



Q&A: Fiscal Year 2021 TCF Solicitation

Questions are sorted in reverse chronological order, and have a number assigned to them for cross-reference, if necessary.

Questions may have been edited for clarity or brevity. OTT is not addressing duplicate questions.

Q&A will also post here: <https://www.labpartnering.org/TCF/Resources>

Q #	Date Asked	Subject	Question	Answer
57	12/10/2020	Summary	Is it possible for the partner to review and modify the one page summary before any public release?	Because any public release of information contained within a selected project’s one page summary would coincide with the selection announcement, there would be insufficient time to permit edits to the document. Not all one page summaries are made public and it is unlikely that all of the information from a one page summary would be used publically. Applicants may wish to provide their summaries to their partners prior to submitting the application.
56	12/10/2020	Delegate Proposal Access in PROPS	I would like my admin to be able to upload the needed forms in PROPS. How can I or you grant her access to the submission site?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To delegate your Proposal Eligibility Declaration and/or Proposal, go to the “Applications” tab. Click the “Lock” icon to the left of the Tracking ID. In the “New and Pending Delegation Requests,” select “Create New Request.” Provide the requested information on the individual receiving delegation rights, the type of permission they will receive, and click the “check” icon. The person must have a user account <p>These instructions appear in the applicant webinar which is available at tps://proposalsott.inl.gov/Home/tcf_resources.aspx</p>
55	12/10/2020	Budget/Cost Match	The solicitation requires at least 50% non-federal cost match of the total project cost. The budget sheet lists budget on a per year basis. Do we need to align budgets to match on a per year basis or do we just need a total budget match?	There may be times within the period of performance that the matching funds contribution is more or less than 50%. Non-federal cost match must be at least 50% of total project costs at the conclusion of the project.



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54	12/9/2020	References	Do we need to include a separate References section at the end of Technical Narrative for any publications cited in the text or can we embed hyperlinks in the text itself and not have a separate References section?	As stated on page 21, <i>“OTT will remove and instruct Independent Merit Reviewers that they may not consider information inserted by hyperlink.”</i> Footnotes, endnotes or references may be included in the Narrative, but count towards page limits.
53	12/9/2020	Letter of Support	Can a “letter of support” from another entity which will aid one or more of the proposed tasks of the proposal, but won’t provide any cost match or sign a partner agreement be included?	Yes. Letters of support from organizations that are not providing cost-match or signing an agreement may be included in the Optional Appendix.
52	12/8/2020	Letter of Commitment	To whom should the partner’s letter of commitment for the TCF call be directed to?	The letter should be directed to the PI or to the appropriate laboratory representative.
51	12/8/2020	Font	Are font sizes less than 11pt allowed in charts/tables/figures in the proposal narrative? Can we include a corporate statement in the footnote of 1 page abstract that is less than 11pt font?	Font sizes less than 11pt are acceptable in the legends and labels of charts/tables/figures in the proposal narrative. Captions should use a font size of 11pt or larger. Footnotes should use a font size of 11pt or larger. As stated on page 21, <i>“Applicants should use their best judgment when including footnotes, endnotes, references, illustrations of any kind, etc., which count against page limits.”</i> Corporate Letters of Support may be included in the Optional Appendix, which does not count towards the page totals.
50	12/8/2020	PI Change	Is it possible to change the PI originally noted in the PED and switch the roles of the PI and Co-PI?	As stated on page 22 of the solicitation, applicants should <i>“... Describe the capabilities of the project team, including those of the PI(s), partners, and other members, and how each will contribute to the commercialization of the product...”</i> in the Team and Resources portion of the full proposal’s Technical Narrative. The Project Team and Resources Merit Review criteria is discussed on page 17 of the solicitation. The deadline for PED changes was December 1, 2020.



