

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**



U.S. Department of Energy

**Office of Science
Office of Fusion Energy Sciences**

***Materials Solicitation with Focus on Structural Materials,
Blanket First Walls, and Divertor Plasma Facing Components***

Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000603

Announcement Type: Initial

CFDA Number: 81.049

ISSUE DATE:	October 17, 2011
Pre-Application Due Date: (Pre-Applications are required)	November 14, 2011
Application Due Date:	December 23, 2011

NOTE: REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.GOV

Where to Submit: Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov to be considered for award. You cannot submit an application through Grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements carefully and start the process immediately. Remember you have to update your Central Contract Registry (CCR) registration annually. If you have any questions about your registration, you should contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you are still registered in Grants.gov.

Registration Requirements: There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit an application through Grants.gov (i.e., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the CCR, register with the credential provider, and register with Grants.gov). To register with Grants.gov go to “Get Registered” at http://grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. Use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.pdf> to guide you through the process. Designating an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants, who are not registered with CCR and Grants.gov, should allow at least 21 days to complete these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS: When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e. Grants.gov registration).

Questions: Questions relating to the 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. Part VII of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) explains how to submit other questions to the Department of Energy (DOE).

Application Receipt Notices

After an application is submitted, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of four e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the emails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of email Number 2. The titles of the four e-mails are:

- Number 1 - Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number
- Number 2 - Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number
- Number 3 - Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number
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PART I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Technical/Scientific Program Contact:

Dr. Peter Pappano, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, SC-24.2

PHONE: (301) 903-4883

E-MAIL: Peter.Pappano@science.doe.gov

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Public Law 95-91, US Department of Energy Organization Act

Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

U.S. Department of Energy Financial Assistance Rules, codified at 10 CFR Part 600

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule, codified at 10 CFR Part 605

SUMMARY:

The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (FES), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces their interest in receiving Grant applications from single or multi-institution teams to the Materials area of fusion energy sciences, specifically structural materials, blankets, and plasma facing components. The FES Materials portfolio focuses on the development, testing, joining, and modeling/simulations of metals, alloys, coatings, and composites that are appropriate for various locations in the fusion environment. The specific areas of interest under this FOA are:

1. Structural materials
2. Blanket first-wall materials (both liquid and solid)
3. Divertor plasma facing components (both liquid and solid)

More specific information on each area of interest is included in the Description of Topical Areas section under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION below.

A companion Program Announcement to DOE National Laboratories (LAB 12-603) will be posted on the Office of Science Grants and Contracts web site at:

<http://www.science.doe.gov/grants>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of Topical Areas

1. Structural Materials

Applications are solicited for the development and characterization of advanced structural materials for fusion reactors. Structural materials are those that have a load bearing purpose in the fusion reactor. The environments produced in a fusion reactor present a significant materials challenge. Materials used to build the structure of the plasma chamber are subjected to intense heat, radiation, reactive chemicals, and stresses (both thermal and mechanical). Structural materials must be able to withstand large heat fluxes (5-15 MW/m²) while exhibiting minimal changes to key properties such as ductility, corrosion resistance, mechanical strength, and resistance to crack propagation. The materials must also be relatively free of impurities, or elements that undergo transmutation reactions during irradiation, as they enhance the formation of helium bubbles or long half-life elements. The formation of helium affects the properties of the material, particularly mechanical properties, while long half-life elements present environmental storage issues in reactor change-out or end of life scenarios.

Materials and/or materials with bonded thin layers or coatings that have been considered for structural applications are: beryllium, graphite, molybdenum, reduced activation ferritic/martensitic steels, nanostructured ferritic alloys with nanofeatures, oxide dispersion strengthened steels, tungsten alloys, and silicon carbide composites. FES requests pre-applications on the development, fabrication, joining, characterization, irradiation response, and high heat flux testing of these specific materials. The mechanical properties are of most interest here, as a result of their structural purpose in the fusion reactor.

