



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Who is selecting the applications?

Proposals submitted shall be reviewed by a team of external reviewers, selected for their subject matter expertise and their independence from applications to the DFO. The review team will score and make recommendations for each project proposal, based on its own merits. The ABF team will then select from the list of recommended projects, based on ABF strategic priorities, continuation of project portfolio building, and the available resources at the ABF Labs that would perform the proposed work.

### 2. Will any funding be available to companies?

No. Participating companies shall gain access to resources and expertise at the participating National Laboratories, with the aim of overcoming technical barriers that are not generally covered by the private sector. Companies are expected to commit resources to the partnership to the tune of a 20%+ cost share (e.g. for a project with a total budget of \$1M, available federal funds would total \$700k and industry partner would expect to contribute \$300k), although the resulting effort will reflect their own priorities.

### 3. How closely do projects need to align to DOE mission space?

They should be directly and strongly aligned with the missions of DOE and ABF. Special topics of interest indicate where the ABF strategic priorities lie for the next round of projects, but this should not deter the proposal of other topics. Details of the special topics are included within the DFO Information and Instructions document.

### 4. What qualifies as cost-share?

Most substantive contributions to the project will count as cost share, such as but not limited to labor, travel, materials, equipment, organisms, enzymes, pathways, data or cash.

### 5. Can projects run longer than 24 months (Seed project) and 36 months (Full project) respectively?

Projects that propose activities that can be seen as part of a discrete package beyond the 24 or 36 month time limits can be proposed, but in such cases the review team shall be concentrating on what is proposed for the anticipated project period.

### 6. Are go/no-go decision points required?

This is likely to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will refer to the challenges and risks specifically called out in the proposal submission - for instance, where a negative impact of a perceived risk is identified as a potential showstopper, this may necessitate a go/no-go milestone. But the milestones should be used to enable proactive project management with clearly defined goals, metrics, and timelines.



**7. How will IP be managed?**

For all projects, per the non-negotiable CRADA terms, the successful applicant shall have the option to select from an exclusive license or a non-exclusive license to IP developed as part of the project. For details please review the CRADA document here (MS Word format): <https://agilebiofoundry.org/work-with-us/>

Preference will be given to proposals whose applicants are willing to share their findings with future ABF projects.

**8. Is there an official method to ask questions about the Agile BioFoundry program?**

Yes, feel free to email [info@agilebiofoundry.org](mailto:info@agilebiofoundry.org). Representatives are available to discuss over a phone call as well - if you'd like to speak with someone, please note this in your email.

**9. Have DOE or the National Labs identified specific strains or pathways as being of interest to the DOE and if so, would the creation of genetic tools for said hosts fall within scope of this program?**

Hosts that the ABF currently works with on a regular basis comprise the following:

*P. putida* KT2440  
*Aspergillus niger*  
*R. toruloides*  
*Aspergillus pseudoterreus* ATCC 32359  
*C. glutamicum* ATCC 13032  
*Clostridium carboxidivorans*  
*Bacillus coagulans*  
*Zymomonas mobilis*

*Clostridium tyrobutyricum*  
*Acinetobacter baylyi* ADP1  
*Pichia kudriavzevii*  
*Clostridium ljungdahlii*  
*Clostridium autoethanogenum*  
*Cupriavidus necator*  
*Bacillus* sp.

The ABF is interested in expanding into work with additional hosts, and this is reflected in our selection of special topics. Consequently, projects proposing to work with new or existing hosts are all within scope.

**10. Will ABF have scale-up/scale down capabilities for non-traditional strains of interest?**

Yes, both these capabilities are available at LBNL and NREL.

**11. Are external reviewers or ABF team members subject to a nondisclosure agreement?**

No.

**12. What language can proposers use in order to certify that they are willing to comply with the ABF collaboration requirements?**

"We certify that Company Name will adhere to the outlined terms in the application instructions regarding Unique Lab Capabilities, Open Data Share, Cost Share, Agreements, Reporting, and Release of Information."

**13. At what level is budget breakdown detail required in the proposal?**

Please breakdown ABF Resources estimates by National Lab.