

## U.S Department of Energy

DE-FOA-0003442

### Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs – Recurring Program

#### Anonymized Q&A (Version 1/27/25) (modified 1/30/25 with “NOTE TO ALL APPLICANTS,” below)

**NOTE TO ALL APPLICANTS:** The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) indicates that applicants are required to submit a Pre-application for Topic Area 1, Infrastructure Access Platforms; however, the eXCHANGE system is configured to require a Concept Paper as the initial submission instead of a Pre-application. For applicants submitting to Topic Area 1, please submit Pre-applications by selecting the “Concept Paper” drop down in eXCHANGE.

Date Posted	Anonymized, Summarized Q:	Answer:
1/27/25	If all work will be subcontracted through the lead organization, is it still appropriate to include other "Team Organizations?" Will funds be distributed to team organizations based on indicated percentages in application or only to lead organizations? What's an appropriate range of total project partners for a TA-1 application?	A high-level description of the team and partners is required. In cases where all work will be conducted by the Prime/lead organization, it must be stated that there will be no partners. The Prime Recipient is responsible for developing the project budget and apportioning funding between the Prime Recipient, Sub-recipients, and/or subcontractors. The Prime Recipient must have sufficient capacity to monitor any Sub-recipients in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.332.
1/27/25	Does OCED prefer or intend the budgetary proposal for the TA-3 in this round to ONLY cover the first proposed facility (25x the reference facility)	Within TA funding limits, DOE funding could provide assistance for the complete or partial build out of a TA-3 facility under this NOFO.

	or can/should the proposed budget include the amount that would be required for the 10x scale-up?	
1/27/25	Must Concept Papers contain details of project support services (E.g., permitting, safety risk analysis, cybersecurity, NEPA, CBP and project controls), or will they mainly focus on the DAC technology?	The NOFO does not request details of support services in Concept Papers (see NOFO, p. 39).
1/27/25	Will the names of the companies that receive an Encourage Notification be made public?	OCED intends to publish a list of Pre-Application finalists. OCED does not intend to publish a list of Encourage notifications.
1/27/25	Will entities that receive an Encourage notification be allowed to incorporate the services of a support company during the application process?	Applicants are not prohibited from utilizing contractor support to assist with the application process. Note that proposal-related expenses may not be paid out of award funds.
1/27/25	Under TA-1, are multiple geographic 'site' locations within the same region allowed in a single proposal? This would include a build out of shared infrastructure at each proposed 'site' within the region.	Multiple site locations within a single proposal are allowed. Note that Pre-application and subsequent Application description requirements extend to each location proposed, and page limits may not be exceeded.
1/27/25	Is it acceptable to apply for funding from this NOFO to continue the work started in previous DOE projects (E.g., DAC FOA 1). If so, is there a particular stage of completion DOE would like to see for this work for it to be transferable into this new NOFO? (i.e., the previous project should be at least 60% complete before applying for further funding under the Regional DAC NOFO).	It is generally acceptable to apply for funding from this NOFO to continue work started in previous DOE projects (E.g., DAC FOA-1). Note, however, that activities related to FOA-1 projects will continue to be funded through FOA-1 awards and will not be transferred to any new awards under this NOFO. Any applicant, including FOA-1 awardees, are welcome to apply to the NOFO if they are able to provide the required application materials. If an applicant for a Phase 1 award under the new NOFO is already completing or has completed activities relevant to

