

Grid Modernization Lab Call
Questions and Answers (Q&As)
(updated on July 24, 2015)

The Q&As will be updated weekly at a minimum and then posted on this website.

1. **Q:** For the Concept Paper Template, does the “Project General Information” section, which takes up about 1.5 pages, count against the 3-page narrative limit?
A: The “Project General Information” section does not count against the 3 page narrative limit. The Concept Paper Template has been revised to clearly delineate where the 3 page narrative begins.

2. **Q:** Is every project required to complete Go/No-Go milestones at the end of every year even if the project is only requesting one year, or if the funding available is only listed for one year?
A: Go/No-Go milestones are not required if the proposed project is for one year or if the funding available is for one year. Go/No-Go milestones are required for multi-year project proposals.

3. **Q:** Is this Grid Modernization Lab Call funding a supplement to existing R&D funding commitments?
A: No, the Grid Modernization Lab Call funding is not a supplement to existing R&D funding commitments.

4. **Q:** Where should the budget be included in the Concept Paper Template?
A: The Concept Paper Template has been revised to include a section for the budget. The new Concept Paper Template is now posted on the NETL website.

5. **Q:** If a laboratory proposal has been submitted for the AOP and has not yet been awarded, can the proposal be modified and submitted to the Grid Modernization Lab Call also?
A: Yes, proposals submitted for the AOP but not yet awarded may be modified and submitted to the Grid Modernization Lab Call, except for proposals under: (1) the Solar Energy Technologies Office, and (2) the Wind and Water Power Technologies Office. Any submitted proposal must fit in either Category 1 or 2.

6. **Q:** Is there a typo regarding the recently added technical topic area “28. Mitigate Market Barriers”?
- A:** Yes, there is a typo on Mod 1 of the 2016 Grid Modernization Lab Call. The newly added technical topic area, “28. Mitigate Market Barriers” is under draft Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP) task 7.3.3 (and not 7.3.4 as stated in Mod 1). Proposals are requested under technical topic area “28. Mitigate Market Barriers (7.3.3)”.
7. **Q:** Can we use the original concept paper template?
- A:** No, please use the revised concept paper template which is posted on the website.
8. **Q:** Is there a preferred file format for submission (other than pdf format), such as Category_Lastname_Lab?
- A:** All concept papers should be submitted with an easily understood naming convention, such as the suggested Category_Lastname_Lab. However, each concept paper submitted should have a unique name in case a lab staff member submits more than one concept paper for the same category/topic/technical area. All submitted concept papers will also be assigned a unique identifier after the initial review.
9. **Q:** The Grid Modernization Lab Call mentions submitting proposals as a separate document. Should each proposal be submitted individually or multiple per e-mail by Subcategory?
- A:** Concept papers may be submitted either individually or multiple per e-mail, since each will have a unique file name.
10. **Q:** The four founding National Lab partners of the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions (CERTS) – LBNL, ORNL, PNNL, and SNL – request direction from DOE regarding the requirements for a concept paper which would be submitted solely to the OE/Transmission Reliability Advanced Synchrophasor Technology Research (ASTeR) program. The CERTS Labs understand that the process outlined in the GMLC is geared towards proposals for individual projects. As a result, the CERTS Labs seek guidance on whether DOE will accept for consideration a concept paper that outlines a process for developing a full technical proposal for a portfolio of projects, based on the historic joint planning processes relied on by our labs in past proposals to the TR program.

Specifically, the concept paper would describe a commitment by the CERTS Labs to review the portfolio of projects they are currently conducting under the current TR program categories subsumed in ASTeR (Advanced Applications R&D, Reliability and Markets/Load as a Resource, and Reliability Technology Issues and Needs Assessment), the review comments from the recent internal review of these activities in DC this past June, and then develop an integrated proposal of Lab activities. They would also consider involvement of other Labs that seek to participate in a joint proposal.

The CERTS Labs believe that, in the past, this integrated planning process has yielded benefits both for DOE and the Labs. They observe, however, that the time available between the release of the GMLC and the July 30th due date for concept papers will not provide the time required for the Labs to coordinate such an integration process.

A: DOE encourages multi-laboratory responses to the Grid Modernization Lab Call, not limited to existing coordination. The responses in Category 2 should be directed to the topics described. The Advanced Synchrophasor Technology Research (ASTeR) call states: “Proposals for continuing existing R&D should indicate how it contributes to the goals listed above, either directly or as a building block.”

The concept papers need to be submitted by the July 30th due date stated in the GMLC.

Coordination among the Lab teams can occur after the concept paper phase.

However, the broad Laboratory/industry partnerships should still be identified at the concept paper stage. The detailed commitments/roles are not required until the full proposal stage.

11. **Q:** Who should concept paper e-mail submissions be addressed to?

A: Concept paper e-mail submissions may be addressed to the “GMLC Team”.

12. **Q:** Do cost-share partners need to be identified and named in the concept paper, with no changes allowed, or are Labs permitted to leave some cost-share partner information incomplete in the concept paper and then use that additional time to flesh out the partnership details before the full proposal is submitted?

A: Potential cost-share partners should be identified as much as possible in the concept paper, along with an indication of their commitment status. All industry/university cost-share partners listed should have some acknowledged willingness to actively participate in the proposal outlined in the concept paper. However, changes are allowed before the full proposals are due in September to provide more time to flesh out the details.