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49	12/8/2020	Funding/Budget	Are changes to the funding request/budget amount allowable after the December 1, 2020 PED change deadline?	Yes. Budget and funding request amounts are part of the full proposal segment of the TCF so changes may be made directly by the applicant until the TCF deadline of 5PM December 15, 2020
48	12/8/2020	Letters of Support	If a potential commercial partner has been identified for a Topic 1 proposal, can a letter of support from that entity be included in the Optional Appendix even though no cost share has been provided?	Yes. Letters of support from organizations that are not providing cost-match may be included in the Optional Appendix.
47	12/7/2020	Funding	The target TCF funding for each Topic 2 award is \$250,000-\$1,500,000. The target period of performance for a Topic 2 award is 12-36 months." Please clarify if a PI may request up to \$1.5M in TCF funds. If so, please confirm that the total project budget, including a 50% cost match, would then be \$3M.	Yes. See question 13.
46	12/7/2020	Partnership Agreements	If the PI plans to pursue an agreement other than a CRADA, such as a contract, when does the PI need to request DOE approval? Should this be done before the proposal is submitted, or later when/if an award is made? Also, please clarify if it is just the DOE Field Office that needs to approve, or if we need to also seek approval from OTT.	Beginning in FY 2021, the type of partnership agreement is at the discretion of the DOE facility, so OTT approval of the partnership agreement is not required. Applicants should request DOE Field or Site Office approval for non-CRADA partnership agreements in a time and manner that is in keeping with the policies of the DOE facility. The agreement itself does not need to be executed until the project has been selected and work is about to begin.
45	12/7/2020	PED Changes	Will proposals which have a minor revision including project period and partners' contact points be reviewed? Would a mismatched proposal be reviewed or terminated?	As stated on page 20, the TCF Solicitation allows for some changes to eligible Proposal Eligibility Declarations (PED) between the date that eligibility notices are sent and the PED change deadline. For FY 2021, PED changes were allowed between November 3, 2020 and December 1, 2020. Changes or updates to information such as the PI, partner, topic, or



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				<p>period of performance were allowed during this period. Having a change deadline allows TCF to maintain its schedule.</p> <p>As stated in Section B on page 16 of the solicitation <i>“All Full Proposals will be subject to an eligibility review to determine that... Full Proposal matches the project described in the corresponding Proposal Eligibility Declaration.”</i> Proposals that significantly vary from the eligible PED may not be reviewed. Changes approved by TCF during the PED change period would not impact a proposal’s eligibility to be reviewed. Minor discrepancies between a PED and the proposal, such as a different phone number for a partner POC would not be an issue.</p> <p>Changes to awarded projects are reviewed by the managing Program Office and TCF on a case by case basis.</p>
44	12/3/2020	Technology Areas	<p>We have a clarifying question on a question we submitted on 9/30/2020 (question 12 in the Q&A document). DOE indicated that a technology involved in a previously awarded TCF project could be used in an FY21 application if there were “distinct uses for the technology meeting the mission of different technology areas and with different external partners.” How do we determine if the FY 21 proposal meets DOE’s definition of “distinct uses for the technology meeting the mission of different technology areas?”</p>	<p>Mission descriptions for the FY 21 technology areas can be found in Appendix A of the solicitation. The FY 21 application must be eligible to submit under a different TCF technology area than the technology area of the prior project.</p>
43	12/3/2020	Institutional Commitment	<p>The technical merit criterion 3: Project Team and Resources includes: Commitment – Extent to which there is demonstrated institutional commitment from</p>	<p>As stated on page 22 of the solicitation, applicants should <i>“Describe the team’s commitment to the project, including that of senior Facility management and corporate officers of partner organizations”</i> in the Team</p>



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			senior DOE Facility management and corporate officers of partners. Can you advise how this should be addressed in the proposal?	and Resources section of the Technical Narrative. In addition, as stated on page 24 of the solicitation, "applicants may also include an optional appendix with only a letter of support from the lead DOE Facility and/or team member resumes."
42	12/3/2020	Partners/Funding	I understand that TCF funds cannot flow to an industry partner. Is this also true for partners that are other national laboratories? A principal investigator (lead) would like to send TCF funds to a lab partner if selected for an award; is this allowed? Would the PI need to seek approval, and if so, from whom?	Please see the responses to questions #31 and #10. As stated on page 47 of the revised solicitation " <i>By law, TCF funds cannot flow to a partner for work scope that is covered by a CRADA. Other types of agreements may be used if approved by your DOE approving Field or Site Office.</i> " If a contract is used as a partnership vehicle, TCF funds applied to the contract could potentially flow to the partner upon DOE [site office] approval. The 50% match requirement remains regardless of the type of partnership agreement a lab uses
41	12/3/2020	Cover Sheet	Are we required to remove the cover sheet if our proposal narrative does not contain restricted data?	As described on page 25 of the solicitation, cover sheets are used only to identify proposal pages that contain "...secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and that the applicant does not want disclosed to the public or used by the Government for any purpose other than proposal evaluation...". A cover page is superfluous for proposals that do not contain any such information and should not be included.
40	11/30/2020	Technology Areas	If a Proposal Eligibility Declaration (PED) was eligible in two technology areas, must the full proposal be submitted under both areas?	While a proposal cannot change or add Technology Areas, if the PED was deemed eligible under two technology areas the applicant may request OTT remove one of the eligible technology areas prior to the PED change deadline. The deadline to make updates or changes is 5:00 p.m. (ET) December 01, 2020. OTT will not consider requests to make changes after the deadline.
39	11/23/2020	Cost Match	May a partner use existing building inspection & diagnostic reports as part of cost share?	As stated in the response to question 15, " <i>Among the considerations when determining what is appropriate to include as cost match are if the costs have been incurred during the</i> "