Development is defined as manipulation of the elemental ratios or raw materials used in the given starting material such that the final material exhibits a structure or morphology that is superior to the original for a given property. Fabrication is defined as a forming technique for a given material that enhances its properties and will make it more appropriate for the fusion environment. Joining is defined as the connecting of two similar or dissimilar materials via a true bond, on the atomistic scale, or mechanical bond in order to benefit one or both material's performance in the fusion environment. Characterization is defined as the determination of a given material's property, followed by an inference of how this data can be used to improve the property. Irradiation response is defined as the characterization of a material's properties before and after neutron irradiation. High heat flux testing involves subjecting a material to a fusion relevant heat flux and evaluating the material's response. Because these materials are used for structural applications (i.e. have a load-bearing purpose) the mechanical properties are of most interest.

2. Blankets first wall materials

Applications are solicited for the development and characterization of blanket first wall materials. The blankets used in a fusion reactor are comprised of numerous different materials, joints, and tritium breeding systems via nuclear reactions with lithium. The materials used in the blanket, therefore, have different functions. Some materials comprise the first wall and face the plasma, while others are integrated into the tritium breeding system that sits behind the first wall. Therefore the blanket is composed of both structural and non-structural materials. Structural materials will see the environment explained above in Supplementary Information Topic 1 and will therefore require the same improved property development. An example of a non-structural material is a thin plasma facing layer. Examples of this thin layer are, but not limited to, beryllium, tungsten, graphite, and liquid lithium, gallium, or tin. The temperatures, stresses, heat flux, and neutron dose vary considerably depending on the materials location in the blanket. The blanket system is also associated with cooling and tritium processing systems, which also present significant material challenges. The coolant (helium, liquid metals, etc.) can have deleterious effects on the coolant system if purity is not controlled. Also, the temperature at which the coolant must operate 400-700°C present corrosion issues to the material housing it.

FES requests pre-applications in specifically the first wall of the blanket system. The first wall may be either a liquid or solid, depending on the design of the fusion reactor and blanket system. Solid first wall materials are similar to those described in Supplementary Information Topic 1 and the same research and development needs are present. However in the case of a blanket first wall the structural material may have to be bonded to a thin layer of plasma facing material, thus joining or coating technologies are of interest here. The coatings or thin layers that face the plasma and are joined to the blanket are non-structural. The material properties of interest for these coatings or thin layers are neutron irradiation response, heat flux, and corrosion resistance.

Liquid first walls may be lithium, gallium, or tin and also serve a non-structural purpose. Research topics for liquid first walls also include irradiation response, heat flux, corrosion, and sputtering/re-deposition.

Because blanket first wall materials are part of a multi-material, multi-functional component, design studies that incorporate experimental work and could provide some guidance for material property requirements, based on the conditions present in a fusion reactor, will also be considered.

3. Divertor Plasma Facing Components

Applications are solicited for the development and characterization of divertor plasma facing components (PFC). Based on the design of the divertor, the plasma facing components could be structural or non-structural. The PFCs of a divertor in a fusion reactor see a particularly high heat flux and irradiation dose. One option for the PFCs is to use solid refractory type materials, which would be structural materials in nature. Accordingly, the requirements outlined in Supplementary Information Topic 1 would also apply here. Another solid PFC

option is to use high-Z materials joined to low-Z coatings, such as carbon/graphite. In this case the PFC would be a thin coating and therefore non-structural in nature. Solid divertor PFCs are then bonded to a heat sink, which is either liquid or gas cooled. Another divertor PFC option is stationary or flowing liquids, such as lithium, gallium, and tin. These liquids are also adhered to a heat sink.

Pre-applications are sought on: (1) innovative solid divertor PFCs that can withstand heat fluxes of 5-15 W/m² or greater, (2) fabrication techniques, (3) coating technology, and (4) bonding or joining techniques for the PFCs to the heat sink. Pre-applications are also sought on: (5) innovative liquid divertor PFCs that can withstand heat fluxes of 5-15 W/m² or greater, (6) irradiation response and (7) joining science for the liquid PFC to the heat sink.

Because divertor plasma facing component materials are part of a multi-material component, design studies that incorporate experimental work and could provide some guidance for material property requirements, based on the conditions present in a fusion reactor, will also be considered.

