



2023 Funding Opportunity Instructions

The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's [Bioenergy Technologies Office](#) (BETO)-funded [Agile BioFoundry](#) (ABF) consortium is overseeing a funding opportunity for industry partners to utilize [ABF capabilities](#).

This funding opportunity provides resources to ABF teams to perform research on behalf of external, collaborating investigators, for developing novel microbial hosts, augmenting titer, rate, and yield of bioproducts, and creating new capabilities & approaches to improve the Design-Build-Test-Learn biomanufacturing cycle. Applicants should submit a proposal that identifies the technical challenges, approaches, and impacts to the mission of the ABF.

There are NO special topics of interest for this funding opportunity. Proposals will leverage the consortium's world-class capabilities to address challenges in biomanufacturing, as identified by the successful applicants from industry. Submissions should also clearly identify how the work addresses [BETO goals](#) of supporting the decarbonization of various industrial sectors, including development of sustainable bio-based products, and sustainable aviation fuels.

This opportunity funds competitively-selected non-negotiable [Cooperative Research and Development Agreements](#) (CRADAs) between BETO laboratory consortia and partners from industry. We anticipate approximately four proposals will be selected with a duration of up to two years. The ABF anticipates no less than a total of \$3 million to be made available to the National Labs, to collaborate with industrial partners. Note that Federal funds shall support activities at the ABF National Labs only, and that project partners are required to provide a 20% cost share (including in-kind).

Guidelines for proposals

- Feasibility document (no more than 2 pages plus one additional page of citations) submission due **no later than Friday, May 5, 2023**. Once your feasibility document is submitted [here](#), you will receive an "encouragement" or "discouragement" notification from ABF, **no later than Friday, May 12, 2023**.
- An "encouragement" notice will direct the applicant to schedule a 30 minute coordination call with an opportunity to talk through your project idea, approach, impact, and benefits with ABF lab principal investigators. These calls will take place **no later than Friday, May 19, 2023**.
- The proposal and summary slide must be submitted **no later than Friday, June 16, 2023, by 5 PM in the applicant's time zone**.
- All submitted proposal content must be no more than **8 pages** in length, plus one additional page of citations.



- Minimum project scope of \$250K per involved ABF Lab. Maximum DOE contribution of \$2M.
- Each section of the funding opportunity proposal template is aligned with specific review criteria for Agile BioFoundry funding opportunity projects.

Required application document sections include:

- Executive Summary (brief overview of project)
- Challenges and Approach
- Identification of risks and risk mitigation strategies
- Impacts and benefit to the ABF
- Appropriateness of government funding
- Key personnel
- Budget and timeline
- Summary slide

During proposal submission, you will be prompted to review the ABF Funding Opportunity Requirements Acknowledgment, stating the applicant:

- Certifies to have reviewed the non-negotiable Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), which governs intellectual property and other terms. Download the [CRADA here as an MS Word document](#). **If your organization cannot sign up to the terms and conditions enclosed, it will not be possible to support your project.**
- Commits to providing results during the project and for a period ~5 years after the project start date (see post award below).
- Is requesting assistance that is not reasonably available in the private sector. Projects are intended to make available the specialized expertise and equipment at the ABF national labs, not compete with the private sector.
- Commits to at least a 20% cost share, which can be cash or in-kind. Examples of in-kind cost share are labor, travel, materials, equipment, organisms, enzymes, pathways, or data. **Federal funds may not be used as cost share.**
- Will allow non-proprietary information about your organization and the success of the assistance to be featured in publicly available stories by DOE and the national labs.
- Has reviewed eligibility guidelines – see [Funding Opportunity FAQs](#).

Review and Selection Process

Submissions will be reviewed and scored by a team of external reviewers, who are nominated and selected by the ABF according to their subject matter expertise and independence from (i.e. lack of conflicts with) proposal submissions, and will be drawn from academia, research institutions, and industry.

The review team shall score each of the applications according to the application criteria. The ABF shall then select from the top ranked proposals to build a strategic project portfolio with the available resources.



Post-Award

All projects will be subject to DOE reviews and reporting requests, a statement of the anticipated cost share and regular reports detailing how this requirement is being met, as well as the execution of all appropriate partnership documents required by DOE.

List of required documentation relating to the awarded proposal:

- Quarterly progress and cost share reports
- Semiannual presentations
- Reporting of any resulting IP or publications
- Close-out presentation and survey

Templates*:

- [Feasibility document](#)
- [CRADA](#)

Links:

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Feasibility submission](#)

* Proposal and summary slide template, as well as submission link, will be made available upon feasibility encouragement.