



**Date:** May 9, 2022

**To:** Research Staff; Professional Staff

**From:** J. Anderson, Interim Director,  
Planning, Performance and Quality Management

**Subject:** **Type A Laboratory Directed Research & Development Program (LDRD) Proposals**

We are now soliciting Type A proposals for the annual LDRD competition for awards that will begin on October 1, 2022 in Fiscal Year 2023. The deadline for receipt of proposals is COB June 24, 2022.

### **Decoupling the LDRD Call**

For the FY23 proposals, the call for the two separate types of LDRD proposals, referred to as type A and B was again decoupled. This solicitation is for Type A proposals *only*.

### **Type A LDRD Proposals**

Type A proposals need to be clearly aligned with BNL's priority programs and initiatives. For FY23, the highest priorities (not in order) are: Accelerator Science and Technology; Atmospheric and Climate Science; Clean Energy; Discovery Science Driven by Human-AI-Facility Integration; High Energy Physics: Understanding the Origin of Space and Time; Isotope Production and R&D Capabilities; Quantum Information Science and Technology; and Research and Development towards the Second Detector at the Electron-Ion Collider. The Appendix that accompanies this solicitation clarifies the types of R&D covered in each of these areas. These proposals can be up to 36 months in duration. Coordinated, multi-disciplinary, cross-directorate proposals are strongly encouraged. This call is not limited to R&D in these areas.

In conceptualizing your idea, it is important to remember that research conducted under the LDRD Program cannot duplicate or directly augment research presently funded at the Laboratory. The policy and guidelines for the BNL LDRD Program are posted at the following location: [https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/99/99\\_EXH1.cfm](https://sbms.bnl.gov/sbmsearch/subjarea/99/99_EXH1.cfm)

### **Proposal Submission Process**

The Science Associate Laboratory Directors (ALD) and the Directors of the Computational Science Initiative (CSI) and the Advanced Technology Research Office (ATRO), along with their management teams, should determine the best method for screening proposals for ultimate

submission. The use of peer review is strongly encouraged. They should submit the proposals to me at [janderson@bnl.gov](mailto:janderson@bnl.gov) with a copy to Liz Flynn at [lflynn@bnl.gov](mailto:lflynn@bnl.gov). Each ALD and the CSI/ ATRO Directors have discussed with each other and the Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST) the number of proposals that they can submit. Further information on BNL's LDRD Program is available on the LDRD website ([www.bnl.gov/ldrd](http://www.bnl.gov/ldrd)).

### **Proposal Format**

For Type A proposal submissions, proposals cannot exceed five pages. If you are considering submitting a proposal for funding in excess of \$500k/yr, please contact your ALD/Director and me for additional information. A one-page CV is required for all key personnel associated with a Type A proposal.

The proposals will need to be submitted electronically in the Proposal Information Questionnaire (PIQ) form, which can be obtained electronically at the following location: <https://sbms.bnl.gov/Uploads/SA/99/3.37/9908e011.doc>. Please make sure that you use the most current version.

We would like to draw your attention to two newer sections of the PIQ, which are a budget justification and the names of two BNL subject matter experts who may be contacted as potential reviewers. Further guidance on these sections is provided in the PIQ.

### **Proposal Selection Criteria**

The criteria to be used for selection include:

#### **1) The intellectual merit of the proposed activity:**

- What is the key research hypothesis that the PI aims to prove?
- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- What is the specific innovative claim?
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts?
- Is the proponent qualified to lead the proposed research?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- Is the scope of work commensurate with the requested budget?

#### **2) Return on investment:**

- Explicit estimates of the financial return on investment are required.
- It is important to evaluate whether a new competency developed or seeded through this investment is sought after by DOE or other agencies/organizations. An indication of the time frame for securing funding is also needed.
- Furthermore, it is important to evaluate whether BNL has the relationships and visibility in the relevant community to capitalize on this investment. A plan on how to raise the awareness of BNL's new competency among the relevant communities will strengthen the proposal.

- Please pay particular attention to Section 8 of the PIQ: Potential Future Funding. Proposals that do not address this Section will not be reviewed.

3) The broader impacts of the proposed activity on the Laboratory:

- How does this project support the strategic directions of the Laboratory?
- Will the activity lead to new competencies that will put the Laboratory in a leadership position?
- Will this project help to ensure the scientific and technical vitality of the Laboratory?
- Does the proposal combine expertise and capabilities from multiple directorates or divisions in new ways?
- Does the proposal appropriately anticipate DOE or other sponsor needs? How can one tell?
- Does the proposal enable growth in BNL's existing programs, or does it have the potential to grow a new program?

Each proposal will be reviewed against the criteria by two subject matter experts and two members of the Research staff. The reviews will be sent to the members of the Selection Committee, which will include the DDST, the Science ALDs, the CSI and ATRO Directors, and members of the Brookhaven Council. After an initial down selection, the Committee reserves the right to ask the Principal Investigators to present the proposal in person. The Committee hopes to conclude the selection process by the end of July. After the selection has been completed, the reviews will also be forwarded to the PIs, at the discretion of the ALDs/Deputy ALDs and CSI and ATRO Directors.

### **Screening Against the S&T Matrix**

New this year, and consistent with the Proposal Information Management System (aka PIMS), in the Approvals section of the PIQ is a determination, delegated to the Principal Investigator's Department Chair/Division Manager, if the project is a sensitive technology under the S&T Risk Matrix. This must be completed for funding to be awarded.

Enclosures:

1. 2023 LDRD Type A PIQ
2. Appendix of topics for FY 2023 Type A Call

cc: Level I and II Managers of Science and Technology Organizations  
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