Additional Considerations

Management Structure

The applicants must identify a management structure that enables an effective collaboration among the participants from various disciplines. The structure and management must be sufficiently flexible to adapt quickly to changing technical challenges and scientific needs. To that end, the applicants must identify a Lead Principal Investigator, Principal Investigator(s), and Senior/Key Personnel. Typical duties, responsibilities and authorities for each category are provided below:

- **Lead Principal Investigator** - The Lead Principal Investigator must be employed by the Lead institution and will serve as the primary contact responsible for communications with the DOE Program Officers on behalf of all of the Principal Investigators in the Partnership.
- **Principal Investigator** - A Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual designated by the collaborating institution and empowered with the appropriate level of authority and responsibility for the proper conduct of the research within that organization. These authorities and responsibilities include the appropriate use of funds and administrative requirements such as the submission of scientific progress reports to DOE.
- **Senior/Key Personnel** - A senior/key person is an individual who contributes in a substantive, measurable way to the scientific or technical development or execution of the project.

Additional Guidance to Applicants

Additional Resources

1. *Magnetic Fusion Energy Sciences Research Needs Workshop (ReNeW) report, June 2009*, http://science.energy.gov/~media/fes/pdf/workshop-reports/Res_needs_mag_fusion_report_june_2009.pdf

PART II – AWARD INFORMATION

A. TYPE OF AWARD INSTRUMENT.

DOE anticipates awarding Grants under this FOA.

B. ESTIMATED FUNDING.

It is anticipated that up to \$2.6 million total will be available for multiple awards to be made in FY 2012, contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. Awards are expected to be made for a period of three years at a funding level appropriate for the proposed scope, with out-year support contingent on the availability of appropriated funds and satisfactory progress. Funding for the final year is contingent upon satisfactory completion of a progress review during the second year of each project.

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this FOA. FES reserves the right to make fewer awards than would be possible at \$2,600,000 per year, if an insufficient number of applications are judged to be of suitable scientific quality or of sufficient relevance to the programs.

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE.

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

D. EXPECTED NUMBER OF AWARDS.

The exact number of awards will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

E. ANTICIPATED AWARD SIZE.

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

F. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.

A maximum of three years will be considered. Out-year funding will depend upon suitable progress and the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for the final year is contingent upon satisfactory completion of a progress review during the second year of each project.

G. TYPE OF APPLICATION.

DOE will accept new applications under this FOA.

PART III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.

All types of domestic entities are eligible to apply, except other Federal agencies, Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995.

B. COST SHARING.

Cost sharing is not required.

C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

N/A

PART IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE.

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select "**Apply for Grants**", and then select "**Download a Grant Application Package**". Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this FOA and then follow the prompts to download the application package.

B. LETTER OF INTENT AND PRE-APPLICATION.

1. Letter of Intent.

N/A

2. Pre-Application.

Pre-Applications are **REQUIRED** and must be submitted by November 14, 2011, 11:59 PM Eastern Time. **Failure to submit a pre-application by an applicant will preclude the full application from due consideration.** The pre-application should be submitted electronically by E-mail to Peter.Pappano@science.doe.gov and John.Sauter@science.doe.gov. **Please include "Pre-Application for DE-FOA-0000603" in the subject line.** A response to the pre-applications encouraging or discouraging formal applications will be communicated to the applicants by November 21, 2011. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their pre-application by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Pre-Applications should include cover page information, a brief description of the proposed work (1-2 pages, including text with minimum font size 11 point, figures, and references), and a one-page curriculum vitae from each Principal Investigator (PI), co-Principal Investigator (co-PI), and senior collaborator or consultant. The cover page should include: (a) A statement that the document is a pre-application in response to Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0000603; (b) Lead PI information: name, institutional affiliation, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address; and, (c) names and institutions of all Institutional PIs, and senior collaborators or consultants (excluding postdoctoral associates). Since among the purposes of the pre-application is to facilitate FES in planning the merit review and the selection of peer-reviewers without conflicts of interest, it is important that applicants ensure their list of supported or unsupported participants is as comprehensive as possible.

Pre-applications will be reviewed by FES program officials for responsiveness to this Funding Opportunity Announcement, eligibility of the applicant organization, and qualification of the applicant's personnel for carrying out materials research activities. Only those applicants who receive notification from DOE encouraging a full application may submit a formal application. **No other formal applications will be considered.**

C. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION – SF 424 (R&R).

You must complete the mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms (e.g., SF-LLL-Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. **Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this FOA.**

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 can be found on the DOE Financial Assistance Forms Page at <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>, under Certifications and Assurances.

2. RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information.

Complete questions 1 through 6 and attach files. 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. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s) (PD/PI), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). This document must not include any proprietary or sensitive business information as the Department may make it available to the public. The project summary must not exceed 1-2 pages when printed using standard 8.5” by 11” paper with 1” margins (top, bottom, left and right) with font not smaller than 11 point. To attach a Project Summary/Abstract, click “Add Attachment.”

Project Narrative (Field 8 on the Form).

The project narrative **must not exceed 26 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard 8.5” by 11” paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). **EVALUATORS WILL ONLY REVIEW THE NUMBER OF PAGES SPECIFIED IN THE PRECEDING SENTENCE.** The font must not be smaller than 11 point.

Letters of endorsement from unfunded collaborators should also be included, if applicable.

Please do not submit general letters of support as these are not used in making funding decisions and can interfere with the selection of peer reviewers.

Do not include any Internet addresses (URLs) that provide information necessary to review the application, because the information contained in these sites will not be reviewed. See Part VIII.D for instructions on how to mark proprietary application information. To attach a Project Narrative, click “Add Attachment.”

The application narrative should begin with a cover page that includes: the project title, the Lead PI's name and complete contact information.

The cover page must also include the following information (this page will not count in the project narrative page limitation):

Applicant/Institution:

Street Address/City/State/Zip:

Principal Investigator:

Postal Address:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0000603

DOE/Office of Science Program Office: Office of Fusion Energy Sciences

DOE/Office of Science Program Office Technical Contact: Dr. Peter Pappano

DOE Grant Number (if Renewal or Supplemental Application):

Is this a Collaboration? If yes, please list ALL Collaborating Institutions/Pis and indicate which ones will also be submitting applications. Also indicate the PI who will be the point of contact and coordinator for the combined research activity.

Collaborative applications submitted from different institutions should clearly indicate they are part of a collaborative project/group. Every partner institution must submit an application through its own sponsored research office. Each application within the collaborative group, including the narrative and all required appendices and attachments, should be identical with one exception: The exception is that each application should contain unique budget and budget justification documents corresponding to the expenditures for that application's submitting institution only. Each collaborative group can have only one lead institution, which should be identified in the common narrative. The common narrative should also contain a summary table describing the budget breakdown by institution for all participants.

Each application belonging to a collaborative group should have the same title in Block 11 of the SF 424 (R&R) form.

Our intent is to create from the various applications associated with a collaborative group one document for merit review that consists of the common, identical required appendices and attachments combined with a set of detailed budgets from the partner institutions. Thus, it is very important that every application in the collaborative group be exactly identical (including the title) with the exception of the budget and budget justification pages.

Project Objectives:

This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.

The Project Narrative comprises the research plan for the project, it should contain enough background material in the Introduction, including review of the relevant literature, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the state of the science. The major part of the narrative should be devoted to a description and justification of the proposed project, including details of the method to be used. It should also include a timeline for the major activities of the proposed project, and should indicate which project personnel will be responsible for which activities.

Appendix 1: Biographical Sketch.

Provide a biographical sketch for the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) and each senior/key person listed in Section A on the R&R Budget form. **Provide the Biographical Sketch information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Biographical Sketch Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.**

The biographical information (curriculum vitae) for each person must not exceed 2 pages when printed on 8.5” by 11” paper with 1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) with font not smaller than 11 point and must include:

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, in chronological order, professional/academic positions with a brief description.

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.

Synergistic Activities. List no more than 5 professional and scholarly activities related to the effort proposed.

Identification of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Bias in Selection of Reviewers. Provide the following information in this section:

Collaborators and Co-editors: List in alphabetical order all persons, including their current organizational affiliation, who are, or who have been, collaborators or co-authors with you on a research project, book or book article, report, abstract, or paper during the 48 months preceding the submission of this application. For publications or collaborations with more than 10 authors or participants, only list those individuals in the core group with whom the Principal Investigator interacted on a regular basis while the research was being done. Also, list any individuals who are currently, or have been, co-editors with you on a special issue of a journal, compendium, or conference proceedings

during the 24 months preceding the submission of this application. If there are no collaborators or co-editors to report, state “None.”

Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors and Advisees: List the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate advisor(s) and principal postdoctoral sponsor(s) during the last 5 years. Also, list the names and current organizational affiliations of your graduate students and postdoctoral associates during the past 5 years.

Appendix 2: Current and Pending Support.

Provide a list of all current and pending support (both Federal and non-Federal) for the Project Director/Principal Investigator(s) (PD/PI) and senior/key persons, including subawardees, for ongoing projects and pending applications. For each organization providing support, show the total award amount for the entire award period (including indirect costs) and the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project by the senior/key person. **Provide the Current and Pending Support as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Current and Pending Support Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.** Concurrent submission of an application to other organizations for simultaneous consideration will not prejudice its review.

Appendix 3: Bibliography and References Cited.

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative. Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. **Provide the Bibliography and References Cited information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. This Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.**

Appendix 4: Facilities and Other Resources.

This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources, including subawardee resources, available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used (Laboratory, Animal, Computer, Office, Clinical and Other). If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe only those resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Describe other resources available to the project (e.g., machine shop, electronic shop) and the extent to which they would be available to the project. **Provide the Facilities and Other Resources information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Facilities and Other Resources Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.**

Appendix 5: Equipment.

List major items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate identify location and pertinent capabilities. **Provide the Equipment information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Equipment Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.**

Appendix 6: Other Attachment.

If you need to elaborate on your responses to questions 1-6 on the “Other Project Information” document, **please provide the Other Attachment information as an Appendix to your Project Narrative. Do not attach a separate file. The Other Attachment Appendix will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation.**

Do not attach any of the requested Appendices described above as files for fields 9, 10, 11, and 12. Instead follow the above instructions to include the information as Appendices to the Project Narrative file (these Appendices will not count in the Project Narrative page limitation).

3. RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET.

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 for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles, and are not prohibited by the funding restrictions in this FOA (See PART IV, G).

Budget Justification (Field K on the form).

Provide the required supporting information for the following costs: equipment; domestic and foreign travel; participant/trainees; material and supplies; publication; consultant services; ADP/computer services; subaward/consortium/contractual; equipment or facility rental/user fees; alterations and renovations; and indirect cost type. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request. **Attach a single budget justification file for the entire project period in Field K.** The file automatically carries over to each budget year.

4. R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM.

Budgets for Subawardees, other than DOE FFRDC Contractors. You must provide a separate cumulative R&R budget for each subawardee that is expected to perform work estimated to be more than \$100,000 or 50 percent of the total work effort (whichever is less). If you are selected for award, you must submit a multi-year budget for each of these subawardees. Download the R&R Budget Attachment from the R&R SUBAWARD BUDGET ATTACHMENT(S) FORM and e-mail it to each subawardee that is required to submit a separate budget. After the Subawardee has e-mailed its completed budget back to you, attach it to one of the blocks provided on the form. Use up to 10 letters of the subawardee’s name (plus .xfd) as the file name (e.g., ucla.xfd or energyres.xfd).

5. 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), 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.

6. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: 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, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Summary of Required Forms/Files

Your application must include the following documents:

Name of Document	Format	Attach to
SF 424 (R&R)	Form	N/A
RESEARCH AND RELATED Other Project Information	Form	N/A
Project Summary/Abstract	PDF	Field 7
Project Narrative, including required appendices	PDF	Field 8
RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET	Form	N/A
Budget Justification	PDF	Field K
PROJECT/PERFORMANCE SITE LOCATION(S)	Form	N/A
SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	Form	N/A

D. SUBMISSIONS FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

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

- Indirect cost information
- Other budget information
- Name and phone number of the Designated Responsible Employee for complying with national policies prohibiting discrimination (See 10 CFR Part 1040.5)
- Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Software, if applicable
- Commitment Letter from Third Parties Contributing to Cost Sharing, if applicable

E. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES.