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				<i>performance period of the project, are necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives and are not included as contributions for any other Federally-assisted project or program. As stated in Appendix B of the solicitation "Please consult the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) or the rules for Federal Financial Assistance at 2 CFR § 200 including 2 CFR § 200.306 for information about which costs are allowable." Matching funds are subject to audit by the Department or other authorized government entities (e.g., GAO). DOE Facilities are responsible for making sure the TCF cost share requirements are met. OTT also suggests consulting your DOE Facility's legal staff for guidance specific to a proposal."</i>
38	11/18/2020	Budget	Can we organize our budget in the budget justification worksheet by six month periods instead of by years?	No. As stated on page 23 of the solicitation applicants should "...Budget by year for the project..." Applicants should use the budget template provided in PROPS.
37	11/18/2020	Partners and Cost Match	Can there be multiple non-lab partners on a TCF proposal and If there are multiple partners, can they collectively meet the 50% cost match requirement?	Yes.
36	11/17/2020	Narrative	What is the page split between the Commercialization Plan and Technical Narrative for each Topic proposal?	There is no defined size given for the elements of the proposal narrative beyond the total page lengths on page 22 of the solicitation. Applicants may wish to review the Merit Review Criteria provided on page 16 of the solicitation which provides a breakdown of the merit review scoring.
35	11/16/2020	Topic Change	Is it possible change the Topic, period of performance or partners in the full proposal?	As stated on page 20 of the Solicitation to change or update information such as the PI, partner, Topic, TCF funding request, or period of performance, please email TCF@hq.doe.gov. OTT will not consider changes to Technology Area(s) and justification(s), or Mission Narratives. The deadline to make updates or changes is 5:00 p.m. (ET) December 01, 2020. OTT will not consider requests to make changes after the deadline.



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34	11/16/2020	University Partnerships	<p>What does “partnership vehicle” mean in the Q&A?</p> <p>If a university does not sign a CRADA with applicant, the university will not be not classified as “partner”, thus the university will not need provide letter of commitment. That being said, because a letter of commitment is not needed, how can a University provide cost share?</p>	<p>The method used to establish a partnership or collaboration is an example of a partnership vehicle.</p> <p>As stated on page 46 of the solicitation <i>Consult your DOE Facility legal staff for advice about how to obligate the third party to provide the matching funds, and to ensure the matching funds meet the requirements for in-kind contributions, if applicable.</i></p>
33	11/12/2020	Technology Areas	<p>The wrong Technology Area was inadvertently selected when the Proposal Eligibility Declaration was submitted. Is it possible to change that in the full proposal?</p>	<p>Proposal Eligibility Declarations (PED) are evaluated under the technology areas they are submitted under. As stated on page 15 of the solicitation full proposals may only be submitted under the technology area(s) that passed the mission relevance review. Changes to the technology area are not accepted after the PED submittal deadline, which was October 8, 2020.</p>
32	11/10/2021	Project Start Date	<p>Could you please let me know the expected project start date for the project budget?</p>	<p>Start dates are not required to complete the budget or the narratives. There is no single TCF project start date, and OTT is unable to provide one. This spring is still the anticipated timeframe for selection notification, which is not an authorization to begin performance. Selected projects are required to finalize the Scope of Work (SOW)/Work Plan with the funding Program Office(s) prior to work authorization and release of funds. Projects with private partners must also execute a CRADA or other approved agreement before they begin work.</p>
31	11/5/20	TCF Funds to Partners	<p>For question 25, it says “by law, TCF funds cannot flow to a partner for work scope that is covered by a CRADA.”</p> <p>Does it mean industry partner cannot use TCF funding?</p>	<p>As stated on page 47 of the FY21 Solicitation, “If a contract is used as a partnership vehicle, TCF funds applied to the contract could potentially flow to the partner upon DOE approval.” Specific cases will ultimately be decided by the approving DOE site office.</p>



