

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:** DefenseWerx, Advanced Technology International (ATI) and/or RTI International      **STATE:** FL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Partnership Intermediary Agreement Lines of Work Coverage Through April 2028

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	Partnership Intermediary Agreement	DOE-PIA-LOWs-001	

**Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:**

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

<b>A1 Routine DOE business actions</b>	Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of DOE business limited to administrative, financial, and personnel actions.
<b>A8 Awards of certain contracts</b>	Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.
<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
<b>A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations</b>	Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

In November 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with Partnership Intermediaries (PI) to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreements (PIA), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE has established PIs with DefenseWerx, Advanced Technology International (ATI) and RTI International, and while the types of activities authorized by 15 U.S.C. 3715 are potentially broad, PI activities will be limited to performing the types of work described in the Initial and Supplemental Lines of Work described below. Activities conducted must not include classified work. The PI functions as a neutral, third-party facilitator, working to maximize benefits for both DOE and entities eligible to enter cooperative and joint activities with a DOE designated federal laboratory for the benefit of U.S. energy, climate, economic, and national security. The PI neither charges eligible third-party entities for their services nor has a financial interest in the agreements that they facilitate, making it easier for PIs to broker the terms of an agreement and mediate any conflicts that arise. This independence allows for reduced friction among the different parties, facilitating smoother relationships and more efficient work.

DOE is proposing to authorize certain lines of work (LOWs) designed to allow the PI to focus on foundational tasks while providing the flexibility for DOE to open additional LOWs over time. DOE believes this phased approach would increase the chance for success while maintaining flexibility to expand the scope of activities. Initial LOWs include:

- Facilitating collaboration, matchmaking, and/or connections through events; clearinghouses; coordination with convening bodies, such as Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers; providing collaboration spaces; and other means to bring together potential solution providers including small business firms, other industry, government, universities, non-profit organizations, and non-traditional partners to complement the activities of DOE programs, DOE laboratories, and DOE facilities.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities and workforce development, including STEM education and work-based learning programs supporting scientists and engineers across the DOE enterprise,

including DOE Laboratories, DOE facilities, and funding recipients of DOE programs.

- Providing technical assistance to increase outreach and lower barriers of access for domestic small business firms, other industry, government, universities, non-profit organizations, and non-traditional partners with the goal of increasing the likelihood of engagement between such entities and DOE and its laboratories and facilities.
- Providing access to physical collaboration space(s) with tools that can enable virtual engagements. Host planned and/or ad-hoc engagements with DOE and members of the innovative academic and industrial base across the nation.
- Fostering and tracking a network of academic and industrial base members, keeping them up to date on DOE engagements with academia and industry, funding opportunities.
- Planning and executing outreach, training, events, and other programs for industry and academic stakeholders.

DOE has also identified Supplemental LOWs to include:

- National Laboratory technology matchmaking including but not limited to facilitating patent and intellectual property (IP) management, such as patent and licensing assistance, or partnering for continued development.
- Technology scouting and horizon scanning for DOE programs, DOE National Laboratories, and DOE facilities including technology and market research and hosting technology showcases.
- Encouraging industry collaborative investment of leveraged research resources as having high potential for commercialization, especially in areas related to DOE missions.
- Providing manufacturing, design, business, and incubation assistance to DOE awardees, licensees of DOE technologies, and other DOE stakeholders, including those interested in submitting funding proposals to DOE, for the purpose of successfully maturing and transitioning technologies to commercialization or providing small production runs of critical technologies that would otherwise be too small of an order to be of interest to manufacturers.
- Identifying promising technologies that currently exist or are in the developmental phase at DOE, DOE facilities, or with DOE awardees, that could be efficiently, and cost effectively transitioned to the market.
- Establishing a network of subject matter experts to engage with DOE program managers to review and evaluate promising technology solutions for technology transfer and commercialization to industry.

The LOWs to be funded under this categorical exclusion would be limited to procedural research. Associated activities would include outreach, data analysis, computer modeling, software development, and technical assistance. No physical modifications to existing infrastructure or new construction would be conducted. The proposed work would not result in any change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities. DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on other resources, including those of a biological, ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders as a result of the execution of this project order with DefenseWerx, ATI or RTI International. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review would be required.

This categorical exclusion is good through April 17, 2028, when the pilot implementation of the PIAs will expire.

## **NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This NEPA Determination applies to the following initial and supplemental LOWs:

- Facilitating collaboration, matchmaking, and/or connections through events; clearinghouses; coordination with convening bodies, such as Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers; providing collaboration spaces; and other means to bring together potential solution providers including small business firms, other industry, government, universities, non-profit organizations, and non-traditional partners to complement the activities of DOE programs, DOE laboratories, and DOE facilities.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities and workforce development, including STEM education and work-based learning programs supporting scientists and engineers across the DOE enterprise, including DOE Laboratories, DOE facilities, and funding recipients of DOE programs.
- Providing technical assistance to increase outreach and lower barriers of access for domestic small business firms, other industry, government, universities, non-profit organizations, and non-traditional partners with the goal of increasing the likelihood of engagement between such entities and DOE and its laboratories and facilities.
- Providing access to physical collaboration space(s) with tools that can enable virtual engagements. Host planned and/or ad-hoc engagements with DOE and members of the innovative academic and industrial base across the nation.
- Fostering and tracking a network of academic and industrial base members, keeping them up to date on DOE engagements with academia and industry, funding opportunities.

- Planning and executing outreach, training, events, and other programs for industry and academic stakeholders.
- National Laboratory technology matchmaking including but not limited to facilitating patent and intellectual property (IP) management, such as patent and licensing assistance, or partnering for continued development.
- Technology scouting and horizon scanning for DOE programs, DOE National Laboratories, and DOE facilities including technology and market research and hosting technology showcases.
- Encouraging industry collaborative investment of leveraged research resources as having high potential for commercialization, especially in areas related to DOE missions.
- Providing manufacturing, design, business, and incubation assistance to DOE awardees, licensees of DOE technologies, and other DOE stakeholders, including those interested in submitting funding proposals to DOE, for the purpose of successfully maturing and transitioning technologies to commercialization or providing small production runs of critical technologies that would otherwise be too small of an order to be of interest to manufacturers.
- Identifying promising technologies that currently exist or are in the developmental phase at DOE, DOE facilities, or with DOE awardees, that could be efficiently, and cost effectively transitioned to the market.
- Establishing a network of subject matter experts to engage with DOE program managers to review and evaluate promising technology solutions for technology transfer and commercialization to industry.

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

This NEPA Determination does not apply to the following initial LOWs:

- Facilitating and/or administering Laboratory voucher programs, rebate programs, and prize competitions.
- Facilitating, managing, and assisting in the awarding of research, development, demonstration and/or deployment funding, innovation hubs, collaborations, public-private partnerships and Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer funding/programs.
- Facilitating rapid prototyping, demonstration, deployment, and/or manufacturing, in furtherance of DOE's mission.

Notes:

DOE Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) and other DOE Offices  
Review completed by Andrew M. Montano, September 24, 2024

#### FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

#### SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically Signed By: **Andrew Montano**

Date: **9/24/2024**

NEPA Compliance Officer

#### FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_