1. Letter of Intent.

N/A

2. Pre-Application.

Pre-Applications are **REQUIRED** and must be submitted by November 14, 2011, 11:59 PM Eastern Time. **Failure to submit a pre-application by an applicant will preclude the full application from due consideration.** The pre-application should be submitted electronically by E-mail to Peter.Pappano@science.doe.gov and John.Sauter@science.doe.gov. **Please include "Pre-Application for DE-FOA-0000603" in the subject line.** A response to the pre-applications encouraging or discouraging formal applications will be communicated to the applicants by November 21, 2011. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their pre-application by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Pre-Applications should include cover page information, a brief description of the proposed work (1-2 pages, including text with minimum font size 11 point, figures, and references), and a one-page curriculum vitae from each Principal Investigator (PI), co- Principal Investigator (co-PI), and senior collaborator or consultant. The cover page should include: (a) A statement that the document is a pre-application in response to Funding Opportunity DE-FOA-0000603; (b) Lead PI information: name, institutional affiliation, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address; and, (c) names and institutions of all Institutional PIs, and senior collaborators or consultants (excluding postdoctoral associates). Since among the purposes of the pre-application is to facilitate FES in planning the merit review and the selection of peer-reviewers without conflicts of interest, it is important that applicants ensure their list of supported or unsupported participants is as comprehensive as possible.

Pre-Applications will be reviewed by FES program officials for responsiveness to this Funding Opportunity Announcement, eligibility of the applicant organization, and qualification of the applicant's personnel for carrying out materials research activities. Only those applicants who receive notification from DOE encouraging a full application may submit a formal application. **No other formal applications will be considered.**

3. Formal Applications.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: December 23, 2011, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Formal applications submitted in response to this FOA must be received by Friday, December 23, 2011, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, to permit timely consideration of awards in Fiscal Year 2012. **You are encouraged to submit your application well before the deadline.**

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.

F. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW.

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

G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS.

Cost Principles. Costs must be allowable in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles referenced in 10 CFR Part 600. The cost principles for commercial organization are in FAR Part 31.

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 10 CFR Part 600. 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.

H. OTHER SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

1. Where to Submit.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH GRANTS.GOV TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.

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.

2. Registration Process.

You must COMPLETE the one-time registration process (all steps) before you can submit your first application through Grants.gov. We recommend that you start this process at least three weeks before the application due date. It may take 21 days or more to complete the entire process. To register with Grants.gov go to "Get Registered" at http://grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. Use the Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/OrganizationRegCheck.pdf> to guide you through the process. IMPORTANT: During the CCR registration process, you will be asked to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBIZ POC). The EBIZ POC must obtain a special password called "Marketing Partner Identification Number" (MPIN). When you have completed the process, you should call the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., Grants.gov registration).

You cannot submit an application through Grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements carefully and start the process immediately. Remember you have to update your CCR registration annually.

3. Application Receipt Notices.

After an application is submitted, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of four e-mails. It is extremely important that the AOR watch for and save each of the emails. It may take up to two (2) business days from application submission to receipt of email Number 2. The titles of the four e-mails are:

Number 1 - Grants.gov Submission Receipt Number

Number 2 - Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application Number

Number 3 - Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application Number

Number 4 - Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application Number

PART V - APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. CRITERIA.

1. Initial Review Criteria.

Prior to a comprehensive merit evaluation, DOE will perform an initial review in accordance with 10 CFR Part 605.10(b) to determine that (1) the applicant is eligible for the award; (2) the information required by the FOA has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements are satisfied; and (4) the proposed project is responsive to the objectives of the funding opportunity announcement. Applications that fail to pass the initial review will not be forwarded for merit review and will be eliminated from further consideration.

2. Merit Review Criteria.

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria which are listed in descending order of importance codified at 10 CFR Part 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach
3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation process will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the FOA and the agency's programmatic needs. Note that external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Both Federal and non-Federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

C. ANTICIPATED NOTICE OF SELECTION AND AWARD DATES.

It is anticipated that selections will be completed by February 24, 2012.

PART VI - AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES.

1. Notice of Selection.

Selected Applicants Notification: DOE will notify applicants selected for award. This notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance. (See Part IV.G with respect to the allowability of pre-award costs.)

Non-selected Notification: Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible. This notice will explain why the application was not selected.

2. Notice of Award.

An Assistance Agreement issued by the contracting officer is the authorizing award document. It normally includes, either as an attachment or by reference: 1. Special Terms and Conditions; 2. Applicable program regulations, if any; 3. Application as approved by DOE; 4. DOE assistance regulations at 10 CFR Part 600; 5. National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated As Award Terms; 6. Budget Summary; and 7. Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, which identifies the reporting requirements.

For grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to OMB Circular 2 CFR, the Award also includes the Research Terms and Conditions located at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp>

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Administrative Requirements.

The administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 10 CFR Part 600 and 10 CFR Part 605 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Grants and cooperative agreements made to universities, non-profits and other entities subject to Title 2 CFR are subject to the Research Terms and Conditions located on the National Science Foundation web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/index.jsp>.

DUNS and CCR Requirements.

Additional administrative requirements for DOE grants and cooperative agreements are contained in 2 CFR, Part 25 (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Prime awardees must keep their data at CCR current. Subawardees at all tiers must obtain DUNS numbers and provide the DUNS to the prime awardee before the subaward can be issued.

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, Part 170. (See: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>). Prime awardees must register with the new FSRS database and report the required data on their first tier subawardees. Prime awardees must report the executive compensation for their own executives as part of their registration profile in the CCR.

2. Special Terms and Conditions and National Policy Requirements.

The DOE Special Terms and Conditions for Use in Most Grants and Cooperative Agreements are located at: <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>.

The National Policy Assurances to Be Incorporated As Award Terms are located at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rtc/appc.pdf>.

Intellectual Property Provisions.

The standard DOE financial assistance intellectual property provisions applicable to the various types of recipients are located at <http://energy.gov/gc/standard-intellectual-property-ip-provisions-financial-assistance-awards>.

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 and DOE Project Officer will negotiate a Statement of Substantial Involvement prior to award.

C. REPORTING.

Reporting requirements are identified on the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist, DOE F4600.2, attached to the award agreement. For a sample Checklist, see <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-forms>.

PART VII - QUESTIONS/AGENCY CONTACTS

A. QUESTIONS.

Questions regarding the content of the FOA must be submitted through the FedConnect portal. You must register with FedConnect to respond as an interested party to submit questions, and to view responses to questions. It is recommended that you register as soon after release of the FOA as possible to have the benefit of all responses. More information is available at: https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf. DOE will try to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Applications submitted through FedConnect will not be accepted.

Questions relating to the 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 cannot answer these questions.

B. AGENCY CONTACTS.

Technical/Scientific Program Contacts:

Dr. Peter Pappano, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, SC-24.2
PHONE: (301) 903-4883
E-MAIL: Peter.Pappano@science.doe.gov

PART VIII - OTHER INFORMATION

A. 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 <http://www.fedconnect.net>.

B. 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.

C. COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can make awards or commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. A commitment by other than the Contracting Officer, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

D. PROPRIETARY APPLICATION INFORMATION.

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in an application only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted, provided the applicant includes the following legend on the first page of the project narrative and specifies the pages of the application which are to be restricted:

“The data contained in pages _____ of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government’s right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant.”

To protect such data, each line or paragraph on the pages containing such data must be specifically identified and marked with a legend similar to the following:

“The following contains proprietary information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.”

E. 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. Non-Federal personnel conducting administrative activities must sign a non-disclosure agreement.

F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

Patent Rights. The government will have certain statutory rights in an invention that is conceived or first actually reduced to practice under a DOE award. 42 U.S.C. 5908 provides that title to such inventions vests in the United States, except where 35 U.S.C. 202 provides otherwise for nonprofit organizations or small business firms. However, the Secretary of Energy may waive all or any part of the rights of the United States subject to certain conditions. (See “Notice of Right to Request Patent Waiver” in paragraph G below.)

Rights in Technical Data. Normally, the government has unlimited rights in technical data created under a DOE agreement. Delivery or third party licensing of proprietary software or data developed solely at private expense will not normally be required except as specifically negotiated in a particular agreement to satisfy DOE’s own needs or to insure the commercialization of technology developed under a DOE agreement.

G. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST PATENT WAIVER.

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 784.12, http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title10/10cfr784_main_02.tpl.

Domestic small businesses and domestic nonprofit organizations will receive the patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14, i.e., the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act. This clause permits domestic small business and domestic nonprofit organizations to retain title to subject inventions. Therefore, small businesses and nonprofit organizations do not need to request a waiver.

H. NOTICE REGARDING ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

N/A

I. 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.