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30	11/4/2020	Technological Maturity	Should I add a section "Technology Maturity" section between project description section and project plan section to address the technology maturity element of the technical merit review criteria	Technical maturity should be addressed as part of the project description element of the Technical Narrative and the Commercialization Plan.
29	11/4/2020	Selection Rate	What is the success rate for full proposals?	Since 2018 the selection rate has ranged from a high of 54% to a low of 38%
28	10/30/2020	Principal Investigator	Can post docs apply as a PI?	Yes.
27	10/28/2020	PROPS	Will the submission site warn PIs to check the "Laboratory has verified that matching funds are from non-federal sources" box before submitting, or not allow PIs to submit unless they check the box first?	The non-federal sources verification check box must be checked in order to submit a proposal.
26	10/28/2020	File Naming	There are 2 different file names for the project narrative in the call and I wanted to confirm which one we should use.	Apologies for the confusion. OTT will accept either file name convention.
25	10/27/2020	Subcontractors	Is there a limit on the amount (or percentage) of TCF funding that can be sent to subcontractors?	No. However, by law, TCF funds cannot flow to a partner for work scope that is covered by a CRADA.
24	10/27/2020	Open Source Software	Is development of open source software permissible under the TCF?	Yes. All other requirements must still be met, including but not limited to those related to IP, commercialization and cost match.
23	10/28/2020	Copyright	Is it permissible for an eligible facility to proceed with this TCF project - with the subcontractor, not the Applicant National Lab, holding the registered copyright protection in the subcontractor's name?	If the technology for a Topic 1 proposal was developed at the eligible facility at least in part by the national lab subcontractor then the copyright protection may be applied for and held in the subcontractor's name.
22	10/28/2020	Partners	If an eligible facility has an entity providing non-federal	Correct. Only entities providing cost match and signing a partnership agreement are required to provide a letter of commitment.



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			<p>cost match for a Topic 1 project, with whom we do NOT plan to sign a partnership agreement, that a letter of commitment is not required from that entity?</p> <p>Further, the note that “Applicants may also include an optional appendix with only a letter of support from the lead DOE Facility and/or team member resumes.” suggests that if a letter of commitment is not required, it should not be submitted at all.</p>	<p>A letter of commitment should not be included if the entity does not meet the description of a partner, such as signing a partnership agreement and providing cost match. (revised 11/16/2020)</p>
21	10/23/2020	Funding	Can the funding requested for a Topic 1 proposal can be below \$100,000?	Yes. The funding ranges are flexible on the lower ends. Applicants may submit full proposals for lesser amounts than the funding ranges in the Solicitation. Applicants may not, however, request funding amounts greater than those published in the Solicitation.
20	10/5/2020	Partner Citizenship	I notice that PROPs is requiring citizenship information on partners. Is partner citizenship going to be taken into consideration during the review? If partners are not US citizens, will that impact project selection? How is partner citizenship going to be used?	Apologies for the confusion. The partner citizenship question should not have been visible and the error has been corrected. Partner citizenship will not be taken into consideration in any way for the Proposal Eligibility Declarations or the full proposals. The information will not be used in anyway.
19	10/5/2020	Second PI	Can we list two principle investigators on a TCF project?	As stated on page 23 of the FY 21 solicitation, additional PIs may be listed during the full proposal stage in the Technical Summary of the full proposal as described For information on delegating access to PROPs for both the full proposal and the Proposal Eligibility Declaration please see Question 3.
18	10/2/2020	PROPS	Do you prefer the labs submit PEDs via PROPs?	While OTT will continue to accept PEDS submissions via either the PROPs portal or the PDF form through October 8, omissions have been noted in PEDS submitted using the PDF



