

R&D Voucher Program at the NSTTF Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: Is there an opportunity for a foreign external partner to work with the NSTTF under this voucher?

A: Within the RFP on page 10, it states: "Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States with majority domestic ownership and control."

Q: Will there be a deadline extension?

A: There will be no deadline extension for Round 1. However, there will be up to three rounds of calls for this program. The second period will close May 3rd.

Q: Will partners be able to travel to the site?

A: This is constantly changing. We are currently having visitors on a limited basis. Based on current health statistics, we expect to be open to visiting partners by Fall 2021, but future conditions cannot be certain.

Q: When will round 1 projects start work?

A: For one-year projects, the first round will start between July 1st and Aug. 31, 2021.

Q: Is it required to list an NSTTF PoC in the proposals?

A: No. A PoC will be assigned for awarded respondents. No letters of support from Sandia will be provided.

Q: Can this budget support a student at a University?

A: No, as the RFP states, the budget supplied by this program will go entirely to support testing and work at the national laboratories; no funding will be allocated for the partner. Partner expenses must be borne by the partner. Modest material costs for test fixtures is allowed. Travel expenses are expected to be borne by the partner.

Q: What are reasonable estimates for test durations?

A: Budget estimates can be based on similar prototype and R&D scale work (as opposed to production scale). Fabrication of fixtures, initial set-up time, changing of samples, and exposure time for on-sun testing must be considered. Transient weather events, and calibrating flux levels throughout the test must also be considered in test time estimates. Solar simulator tests can be run continuously if samples are sized to conform to the robotic arm specifications.



Q: Does Sandia require additional security/safety procedures that need to be added to budgetary labor estimates?

A: Security and safety procedures at Sandia will be followed, but the time is not expected to be significant enough to impact budgetary estimates.

Q: If a proposal is not accepted in Round 1 does that prohibit a resubmission in Round 2 or 3?

A: Non-awarded applicants will be given feedback on their proposal and an opportunity to reapply depending on the availability of funds.

Q: What are allowable cost categories to be included in the budget?

A: The budget should estimate labor hours at \$210/hr. for testing, consultation, analysis, and fabrication of fixtures and test stands. This estimate takes into consideration user and capability fees. All expenditures to partners including test materials, travel, partner expenses will be borne by the recipient.

Q: Are applicant activities to be included in the budget?

A: The budget should focus on work by the staff at Sandia. Collaborative work should clearly delineate the deliverables and responsibilities of the partner and of the NSTTF.