		Phase 2 (e.g., a FEED study), DOE may review those activities after eligibility is determined for Phase 1. Applicants are welcome to note in their Phase 1 application which, if any, of those activities are in process or have been completed under a FOA-1 award.
1/27/25	Can the Concept Paper/Pre-application deadline be extended?	No, OCED is not considering extending this deadline at this time.
1/27/25	If an entity is in the process of completing its SAM.gov registration but it takes longer than anticipated, can they offer assurance that their SAM.gov registration will be fully completed well before the actual application deadline, and submit their Concept Paper through the OCED eXCHANGE platform while the registration is still pending?	Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov before submitting an Application. Applicants may submit Pre-applications and Concept Papers without being fully registered in SAM.gov.
1/27/25	The NOFO states that for TA2, "applicants who do not yet have complete Reference Facility data but can demonstrate their Reference Facility is operational and generating the required data will be considered." What sort of information would need to be provided at the time of application to check this box? Would we need to submit Reference Facility data at the time of application submission, or before the start of the study (should we be awarded funding)?	Reference Facility data must be submitted at the time of application. If 1,000 hours of Reference Facility data is not available, Applicants must submit what data they have. Applicants must demonstrate that their Reference Facility is operational and generating the required data.
1/27/25	Do all core processes need to be at least TRL 6 at the time application? Or can they reach TRL 6 before the start of the study (should we be awarded funding) if the Reference Facility is operational and generating the required data at the time of application?	For TA-2, Applicants must include validation that all core processes are not less than TRL 6 in their Phase 1 Applications.
1/27/25	Do applicants only need to identify one project site for TA2 or must they identify multiple potential sites?	Applicants may identify one or multiple project sites for TA-2. Note that Concept Paper and subsequent Application description requirements extend to each location proposed, and page limits may not be

		exceeded. Requirements “that all core processes handling capture, regeneration, and energy integration, when integrated, are not less than TRL 6” (NOFO p. 13) apply for each project site proposed.
1/27/25	Potential TA-2 Applicant has a 1 KTA Reference Facility, can they propose an MSC facility up to 25 KTA? If Applicant plans to build in units that are 10 KTA each, what size facility can they build under TA-2?	If a potential TA-2 Applicant has a 1 KTA Reference Facility, they could propose an MSC facility up to 25 KTA. If an Applicant plans to build in units of 10 KTA each, under this constraint the Applicant would be limited to building a 20 KTA MSC facility.
1/27/25	Is there a Teaming Partner list? How does it get accessed?	DOE is compiling a Teaming Partner List to facilitate the formation of new project teams for this NOFO. The Teaming Partner List and updates to the Teaming Partner List will be available in the OCED eXCHANGE website.
1/27/25	Does the concept paper need to be submitted by a lead recipient with all the registrations necessary for being the lead already finalized? Or can the lead recipient registration process be underway during the concept paper submission stage?	Concept Papers and Pre-applications must be submitted by the intended lead/Prime Recipient. Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov before submitting an Application. Applicants may submit Pre-applications and Concept Papers through eXCHANGE without being fully registered in SAM.gov.
1/27/25	Can the lead recipient be changed between the Concept Paper submission window and the full application submission window?	Concept Papers and Pre-applications must be submitted by the intended lead/Prime Recipient.
1/27/25	Can the reference facility data necessary to be eligible for a TA-2 project consist of 1,000 hours of testing data sourced from multiple reference facilities?	The Reference Facility data necessary to be eligible for a TA-2 project must consist of 1,000 hours of testing data and be sourced from a single Reference Facility.

1/27/25	Can project proposals change significantly between the concept note and the full application? If so, what kinds of changes are permitted? For example, if the concept note outlines a rough project plan, could the full application later reflect changes, such as new public-private partnerships, or multiple new DAC developers and sites in an expanded proposal?	Project proposals may not change significantly between the Concept Paper and the Application.
1/27/25	Why does the NOFO exclude carbon dioxide removal (CDR) methods other than DAC, if the DOE's Carbon Negative Shot and other programs support a variety of CDR methods?	The Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs program is designed to support DAC technologies to be consistent with Section 40308 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which outlines the objectives for the program. Consequently, both the first Funding Opportunity Announcement (released December 2022) and the recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (released December 2024) restrict eligibility to direct air capture carbon removal and indicate other carbon removal methods as "not of interest".
1/17/25	On page 9, the NOFO states, "The cost share must be at least 50% of the total project costs for demonstration projects or a commercial application activity." What does DOE mean by "total project costs"? Does OCED's funding under this NOFO provide assistance for the complete build-out of a TA-3 project? For example, say an entity is selected for a TA-3 award for a 25,000 TPA project, which will subsequently be scaled 10x to 250,000 TPA at the same site. Could DOE funds be used to perform work that pertains to the larger 250,000 TPA project? Or would the use of funds be restricted to the initial 25,000 TPA project?	The 50% cost share requirement means that a Recipient must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost. E.g., a TA-1 project might cost a total of \$50M, with at least \$25M contributed by the Recipient or Subs and up to \$25M contributed by DOE. Within TA funding limits, DOE funding could provide assistance for the complete or partial build out of a TA-3 facility under this NOFO.
1/17/25	Given that Applicants must provide the topic area on the cover page of the concept paper, can an applicant submit a concept paper for a proposed project under a certain topic area and, upon review and feedback from OCED during the encouragement and discouragement phase, decide to	It is possible that OCED might encourage an Applicant to submit an Application under a different Topic Area than the what was stated in the Concept Paper.