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				form instead of entering the information directly into PROPs. PROPs is designed to prevent submission of an incomplete PED. Therefore OTT encourages the use of the PROPs if possible.
17	10/2/2020	Mission Relevance and Justification	What is the difference between justification section (1000 character limit on page 2) and mission narrative section (5000 character limit on page 3) of the PED?	The justification segment of the PED should be used to demonstrate that the project demonstrates and accurately articulates mission area relevance to the applicant-selected Program Office(s) and Technology Area(s). The Mission Overview should demonstrate that the project is responsive to the solicitations objectives and requirements.
16	10/1/2020	Partners and Cost Match	<p>In a Topic 2 proposal, there is one commercial partner (who will provide cost match) and two Universities.</p> <p>a) In this case, would Universities considered “partners” or should they be “collaborators”? Are there different requirements depending on what we call them?</p> <p>b) Do the universities need to provide cost match (even if the commercial partner covers the full 50% cost match)? If so, do the universities have the option to provide “in kind support”?</p> <p>c) Can the 50% cost match requirement be met through a combination of Commercial partner cash or in kind and University cash or in kind?</p>	<p>a) As stated on page 11 of the solicitation “Only entities that have agreed to provide cost match and are willing to sign a partnership agreement are considered to be partners.”</p> <p>b) Applicants may enter into a partnership agreement with partners whose contributions are in-kind only, and must ensure that in-kind contributions meet all of DOE’s requirements pertaining to in-kind contributions.</p> <p>c) Yes.</p>
15	10/1/2020	Cost match	Can a private sector company treat licensing fees and royalties paid to a national laboratory as TCF cost match	Among the considerations when determining what is appropriate to include as cost match are if the costs have been incurred during the performance period of the project, are



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			under a CRADA with that same national laboratory?	necessary and reasonable for the proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives and are not included as contributions for any other Federally-assisted project or program. As stated in Appendix B of the solicitation "Please consult the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) or the rules for Federal Financial Assistance at 2 CFR § 200 including 2 CFR § 200.306 for information about which costs are allowable." Matching funds are subject to audit by the Department or other authorized government entities (e.g., GAO). DOE Facilities are responsible for making sure the TCF cost share requirements are met. OTT also suggests consulting your DOE Facility's legal staff for guidance specific to a proposal.
14	9/30/2020	PEDs	Please clarify the statement "Proposal Eligibility Declarations consist of information requested via an online form and an attachment for upload. Both must be submitted by email..."	The PED consists of two elements, the form and the mission narrative. When submitting via the PROPS portal the online form should be completed and the mission narrative uploaded. Instructions for submitting via PROPS are available here: https://www.labpartnering.org/TCF/Resources . When submitting a PED by email both elements are contained within the same PDF form which should be emailed to TCF@hq.doe.gov and TCFsubmissions@inl.gov
13	9/30/2020	Funding	Topic 2 funding is up to \$1.5 million. Is that the maximum amount that can be requested from the TCF fund, making the TOTAL PROJECT COST \$1.5M with 50% or \$750K of that total cost being a cost match from an industry partner? What do partners get in return for their involvement?	As stated in the table page 1 of the FY21 TCF Solicitation, the maximum amount of TCF funds available for TCF Topic 2 projects is \$1.5 million. Per pages 1 and 9 (Section II.D.), and Appendix B of the Solicitation, the 50% match means that at least 50% of the total project costs must come from non-federal funds. A topic 2 proposal for \$1.5 million in TCF funds would thus have a partner willing to provide at least \$1.5 million, making the total project cost \$3 million. There are myriad benefits to partnering with a DOE facility to commercialize lab-developed IP. Because the partnerships are between an



