

Frequently Asked Questions: DE-FOA-0000918, LAB 13-918
Mathematical and Statistical Methodologies for DOE Data-Centric Science at
Scale

Updated June 19, 2013

Q: What should be the start date for both labs and universities on collaborative proposals. If the proposal team is led by the national lab but includes university collaborators, then what start dates should be used by each institution?

A: DOE laboratories should use a start date of 9/1/2013. Universities should use a start date of 1/15/2014. You may wish to discuss the collaborative work in terms of “Year 1”, “Year 2”, and “Year 3”.

Q: Since writing the pre-application, we have realized we would like to add another researcher to fill in a gap in our team. The budget for this researcher will be approximately 10% of the original budget – is this allowable?

A: Yes. However, you should contact the program manager to confirm that additional researchers or deletion of researchers is acceptable.

Q: Can you please clarify the following instructions for collaborative proposals:

"Collaborative proposals submitted from different institutions should clearly indicate they are part of a proposed collaboration. All collaborative proposals must use the same title, abstract, and technical narrative. In addition, such proposals must describe the work and the associated budget for the research effort to be performed under the leadership of the principal investigator in each participating institution."

A: For each institution in the collaboration, include the same title, abstract and technical narrative, all biographical sketches, all facilities and resources, and all current and pending support for all institutions. Include only your institution's budget pages.

On the DOE Cover Page, the first page is for your institution. For collaborative projects, follow the instructions as outlined in “COVER PAGE SUPPLEMENT FOR COLLABORATIONS”. This information will go on a separate page.

Q: In LAB 13-918, when can we expect to learn the outcome of our pre-application? The solicitation says April 30, 2013.

A: This was a typo and has been amended. DOE will send a response by email to each applicant encouraging or discouraging the submission of a formal proposal by June 7, 2013.

Q: For the pre-application that is required and due June 3 by 5:00 PM Eastern Time, do citations count against the two-page limit for the pre-application?

A: Yes, citations, references and figures all count against the two-page limit.

Q: From the domain science perspective, is the call focused more on experimental/observational data, simulation data or both?

A: You may address experimental / observational data, simulation data or both.

Q: Is the partnership with application domain scientists such as those from High Energy Physics (HEP), Biological and Environment Research (BER) , or Basic Energy Science (BES) encouraged? Could the funding for joint postdocs be requested?

A: Funding for this solicitation is from the Applied Mathematics activity so the focus should be on advancing mathematical / statistical techniques. However, to be responsive to the solicitation you may decide to include domain scientists, computer scientists or other researchers on your team. We will not be able to coordinate joint funding with other DOE offices for a post-doc.

Q: How specific can a proposal be to a particular application, i.e., if there's a very specific challenge in a particular science area, can the proposal focus on that, or do the proposed techniques need to be more general?

A: Focusing on a specific aspect of a particular application is not encouraged. Techniques that have broad applicability are encouraged.

Q: Would it be a problem if we do not have mathematicians on the team?

A: The focus should be on advancing mathematical / statistical techniques for DOE data challenges; however, a mathematician or statistician is not required on the team.