

Questions and Answers for Call for Concept Papers

Questions	Answers
<p>1. Is the “PNWH2 Hub Call for Project Concept Papers” open for Canadian companies?</p>	<p>All projects proposed must be constructed in the United States. In limited circumstances, DOE may approve a waiver to allow a foreign entity to participate as a subrecipient. The target areas for new projects are identified in Page 2 of the RFI which states: "PNWH2 is interested in projects in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. We will consider projects in the greater region that have a direct connection to these four states (WA, OR, ID, MT), such as a maritime or aviation corridor relying on hydrogen feedstock for fuels that would connect Washington or Oregon to Hawaii or Alaska, expansion of hydrogen transport to and from the PNW production facilities to storage facilities in Nevada or Utah, or other similar hub and spoke models that emanate from WA, OR, ID, MT."</p> <p>If a foreign entity proposes a Concept Paper and is encouraged to submit a full proposal in response to this solicitation, the Request for Proposals will include detailed requirements regarding the submittal of the waiver. Note that this process is different from Buy America, Build America provisions that apply to equipment purchases by both foreign and domestic entities. Please note that for the full proposal, foreign entities will be required to follow the requirements found in Section J.iii and Appendix E of the DOE’s Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 which discusses the waiver requirements for foreign entity participation.</p>
<p>2. CIMtech does a lot of work for USA companies like Plugpower. Can we submit a project for use, trial, approval of a small FuelCell product – 3KW portable generator?</p>	<p>The focus of the PNW Hydrogen Hub is to demonstrate production and use of hydrogen at scale, consistent with the overall goal of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program to utilize "large amounts of hydrogen in different ways" with a focus on "commercial demonstration of clean hydrogen." Concept papers should clearly demonstrate furtherance of these goals. Research and development projects are outside the scope of the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program.</p>
<p>3. In the past, the PNWH2 has focused exclusively on green hydrogen, however, in the RFP, non-electrolytic hydrogen production that minimizes grid demand is highlighted. Could you confirm if this includes various hydrogen production methods (colors), provided grid demand is minimized?</p>	<p>Concept papers involving non-electrolytic clean hydrogen production will be considered. "Clean hydrogen" is defined as hydrogen produced through a process that results in a lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rate of not greater than 4.0 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per kilogram of hydrogen on an annual basis using well-to-gate system boundaries. Each project that uses hydrogen (e.g., transport, storage and end-use) must use/consume hydrogen that has, in aggregate, a production carbon intensity below 4.0 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per kilogram of hydrogen in any given year using well-to-gate system boundaries. Projects lower than 4.0 will be evaluated on a sliding scale with a preference for lower carbon intensity.</p>

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	The PNW Hydrogen Hub has a strong preference for CI scores that are significantly lower than the minimum score of 4.0 and this will be considered in the evaluation of proposals.
4. For metrics like 'cost per kg'/storage of hydrogen production, what level of precision is required at this stage, given that cost estimates may evolve? Are preliminary estimates based on current technology assumptions and current agreements acceptable?	Preliminary estimates are acceptable. Please provide your best estimate to the cent.
5. Is it necessary to submit calculation methodologies or an Excel document with supporting calculations for the metrics provided in the concept paper?	This is not required for the concept paper, but will be expected for the full proposal.
6. Is the 80-85% cost share expectation a minimum for competitive applications, or can a lower share be proposed and negotiated if the project is of interest?	<p>Each project must fund a minimum of 50% of its Total Project Cost from sources other than the DOE Cooperative Agreement or other federal funding sources (e.g., other DOE grants or agreements, grants or agreements with other Federal agencies). On average, 15% to 20% of the Total Project Cost for our Hub is funded by the DOE Cooperative Agreement, with 80% to 85% of the funding provided by each of the projects from a variety of sources, including private and state funding. An area of significant importance in our evaluations is that selected projects not detrimentally affect the existing PNWH2 Hub average funding from non-federal sources.</p> <p>Appendix D of the DOE's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 has additional detail, explanations and examples.</p>
7. The evaluation criterion includes the team's qualifications and resources. Beyond a team description in the concept paper, is it necessary to provide CVs or applicant profiles for the concept paper stage or until the full application?	CVs or applicant profiles are not requested for the concept paper, but will be required for the full proposal.
8. The RFP advises against including sensitive information but notes some technical details may be needed. Are proprietary protections offered, or should applicants assume no confidentiality for submissions?	The RFP advises against including sensitive information on questions submitted. For the concept paper, only include sensitive information that is necessary to convey an understanding of the project. The confidentiality provisions of the solicitation are provided in Section 2.6 of the Request for Information. PNWH2 will not assume any obligation to protect confidential information submitted unless a separate, written confidentiality agreement has been executed between the applicant and PNWH2.
9. For full hydrogen value chain solutions with multiple stakeholders and team members from different entities, is it required to submit the	A single concept paper is sufficient.

