

2025-11-06 TRACE-Ga OH Q&A's

Q: Can a technology developer submit more than one proposal?

A: Yes, DOE is looking for unique applications.

Q: Can repositories, tailings, piles, etc. be used?

A: The answer is yes. DOE encourages folks to look at the Frequently Asked Questions online or when this is posted.

Q: Would DOE accept a Letter of Support from a foreign bauxite facility, while all testing and technology validation are performed in the US?

A: Successful TRACE-Ga projects will restart domestic primary gallium recovery for the first time in almost 40 years. To achieve this objective, the processing operations and processing stream for TRACE-Ga projects must come from inside the U.S. There are no eligibility requirements on the origin of the initial material entering the metal production process. The Phase 2 prototype for TRACE-Ga must be capable of processing 4N (99.99%) Ga at a minimum of 1 MT per year. Applications will be evaluated on the eligibility and review criteria. An eligibility requirement is a description of the potential for scale-up at the initial metal industry processing stream.

A Letter of Support from a foreign bauxite facility for a project where all testing and technology validation occur in the U.S. would likely be viewed positively by the Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE often encourages international collaboration where it aligns with strategic energy and resource goals.

Q: Is Electronic waste acceptable feed e.g. GaAs or GaN?

A: Electronic waste could possibly be considered a metal processing stream.

Q: What evidence will you require to confirm the applicant's industrial partner actually has dependable access to the Ga resource?

A: The answer to this question is found most strongly in the criteria around business plan and commercialization. The applicant will make the case through access rights, or letter of off-take agreements. It will depend on the application itself. DOE has the ability to ask follow up questions once we have received applications. Make the best case, and if needed, we will follow up.

Q: Is coal ash an acceptable feedstock?

A: If coal ash can be demonstrated to be part of a metal processing stream, then yes.

Q: As a US company, may we use a feedstock from Canada, Australia, or another country to demonstrate the extraction technology?

A: This was also answered in the OSS Q&As. Please also refer to the answer provided there. Part of the criteria is that TRACE-Ga projects will restart domestic primary Gallium recovery. To achieve this, the processing stream for the projects must come from inside the U.S. There is no eligibility requirements on the origin of the initial material entering the metal production process. The Phase 2 prototype for Trace-Ga must be capable of processing Gallium at a minimum of one metric ton per year. We are looking at a single continuous 14-day campaign being an indicator of

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that. Also, an eligibility requirement is a description of the potential for scale up of the initial metal industry processing stream.

Q: On submitting more than one application: Can you please elaborate on "unique applications"? Can the same technology be applied to different feedstocks?

A: Unique is not intended to identify the technology, but the project, which includes both the feedstock and the technology. If the same technology was applied to different feedstock, it would have different scale up needs and locations etc. In that case, the applications would be unique.

Q: To what extent will documented gallium supply capability influence the scoring of the application?

A: It is one factor within the review criteria. It is one component among many.

Q: Is a smaller project less than 50 kg ok

A: Phase 2 requires demonstrating a prototype that produces 50 kilograms. Part of how this mechanism works is that it is the achievement of milestones that affect the payment. Therefore, the answer is no. The project needs to deliver 50 kilograms at the end of Phase 2.

Q: Will the program support project storage batteries to replace motor generator?

A: No.

Q: You require an AACE Class 3 cost estimate at the end of Phase 2. Is this referring to a cost estimate for further scaling the tech after Phase 2?

A: First, to define what is meant by the AACE Class 3 cost estimate, we're not looking for a medium fidelity cost estimate per those AACE standards. Applicants are not required to complete an AACE. In Phase 2, selectees are expected to conduct activities so that cost baselines, process flow diagrams, and cash flow projections can support a Class 3 cost estimate at the end of Phase 2. As described in the Technical Volume template, under Key Area 1, Project Approach and Work Plan, the application should describe measures to ensure Cost Baselines, process flow diagrams, and cash flow projections that align with that Class 3 estimate. It does not require that cost estimate.

Q: Can a university serve as the primary/lead institution on this application?

