response?	Offerors must decide whether to submit multiple proposals or a single proposal. Both choices are equally valid; however, Offerors should note that the DOE Laboratories have established a \$20M threshold for the value of any subcontract awarded as a result of this RFP. If an Offeror submits two proposals, and if both proposals are selected for award of a subcontract, each subcontract could, for example, have a value of \$12M for a total of \$24M. If an Offeror combines both proposals into a single proposal, if selected, the subcontract could have a maximum value of only \$20M. See the RFP for additional information on subcontract values and award strategies.
<b>Co-Design</b>	
Does the R&D contract include funds for the co-design efforts?	A proposal may include the Offeror's effort costs to work with the DOE co-design centers but should not include costs for DOE co-design personnel. DOE co-design centers have their own funding.

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<p>The RFP requires a discussion of plans to collaborate with DOE researchers on co-design. Will we be allowed to interact with the potential co-design projects during the development of our RFP response?</p>	<p>Individuals who are part of the co-design centers may be approached by potential Offerors to investigate and discuss the co-design efforts and available tools. These individuals may engage with the Offerors, but that engagement is strictly limited to topics that are germane only to the co-design center. Co-design center individuals are being told to refrain from discussing the RFP, the SOW, an Offeror’s potential proposal approach or contents, any other RFP- or proposal-related topic, or any RFP- or proposal-related question. Also, co-design center individuals are being warned to not disclose to one Offeror that they have engaged with any other Offeror.</p>
<b>Available Funds</b>	
<p>What funds are available for the anticipated subcontracts?</p>	<p>Approximately \$60M of funding will be available for the three technology areas over a two-year period of time. The number of subcontract awards and the value of each cannot be determined until the DOE Laboratories have evaluated all of the proposals and selected those offering the best value. Subcontracts will be incrementally funded. The DOE Laboratories anticipate funding each year in full at the beginning of the year.</p>
<p>What does “fully funded” mean?</p>	<p>Fully funded means the entire anticipated value of a subcontract is funded at the time of award. These subcontracts will be incrementally funded annually.</p>
<b>Cost Sharing</b>	
<p>What does the cost share percentage mean?</p>	<p>If an Offeror is a large business per the NAICS code in the RFP, that Offeror must fund at least 40% of the total value of the effort to obtain the Class Advance Waiver to its intellectual property. For example, if a large business Offeror proposes a scope of work with a value of \$10M over two years, and if that Offeror wishes to own any intellectual property created in the course of performing the subcontract, the Offeror must be willing to accept a subcontract for only \$6M. The \$4M difference will be funded by that Offeror’s corporate funds.</p>
<p>Does a small business or a university have to accept the cost sharing arrangement?</p>	<p>Small businesses and non-profit entities, including universities, are not required to cost share in order to own any intellectual property created during performance of the subcontract. The Bayh-Dole Act provides that these entities may elect title to subject inventions without DOE approval. Therefore, if a small business proposes \$10M for a scope of work and is selected for award, the subcontract value for that small business will be \$10M.</p>

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<b>Intellectual Property</b>	
Will there be a Class Advance Waiver?	DOE has agreed to issue and is preparing a Class Advance Waiver that it will issue to LLNS for inclusion in subcontracts awarded to large businesses as a result of this RFP. If the waiver is not available at the time the RFP is issued, the RFP will be amended to include it when it does become available. A draft of the waiver is available on this Web site as Attachment 8. The waiver will cover both copyright and patents.
What is a Class Advance Waiver?	DOE has agreed to offer special terms for intellectual property (i.e., works of authorship and subject inventions) first created during performance of these subcontracts. Under existing federal statutes, a large business may only assert copyright with the approval of the DOE and may not, typically elect title to any of its subject inventions. The Class Advance Waiver allows LLNS to replace existing FAR and DEAR intellectual property clauses with clauses that allow the subcontractor to assert copyright or elect title without DOE approval. Certain rights to the subcontractor's intellectual property are retained by the DOE but the subcontractor owns the intellectual property and may productize, commercialize, distribute, license, etc., its intellectual property as it sees fit. "Class" is applied to this waiver because it may apply to more than one subcontract.
What are the intellectual property provisions for co-design work?	We anticipate the DOE will adopt a "yours, mine, and ours" approach to intellectual property created in the co-design arena. That is, the entity that creates the intellectual property will own it and have the right to use it as it sees fit, including license it to others. Intellectual property that is jointly created will be jointly owned by the co-creators.
What does restricted information mean and how will the DOE Laboratories handle it?	The DOE Laboratories are required by their prime contracts with DOE to handle data marked as restricted or confidential in accordance with the marking instructions. If an Offeror marks data as restricted or confidential, that creates a basis for DOE to withhold that information should it receive an FOIA request from another party for release of the restricted or confidential data. Offerors are encouraged to use this marking appropriately and not trivialize their data.
Will export control apply to these subcontracts?	The export control statutes apply to all participants. Each participant is required to comply with export control regulations, which are the law of the land.
<b>Contracting for R&amp;D</b>	
How will payments be made to subcontractors during performance?	The DOE Laboratories anticipate that most payments will be made using milestone payments. A milestone payment will be made to a subcontractor after the subcontractor provides adequate evidence of the milestone's completion. This evidence may be in the form of a report on the work, availability of code for testing, delivery of a prototype, etc. Therefore, milestone payments will not be monthly or quarterly but, rather, tied to completed work.

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What will be the subcontract period of performance?	LLNS will issue subcontracts with a two-year period of performance. The subcontracts will be effective upon the date of signature execution by LLNS and the subcontractor. The expiration date is anticipated to be June 30, 2014.
Can a foreign company provide a proposal?	Yes. Foreign entities, however, will not be eligible to receive the Class Advance Waiver provisions. The subcontract to a foreign entity will contain the standard FAR and DEAR intellectual property clauses and any intellectual property created by the foreign entity during performance of the subcontract will be subject to the terms of those clauses. Specifically, assertion of copyright and election of title will be at the discretion of the DOE.