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<p>concept paper jointly, or is one lead applicant sufficient?</p>	
<p>10. For feedstock and offtake descriptions, is a letter of interest for offtake agreements expected with the concept paper, or is a general market demand analysis or preliminary agreement sufficient?</p>	<p>For the concept paper, a letter of interest or support is not required. Letters of interest, letters of support, memorandums of understanding, etc. that clearly describe current off-taker commitments and their status will be viewed favorably for the full proposal.</p>
<p>11. It is required to indicate the ability to provide cost share. Is there any documentation required to provide assurance for the proposed cost share at this stage?</p>	<p>For the concept paper, no documentation is required; however, applications that clearly describe the sources of non-federal funding that will be used, and demonstrate the soundness of this financial structure, will be evaluated more favorably. Additional documentation may be required in the full proposal.</p>
<p>12. Our company is currently under a DOD contract that is funding advancements in hydrogen storage and production acquired in 2024 and going until 2026. This work pursued in our existing Department Of Defense (non-Federal source) contract is the foundation for the project that I will propose to the PNWH2. Could our existing project meet our Cost Share Obligation for the PNWH2 proposal?</p>	<p>Work funded through any federal agency, including agencies other than the Department of Energy, is considered to be federally funded, and therefore not eligible for consideration as cost share. Activities that are being performed to meet non-federal cost share requirements for another project cannot be counted as cost share for the PNW Hydrogen Hub. Appendix D of the DOE's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 has additional explanations.</p>
<p>13. What is meant by the statement: "the overall cost share for projects across our hub is between 80% and 85%"? Does this mean that the hub usually covers 80% to 85% or that the applicant covers 80% to 85% of the project cost?</p>	<p>On average, 15% to 20% of the total project cost is financed from federal funds received from the PNW Hydrogen Hub, with 80% to 85% of the total project cost financed by other non-federal sources.</p> <p>The formula that can be used is federal share (\$) divided by federal share % = total project cost. 80% recipient cost share would translate to 20% federal % cost share. An example calculation would be \$100M federal share at 20% federal cost share would be \$100M/0.2 = \$500M total project.</p> <p>Another way to calculate this would be total project cost * % Participant Cost share = Participant cost share. An example would be \$500M project at 80% participant cost share (20% federal cost share) = \$500*80% = \$400M is the portion the participant would be required to provide and the federal portion would be \$100M (\$500M-\$400M = \$100M).</p> <p>Appendix D of the DOE's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 has additional detail, explanations and examples.</p>
<p>14. Our company (AVL) is an engineering services company specializing in Fuel Cell and electrolyzer technology. We help customers to</p>	<p>To ensure all applicants are treated fairly, PNWH2 is not doing any matchmaking during this process. We note that the Consortium for Hydrogen and Renewably Generated</p>