A: Yes, the requirement is that there is an industrial partner that provides the metal processing stream. It is not a requirement that the industrial partner serves as the lead.

Q: I want to confirm that we don't need to provide detailed budget justification (i.e. quotes) besides that we estimate budget by task in the workplan

A: Correct. DOE is looking for estimated budget by task and the work plan in the application.

Q: Is Electronic waste acceptable feed e.g. GaAs or GaN? The partner we have that produces 4 9s has facilities in US but the lab to produce 4 9s is not in US. Is this an issue?

A: The intent for this opportunity is for the work that DOE is paying for to be accomplished in the United States.

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Q: Are you able to put applicants in contact with suppliers of waste material or do we have to locate them ourselves?

A: On the TRACE-Ga website, there is a Teaming Partner List where interested entities may exchange information. [Click here to Sign Up. View the Teaming Partner List and connect with other interested parties here.](#) The password is case sensitive: **TRACEGA**

However, the applicants will need to connect with those on the Teaming Partner List. DOE and ENERGYWERX will not be making those connections.

Q: If our industrial partner prefers not to disclose business-sensitive information in the application, what options are available?

A: Applications that are submitted will remain in the CUI environment. They will not be made publicly available. All information will be treated as proprietary and privileged. DOE will only be able to review the information that is provided.

Q: Will submissions be publicly released, or can such information be treated as proprietary/privileged?

A: Applications that are submitted will remain in the CUI environment. They will not be made publicly available. All information will be treated as proprietary and privileged. DOE will only be able to review the information that is provided.

Q: Going back to AACE Class3, the cost baselines, process flow diagrams, and cash flow projections are for scaling up beyond 1 TPA?

A: The intent is for future activities to be able to be informed at the Class 3 Estimate level by operations. DOE is looking for the scaling beyond that one TPA.

Q: What is the recourse if an industrial partner declines to include sensitive commercial details? Are there mechanisms to safeguard trade secrets?

A: Trade secrets probably don't need to be provided by an entity that is not receiving the funding for the technology.

Q: Are there any expectations or requirements regarding intellectual property (IP) generation, ownership, and licensing under this program?

A: We will follow the standards for Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, DOE IP. Department of Energy is regularly receiving applications for large-scale work. We maintain secure environment and protocols for handling such information. Federal employees are bound by the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, and so part of our ability to do this work in public-private partnership is our ability to reputationally maintain trust. It is partners choice to submit an application and the contents within that application.

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Q: Some materials (e.g., process flow diagrams, resource size/capacity) may be confidential. Are these required in the application, and if so, what level of detail?

A: The full technical volume is up to 10 pages. Within those 10 pages are where applicants can include additional information such as process flow diagrams, but we have a. Very tight technical volume and so. There are some general limits on what applicants provide, but again, we maintain a secure environment and confidentiality of the information submitted.

Q: Do supplementary tables (PFDs, PEAs, experimental result tables, etc.) count for 10-page limit for Technical Volume?

A: Yes.

Q: May certain details be provided by reference (e.g., published papers, prior DOE reports, datasheets), rather than reproduced in full within the page limit?

A: The key information for the reviewer's knowledge needs to be provided, but the additional detail can be referenced.

Q: Our resource contains Germanium and Gallium. Is this of interest?

A: It probably relates more to the market potential and discussions about that, but the criteria that we're evaluating here have everything to do with Gallium.

Q: Can portions of the application be marked as proprietary so they are not disclosed or distributed beyond the review process?

A: Yes, and that is part of DOE's normal process as well. We do not distribute application materials beyond the review process, and you can label information as proprietary.

Q: Just the three templates, correct?

A: [Submittable is used to submit the application](#). There are a few fields in Submittable like the name of the company, the location, and the attestation of the industrial partner, in addition to submitting the three templates.

Q: Do technology developers need to have issued patents, or is an invention disclosure (or provisional filing) sufficient?

A: Convention disclosure or provisional filing is sufficient. That is going to be one thing reviewed among many things in your application.