	change said project to a different topic area for the full application submission?	
1/17/25	On page 38, the NOFO states: "Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single concept." How does OCED define a "single concept"? Can team member organizations (subrecipients, key technology providers, project partners, etc.) be included in multiple concept papers and/or Topic Areas (TAs) as long as the organization's role is considered a substantially different concept in each instance? For example, could a class VI well operator submit a TA-1 concept paper for a particular well and be sub-recipient on a different TA-3 concept paper for the same well?	Each Concept Paper is limited to a single concept; that is, each must present a unique, scientifically distinct project. An organization may be part of multiple Applications as a subrecipient, technology provider, or other project partner. However, OCED will not provide duplicative funding toward the same scope of work.
1/17/25	Page 14 of the NOFO states: "DOE expects that a TA-3 project will propose no changes or relatively few and/or independently validated." How would OCED prefer an applicant provide independently validated changes to the TA-3 elements within its concept paper submission? How does OCED qualify an "independent validation"?	Independent validations are not necessary or requested at the Concept Paper stage. At the Application stage, any proposed changes from the Reference Facility must be minor, or else they must be validated by an independent 3rd party (e.g., Independent Engineer).
1/17/25	Page 14 of the NOFO states: "To be considered for TA-3, the applicant must submit, for each proposed facility, the following Reference Facility data: 1) operational data including at least 1,000 hours of continuous operations from a smaller commercial facility, 2) validation that all key processes handling capture, regeneration, and energy integration, when integrated, are not less than TRL 7 (as defined by DOE G 413.3-4A Technology Readiness Assessment Guide, 2011), 3) documentation of not less than 1/25th the nominal gross capture capacity of the proposed LSC facility (e.g., a minimum of 1,000 TPA for a proposed 25,000 TPA facility). Is the Reference Facility that supplies at least 1,000 hours of continuous operational data required to be the same exact Reference Facility that demonstrates at least 1/25th the nominal gross capture capacity of the proposed LSC facility?	The Reference Facility that provides at least 1,000 hours of continuous operational data must be the same Reference Facility that demonstrates at least 1/25th the nominal gross capture capacity of the proposed LSC facility.

1/17/25	The NOFO does not explicitly define “commercial facility.” How does OCED define a “commercial facility”?	A commercial facility is one that is designed and placed into service to generate revenue.
1/17/25	Is it only a prime/lead organization who can submit a concept paper for a TA-2 or TA-3 project?	Only the intended prime Recipient may submit an application under this NOFO.
1/17/25	What constitutes “novel technology” for a TA-2 or TA-3 applicant to sufficiently meet the unique DAC technology definition/requirement under this NOFO?	The requirement that any TA-2 and TA-3 projects proposing multiple facilities must propose unique technologies is intended to incentivize projects from different technology providers or substantively different underlying technologies. Projects proposing multiple facilities that are minor variations on the same underlying technology from the same provider, for example, would not be competitive. Separately, the requirements for novelty at a certain commercial scale are detailed in the Applications Specifically Not of Interest section
1/17/25	If a TA-2 project that aims to be involved as a part of a new DAC regional hub is awarded this funding round, and that new hub at a later time does not move forward, for any number of logistical, technical, economic reasons, etc., can that TA-2 project be eligible to switch to another existing or new hub?	Switching hubs (and potentially relocating an MSC facility) could be permitted by OCED under certain circumstances based on a variety of factors that might include offtake infrastructure and agreement availability, electricity generation availability, siting, where a project is in terms of planning and design, etc.
1/17/25	Under TA-3, please clarify scale requirements for when multiple facilities are proposed. Specifically, may an applicant propose multiple facilities (i.e., units) so that their aggregated capacity achieves the nominal gross capture capacity of at least 25,000 TPA, when each unit is supported by Reference Facility readiness and scale requirements at the time of application?	Each proposed LSC facility must demonstrate a unique technology and must target a nominal gross capture capacity of at least 25,000 TPA.

