

NOWRDC Solicitation 2.0 Round 2 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated 01.26.22

1. For Round 2 Challenge Area 1, what stakeholders does “co-existence” apply to?
 - a. Human stakeholder groups – including commercial, recreational, and landside stakeholders, as well as marine mammals, fish, and turtles.
2. For Round 2 Challenge Area 1, Facilitating Ocean Area Co-Existence, could baseline environmental surveys be eligible to apply?
 - a. Generally speaking, NOWRDC is looking for tools or strategies that yield the information or data that facilitate ocean area co-existence. These can be tools that more effectively capture important environmental information, such as the location of marine mammals, but this solicitation does not fund baseline scientific research.
3. For Round 2 Challenge Area 2, Electrical and Grid Challenges Unique to Offshore Wind Transmission, is hydrogen eligible under energy storage?
 - a. Yes, hydrogen and other energy storage technologies capable of utility scale energy storage are eligible. The key requirement is that it aids in system resiliency – so it is capable of dispatching during outages and storing power during periods of curtailment.
4. For Round 2 Challenge Area 2, Electrical and Grid Challenges Unique to Offshore Wind Transmission, is extreme weather the only threat to transmission resiliency that is eligible to be addressed?
 - a. The challenge area states that NOWRDC seeks “technical solutions to reduce offshore wind curtailment and maintain overall system reliability, valuation strategies to allow for comparative analysis of solutions to improve offshore wind grid reliability and resilience, and innovations that evaluate extreme weather impacts to offshore and onshore grid.” This encompasses other impacts that affect transmission resiliency, to the extent they are relevant to the parameters quoted above.
5. Are the concept papers going to be scored using the same rubric as the full proposals?
 - a. Yes, there is a common rubric for both the concept papers and full proposal submission.
6. Do we/should we submit letters of support/commitment at the concept paper stage?
 - a. No. Concept papers should be self-contained within the concept paper template. External stakeholders should be described in the “7. Team” section of the concept paper template. Letters of support may be added in the full proposal.
7. How finalized should the budget shared in concept papers be?

- a. Concept paper budget should align closely with the full proposal submission budget. Full proposals should not exceed +/- 10% deviance from concept paper budget.
- 8. If your solution applies to more than one challenge area, can you submit the same proposal for both challenge areas?
 - a. In the case that a proposal might be considered responsive to more than one challenge area, proposers should identify the single challenge area under which their proposal fits best and submit their concept paper/full proposal submissions under that category.
- 9. Is the Solicitation open to international companies or only US companies?
 - a. There are no restrictions that require proposers to be based in the U.S., although all proposals are evaluated based on their potential in the U.S. offshore wind development. A U.S. Department of Energy Foreign Work Waiver is required must be submitted and approved for any project or portion of work thereof that is completed outside of the U.S.
- 10. Is this solicitation open to wind energy startups in their early stages of development?
 - a. Yes, any individual or entity qualified in the solicitation topic matter is welcome and encouraged to submit a proposal for consideration, provided their concept adheres to the requirements defined in the Solicitation documentation. Note that NOWRDC awards are intended to fund the execution of projects that advance U.S. offshore wind and will not cover unrelated business expenses.
- 11. How much confidentiality will be maintained for novel innovations?
 - a. Concept Paper or Full Proposal submissions are confidential, and all reviewers/scorers are bound by NDA to protect the information contained within. In the case of a project award, there are some report-format deliverables that must be made publicly shareable (as defined in the [Statement of Work Template](#)). Beyond these deliverables, where applicable the NOWRDC team will work with the project team to develop an IP Management Plan to ensure protected information remains so.