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				individual laboratory and a private entity, OTT leaves it to each party to determine the benefits of the arrangement, as well as their return on investment.
12	9/30/2020	Clarifying the response to Question 6	Can an awarded technology (not yet complete) be proposed with a different external partner. Would this be considered a different market segment?	Distinct uses for the technology meeting the mission of different technology areas and with different external partners would be considered different market segments. <i>From question 6. Yes. This scenario could include separate proposals involving the same technology but distinct uses for the technology with different external partners.</i>
11	9/29/2020	Pre-Award Cost Share	Are there any circumstances in which costs incurred by the industry partner prior to TCF award announcement could be counted towards the cost share requirement?	As stated on page 47, Appendix B, of the solicitation “... DOE generally does not allow pre-award costs for either Federal cost match or reimbursement when these costs precede the signing of the appropriation bill that funds the award. In the case of a competitive award, DOE generally does not allow pre-award costs prior to the signing of the Selection Statement by the DOE Selection Official. ”
10	9/17/2020	Appendix B	Please clarify this paragraph “By law, TCF funds cannot flow to a partner for work scope that is covered by a CRADA. Other types of agreements may be used with the prior approval of OTT. If a contract is used as a partnership vehicle, TCF funds applied to the contract could flow to the partner. The 50% match requirement remains regardless of the type of partnership agreement a lab uses.”	This paragraph, which appears on page 47 of the solicitation, has been revised to read “By law, TCF funds cannot flow to a partner for work scope that is covered by a CRADA. Other types of agreements may be used if approved by your DOE approving Field or Site Office. If a contract is used as a partnership vehicle, TCF funds applied to the contract could potentially flow to the partner upon DOE approval. The 50% match requirement remains regardless of the type of partnership agreement a lab uses”
9	9/17/2020	Emailing PEDs	Does OTT wants to receive one PED per email message or that only one PED will be received per email address/account?	OTT wants to receive one PED per email message. OTT understands that some Facilities elect to have a single person submit all of their PEDs. A single individual may still submit all of a Facility’s PEDs, but that person should email them one at a time. The solicitation has been revised to reflect this.



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8	9/17/2020	IP	To clarify question 5, the researcher was not at a national lab when the IP was developed and filed.	IP is eligible for the TCF if the DOE Facility has filed for or holds a provisional or non-provisional patent application or copyright protection (Topic 1) or a non-provisional patent application or copyright protection (Topic 2). If a non-lab employee or any entity other than the DOE Facility has filed for or holds these protections, the IP is not eligible for the TCF.
7	9/17/2020		Is NETL, as a federally funded organization, required to have a partner to meet the cost share requirement of a Topic 1 proposal, or is the cost share requirement waived for DOE Labs submitting to Topic 1 proposals?	As stated in a footnote on page 9 of the solicitation “NETL is ineligible for an award for a Topic 1 project unless it finds a private partner.”
6	9/15/2020	Multiple Proposals	Is it permissible for the lab to submit two proposals focused on the same technology?	Yes. This scenario could include separate proposals involving the same technology but distinct uses for the technology with different external partners.
5	9/15/2020	Eligibility	If a researcher came from another national lab from which his existing IP was developed and filed, can he apply for the TCF at his current Facility?	Yes, but the researcher’s current and former lab will need to agree the use of the IP on the TCF project, depending on the IP’s ownership.
4	9/14/2020	PED Submission	Should we submit each PED and reference the PIs last name in the subject line of each email?	The solicitation does not specify a submission email subject line format.
3	9/14/2020	Delegate	Does the delegate identified in the PED template get access in PROPS for the related full proposal?	Yes.
2	9/14/2020	Lab Partnering Service	What does it mean for a PI to be associated with DOE’s Lab Partnering Service?	Page 17 of the solicitation states “...checkbox to indicate whether the Principal Investigator is now or has in the past been enrolled in DOE’s Lab Partnering Service...” The solicitation also states that “Enrollment in DOE’s Lab Partnering Service gives neither an advantage nor a disadvantage to TCF applicants. Someone who is now or has been listed as a LPS lab expert would be considered to be enrolled.



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1	9/10/2020	Advanced Scientific Computing Research	The office for Advanced Scientific Computing Research is not included. Does this mean that computing-related inventions are not in scope? Will there be another opportunity?	The eligible technology areas are listed in appendix A of the solicitation. As stated on page 15 of the solicitation “To be eligible to submit Full Proposals, Proposal Eligibility Declarations must pass both the conformance review and the relevance review in at least one of the applicant-selected Technology Areas— Primary (mandatory) or Secondary (optional).” As described on page six, EAct 2005 states “TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION FUND – The Secretary shall establish an Energy Technology Commercialization Fund, using 0.9% of the amount made available to the Department for applied energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application... ”