




managed by Brookhaven Science Associates
for the U.S. Department of Energy

Memo

Date: January 19, 2023

To: Research Staff; Professional Staff

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

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

We are now soliciting Type B proposals for the annual LDRD competition for awards that will begin on October 1, 2023 in Fiscal Year 2024. The deadline for receipt of proposals is COB March 10, 2023.

Decoupled LDRD Call

The call for the two separate types of LDRD proposals, referred to as type A and B, has been decoupled. A call for Type A proposals will be issued separately. This solicitation is for Type B proposals *only*.

Type B LDRD Proposals

Type B proposals aim to seed new areas of research and competencies at the Laboratory. Unlike Type A LDRD proposals, Type B proposals are not constrained to BNL priority areas or Laboratory initiatives but must be consistent with the Laboratory's vision and mission (<https://www.bnl.gov/about/>). These proposals can be up to 24 months in duration and the budget is capped at \$200k/yr for a total of \$400k. Shorter duration proposals to demonstrate a high-risk, novel idea are encouraged. The budget must be formulated for a start date of October 1, 2023. Later starts will not be considered.

Proposals by staff who are eligible for Early Career Award (ECA) funding after the conclusion of the Type B LDRD are strongly encouraged. Please include in your proposal a description of how this LDRD will help your ECA effort, if it applies to you.

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/subjectarea/99>

Proposal Submission Process

The Science Associate Laboratory Directors (ALD), along with their management teams, should determine the best method for screening the proposals for ultimate submission. The use of peer review is strongly encouraged. Each ALD should submit the proposals to me at janderson@bnl.gov with a copy to Sarah Mahler (swiley@bnl.gov). Each ALD and the Directors of the Computational Science Initiative (CSI) and the Advanced Technology Research Office (ATRO) will collaborate with the Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST) to determine the number of proposals that they can submit. Further information on BNL's LDRD Program is available on the LDRD website (<https://www.bnl.gov/ldrd>).

Proposal Format

The proposals cannot exceed three pages. A one-page CV is required for the proposal's Principal Investigators (PI) and for each Co-PI.

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/SubjectArea/99/FormExhibit/5008041>. Please make sure that you use the most current version.

We would like to draw your attention to several newer sections of the PIQ (which are requests for a budget justification, the names of four BNL subject matter experts who may be contacted as potential reviewers, and a section on information about future potential Early Career Award applications). 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 question that the PI aims to address?
- 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:

- 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 (explain your communication plan in the milestones).
- Please pay particular attention to Section 2 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 Lab's mission and vision?
- 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 appropriately anticipate DOE (such as Early Career Award opportunities) 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/Deputy ALDs, the CSI and ATRO Directors, and members of the Brookhaven Council. The Committee hopes to conclude the selection process by late March. 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

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.

cc: Level I and II Managers of Science and Technology Organizations
K. Barkigia, BNL
S. McKeon, BNL
J. Hartmann, BHSO

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