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<p>develop systems that can later be deployed. Can we submit a concept paper directly for future teaming with an interested hub developer or end user or are we required to work through a prime? If the latter, is there a way to be identified as a potential team member?</p>	<p>E-Fuels (CHARGE; www.jcdream.org/charge) is funded by the WA State Department of Commerce to help.</p>
<p>15. We have not found information regarding required information or target length for the concept paper. Can you please direct us to information regarding the form and content of the concept paper?</p>	<p>Detailed guidance on format, including length, is provided in Section 2.5 of the Request for Information included in the call for concept papers. Guidance on the content of the concept papers is provided in Section 4 of the Request for Information. The call for Concept Papers and Request for Information can be found here: https://pnwh2.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/FINAL_PNWH2-Call-for-Concept-Papers_11.4.2024.pdf</p>
<p>16. I'm trying to understand if there is a link for team member/available partner registration related to the "PNWH2 Call for Concept Papers". Could you kindly confirm if there is an available link or guide me on where to access it? AVL has signed up as an available team member on other government grants in the past and we are interested in understanding if this option is available on the PNWH2 opportunity as well.</p>	<p>See response to question #14</p>
<p>17. Does methane pyrolysis, utilizing RNG or conventional natural gas feedstocks, fit within the scope of this RFI?</p>	<p>See response to question #3</p>
<p>18. Does the BABA requirement apply to the applicant doing the work, or does it go towards the purchased equipment as well? Also, if an entity isn't compliant, can the funding go towards an entity that is looking to be compliant BEFORE project completion?</p>	<p>See response to Question #1</p>
<p>19. Are proposed projects restricted to electrolytic hydrogen production, or will other sources of hydrogen be considered?</p>	<p>See response to question #3</p>
<p>20. Page 2 of the Call for Concept Papers (24-CR-NPS) states: "Based on required content described below, areas of significant importance include: Non-federal cost share match levels not detrimentally affecting the existing PNWH2 hub average." Therefore, what is the existing PNWH2 hub average non-federal cost share?</p>	<p>The existing non-federal cost share for the Hub is 80%-85%. See the "Key Highlights" section of the call for concept papers.</p>
<p>21. Do submissions need to have an identified project site stated? How far along in the process of evaluating potential sites is advisable?</p>	<p>Project site selection need not be complete; however, it is anticipated that successful applicants will identify a proposed site as a part of their concept paper, and describe the steps needed to finalize site selection.</p>

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<p>22. The call states a minimum of 50% from non-Federal sources is required by DOE. The overall cost share of the projects in the hub is 80-85%. We would like clarification on that. Does that mean we should secure non-federal funding at 80-85% of our estimated project cost? Any guidance on a lower limit of a cost share? For instance, if our estimated capital cost was \$10M, how much should we expect to ask for funding and how much would be advisable to collect from external sources? How are state funds considered?</p>	<p>See response to question #13</p>
<p>23. Would the Hub consider projects that co-locate with injection of CO2 underground, and if so, could any funding under this program be used towards geologic storage assessment? And along the same lines, could funding generated to support storage location assessment be applied as cost share?</p>	<p>Funds may be used for all elements of the infrastructure required to produce, transport and store clean hydrogen. Consistent with the original FOA, concepts that require carbon sequestration must include the infrastructure required for carbon capture and storage. Note that activities funded by other Federal grant and agreement programs may not be included as part of the scope and/or non-Federal cost share proposed by any applicant Note also that a key goal of the PNW Hydrogen Hub is to demonstrate deployment of clean hydrogen at scale by 2032; therefore, projects that can demonstrate a realistic schedule for entering production prior to 2032 will be considered much more favorably than those projects with a lower maturity and a riskier deployment timeline. DOE's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 section: "Cost share contributions must be specified in the project budget, verifiable from the prime recipient's records, and necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project."</p>
<p>24. Are collaborative projects or single-PI projects preferred for the PNWH2 call? Are you seeking specific expertise, such as H2 storage, that could be combined with other participants' areas of expertise to develop larger, interdisciplinary projects?</p>	<p>PNWH2 does not have a preference for single organization or collaborative projects. As the RFP states, we are seeking projects to add to our current portfolio that demonstrate excellence in hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and/or end-use.</p>
<p>25. Can we propose a program that integrates H2 production via photocatalysis with H2 storage using porous materials and H2 usage for product synthesis, encompassing chemistry, chemical engineering processes, and cost analysis? These areas are proposed in the DOE FOA – would it be meritorious to propose three areas or focus on one?</p>	<p>Please refer to the DOE's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub FOA (DE-FOA-0002779, FOA Type: Mod 000002, CFDA Number: 81.255 for detail on the aims of the PNW Hydrogen Hub. The Hub aims to deploy commercial clean hydrogen infrastructure to build out a regional clean hydrogen ecosystem.</p>
<p>26. For a single PI project, what is the recommended funding range we can request?</p>	<p>PNWH2 does not have a recommendation regarding funding range.</p>
<p>27. Regarding cost share, the description provided is unclear to me. Could you please provide more</p>	<p>See response to question #13</p>