1/17/25	Under TA-3, please clarify the requirement for a DAC technology to be already deployed commercially. Specifically, given the example provided in parentheses “(e.g. designed to generate revenue at smaller scale)”, may an applicant propose use of a Reference Facility where the design is compatible with revenue generation?	Each Reference Facility must have been deployed commercially, meaning it was placed into service for the purpose of revenue generation.
1/17/25	Is the 50% cost share requirement for the total project costs or the federal request? The FOA states the former but the budget guidance doc the latter.	The 50% cost share requirement means that a Recipient must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost. E.g., a TA-1 project might cost a total of \$50M, with at least \$25M contributed by the Recipient or Subs and up to \$25M contributed by DOE.
1/10/25	Is bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) eligible for TA-1?	A DAC project that derives energy from a BECCS facility is eligible for any topic area, including TA-1. While funding the development of clean energy and carbon offtake resources is permitted, please note that Technical Review Criterion 1 includes the following: Ability to access existing or planned clean energy and carbon offtake resources to reduce the need to develop them using project funds (page 76). A project proposing carbon removal exclusively through BECCS would not be eligible, per the Applications Specifically Not of Interest section (page 24).
1/3/25	The 50% Cost Share requirement is burdensome to some firms, can this be waived?	No, a minimum 50% non-Federal cost share is required by statute (see 42 U.S.C. § 16352(c)).
1/3/25	Will awards be grants or loans? How is LPO involved?	Awards under this NOFO will be made through Cooperative Agreements or Other Transactions Agreements. Such agreements are more similar to grants than they are to loans, in that under normal circumstances the Federal share will not need to be paid back to DOE. While OCED's eXCHANGE provides an



		option to share your application with DOE's Loan Program Office (LPO), LPO is not making awards under this NOFO.
1/3/25	Why is the application deadline so far away?	OCED must first review and adjudicate Concept Papers and Pre-applications. We envision providing encourage/discourage guidance or Apply/Do Not Apply authorizations sometime in the middle of March, 2025. After that point applicants will have approximately four and a half months for teaming and submission of Applications.
1/3/25	The top of p. 38 ("Concept Paper Content") contains a bullet for "Management and Organization," but further requirements for that section are not provided. Does this need to be included at the Concept Paper phase?	No, the "Management and Organization" bullet near the top of page 38 was included in error and it is not a requirement for the Concept Paper. Required Concept Paper content includes only: Cover Page, Technical Solution and Business Case, Project Plan and Team, and Community Benefits Plan as described in pages 38 and 39.
1/3/25	Can the Concept Paper/Pre-application deadline be extended?	No, OCED is not considering extending this deadline at this time.
1/3/25	How will modular systems be evaluated for the TA-2 eligibility requirement of 80 TPA CO <sub>2</sub> ? For example, if a 10-unit modular system has a combined production capacity of 80 TPA CO <sub>2</sub> , but the entity has only built and operated one unit, can they propose the 10-unit system and claim 80 TPA? Alternatively, must the 1,000 hours of operation data be directly associated with a system that already has an 80 TPA CO <sub>2</sub> production capacity?	TA-2 applicants must have a Reference Facility that is at least 1/25 of the of the nominal gross capture capacity of the proposed MSC facility. The smallest MSC facility that can be proposed is 2,000 TPA, so applicants must demonstrate that at least an 80 TPA facility is operational and generating the required data. The 1,000 hours of testing data must come from a Reference Facility that meets these minimum size requirements.