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<p>information on this aspect? Do we need to provide 80% cost match and justify this in the concept paper? Thank you for your assistance.</p> <p>a. Cost Share Obligation: Minimum 50% funding from non-Federal sources is required by DOE; however, the overall cost share for projects across our hub is between 80% and 85%.</p>	
<p>28. We are open to working with others in the hub ecosystem to assist with H2 storage/transportation and we have funding to support our portion of project costs. Do you have a way to connect us to other project partners, or should we submit a Concept Paper outlining our capabilities and the type of project we can participate in?</p>	<p>To ensure all applicants are treated fairly, PNWH2 is not doing any matchmaking during this process. We note that the Consortium for Hydrogen and Renewably Generated E-Fuels (CHARGE; www.jcdream.org/charge) is funded by the WA State Department of Commerce to help.</p>
<p>29. Please clarify the match requirement.</p>	<p>See response to Question #6</p>
<p>30. Are there any restrictions on these funds for projects already utilizing federal funds such as stacking?</p>	<p>Yes. Funds from this DOE Cooperative Agreement cannot be combined with funds from other federal sources to deliver the same project scope. Funding from other federal sources may not be used as cost share.</p>
<p>31. Is the purchase of land an eligible expense?</p>	<p>Yes; however, there are numerous conditions that apply and PNWH2 does not recommend that land acquisitions be included as expenses. Applicants must compensate the federal agency based on the terms of 2 CFR 200.311(d) when they go to disposition the land acquired under the DOE Cooperative Agreement. Applicants are urged to review 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 910 with respect to the requirements for real property, the OCED Cooperative Agreement Standard Terms and Conditions available at https://www.energy.gov/oced/award-negotiations, and the proposed Government Creditor Agreement that is out for comment at https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/government-creditor-agreement.</p>
<p>32. Will PNWH2 consider foreign entities using the FOA's described waiver request? If so, when and how should waiver requests be submitted?</p>	<p>See response to Question #1</p>
<p>33. Do you prefer projects including current hub partners/hub recipients or entirely new projects/partners?</p>	<p>PNWH2 is open to receiving concept papers from both current hub partners/recipients and new projects/partners.</p>
<p>34. If chosen for a project by PNWH2 and approved by OCED in 2025 – when would the project subrecipient receive the funds from phase 1?</p>	<p>The selected project would be eligible to begin receiving Phase 1 funding as soon as OCED approval is received and the Subrecipient Agreement is executed with that project. Note that funds are disbursed as reimbursements against invoices for costs incurred, with the amount paid against each invoice equal to the federal funding share of the documented costs.</p>

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<p>35. What are the full application requirements? Are these the same as the FOA (Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number: DE-FOA-0002779 FOA Type: Mod 000002) for the larger hydrogen hubs requiring 100+ pages and supplemental content or will there be specific requirements for this RFP opportunity?</p>	<p>There will be specific requirements for this RFP opportunity provided when the full RFP is released, expected in mid-December per the published schedule.</p>
<p>36. One of the major evaluation criteria of the concept paper are the qualifications of the applicant and proposed team. Where should that go in the concept paper and will it be considered part of the 5 page paper length?</p>	<p>This information should be provided in the Detailed Project Description and is considered part of the 5-page limit.</p>