

OVC Topic Questions

Question Topic	Questions Received	Open Voucher Call Admin Answer
<p align="center">Cost Share</p>	<p>What is cost share?</p>	<p>Cost share can either be a monetary contribution to the work or in-kind activities.</p> <p>“In-Kind” encompasses all contributions to the project made by the Participant that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent services. In-Kind cost share items include (but not limited too) personnel hours, equipment use/costs, and supplies/material costs etc. All “In-Kind” items must be necessary to the performance of the project as outlined in the agreement with the national lab.</p>
	<p>Can \$25k cost share be met by work done with DOE SBIR funding?</p>	<p>This Open Voucher Call is not related to any other DOE activity and therefore will require its own agreements and cost share.</p>
<p align="center">Sharing Confidential/Proprietary Information</p>	<p>How should proprietary information be communicated?</p>	<p>Please review section A.9 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act in the Official Rules to determine how to mark any confidential/proprietary information in your submission.</p>
<p align="center">Eligibility</p>	<p>Do you have to be a recipient/collaborator/subcontractor of a pre-existing TCF project or American Made prize to be eligible to apply for the voucher?</p>	<p>You do not need to have been a previous recipient of a Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) project or a winner</p>

		of an American Made Prize to be eligible to apply for the Open Voucher Call. Teams should review Section 3.1 in the Official Rules document for the complete list of eligibility requirements.
IP from Non-Participating National Laboratories	Will IP be given preference if it was developed at a lab that was not on the (voucher recipients) list you presented such as at NETL?	Vouchers that incorporate any national lab IP, including IP from NETL, could be given preference. However, NETL is not a participating lab in this Call. Therefore, they would not be able to assist with this voucher.
IP Generation	If a national lab helps on the final development and commercialization of my new technology, how does the IP work in that case with the National Lab?	All terms and conditions regarding IP generation and ownership will be outlined in each of the national laboratory's contracting documents. See Section 3.3 of the Official Rules for more information and links to each of the participating national laboratories.
IP Licensing	Can you leverage or pitch national lab IP that hasn't been licensed yet?	Yes.
	Does the IP licensing agreement need to be in place before hand?	The IP licensing agreement does not need to come prior to receiving a voucher if selected.

	<p>Would be helpful to hear a bit about using / licensing National Labs IP and how that generally works. Along with co-developing IP</p>	<p>We will work to provide more information relating to the request. Please follow up on our resources as we will attempt to add resources relating to this request.</p>
	<p>I am already working on licensing a technology with one of the 8 national labs that I plan on applying for a voucher for. Is this an issue?</p>	<p>If you have a prior or current partnership with a national lab, please describe that work in your submission. If you have a past or current partnership with a national lab that is not a problem.</p>
<p>Previously Licensed IP</p>	<p>My company has IP from INL that is aligned with the technology areas. Is that an issue?</p>	<p>That is not an issue. However, INL is not a participating lab in this Call. Therefore, they would not be able to assist with this voucher.</p>
<p>Letters of Support</p>	<p>Can letters of support come from members of Congress?</p>	<p>Letters of support should only be from relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others that are critical to the success of your proposed voucher will likely increase your likelihood of receiving a voucher. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your voucher submission will likely not factor into your score. Please see section 4.5.2 of the Official Rules to see the complete requirements</p>

		relating to letters of support or commitment.
Competing in Multiple Prizes	Can we compete in this and Solar Prize Round 8?	Teams can and are encouraged to compete in multiple American-Made challenges. Submitting to the Open Voucher Call does not deem you ineligible for competing in other prizes.
Multiple Submissions	Can one team member show up on three applications in one Tech Area - as long as all the other team members are not on any of the other teams?	<p>A single submitter or team may submit a maximum of one submission per technology area. If more than one submission per technology area is received from a single submitter or team, the most recently submitted submission will be considered.</p> <p>A team is defined by a specific group of individuals. In the case of large entities, such as universities or large corporations, multiple teams from these entities can apply to the Open Voucher Call, so long as the teams are composed of entirely separate individuals.</p>
Reaching Out To National Laboratory Researchers	If we already have a relationship with a specific researcher but no IP connection can we communicate with them to gauge their general interest?	We request that you do not reach out to laboratory staff regarding your voucher requests.

	<p>What if you already have relationship with a national lab and they have interest in your technology? Is this still a feasible program?</p>	<p>If you have a prior or current partnership with a national lab, please describe that work in your submission. If you have a past or current partnership with a national lab that is not a problem.</p>
	<p>We have begun the process of reaching out to national lab staff regarding the WestGate program, would this contact be cause for disqualification for this program?</p>	<p>If you have reached out to national lab staff regarding other non-related opportunities that is not a problem. We request that you do not reach out to laboratory staff regarding your voucher requests as it relates to this program.</p>
	<p>Could we be disqualified if we are already in touch with researchers at a national lab?</p>	<p>If you are already in touch with researchers at a national lab, please email openvoucher@nrel.gov and our team will work with you to determine if this is cause for disqualification. Per the rules: "we request that you do not reach out to laboratory staff regarding your voucher requests as it relates to this program."</p>
<p>Existing National Laboratory Relationships</p>	<p>If we are already working with a lab on feasibility studies, can we use the voucher to support physical validation (the next step in development)?</p>	<p>Yes, however, this voucher will likely need to be a separate agreement and project. If you have a prior or current partnership with a national lab, please</p>

		describe that work in your submission.
	We work with NREL staff regularly. Are we not allowed to even mention this call to researchers?	Per the rules: "We request that you do not reach out to laboratory staff regarding your voucher requests." If you talk with NREL staff generally about the call that is fine. However, you are not to have the lab staff assist or influence your voucher requests. If you are interested in incorporating National Lab IP in your voucher request please email openvoucher@nrel.gov and the voucher call admin can help to assist so you can learn more about the lab IP for your submission.
	We self-funded a quick project at a national lab for proof-of-principle. This voucher seems like a good follow-up to make a real world object we can test. Does our previous project that used national lab IP disqualify us since we have a relationship with them already?	If you have a prior or current partnership with a national lab, please describe that work in your submission. If you have a past or current partnership with a national lab that is not a problem.
National Lab Preference	Can the submitters choose which national laboratory we work with?	Teams should indicate if they have previous experience working with one of the 8 identified national laboratories and/or have a preference on working with a specific national laboratory.

		<p>However, teams are not guaranteed to be awarded a voucher with the national laboratory they identified. Although the Open Voucher Call Team will do our best to match voucher awardees with the identified national laboratory, DOE will have the final decision on national laboratory assignment based on national laboratory capabilities and national laboratory researcher availability & expertise.</p>
<p>Other Participating National Laboratories</p>	<p>I don't see LLNL on the list. Is there a potential to work with this laboratory?</p> <p>Is Brookhaven National Lab included in this?</p>	<p>Only the 8 national laboratories identified in the Open Voucher Call Official Rules are participating. All other national laboratories are currently unable to receive voucher awards at this time.</p>
<p>Splitting the Voucher</p>	<p>If it is appropriate for the application, could a voucher include work at multiple national laboratories?</p> <p>Can the work be divided per more than one national labs for a single voucher?</p>	<p>These national laboratory vouchers can only be utilized at a single national laboratory voucher and cannot be split.</p>
<p>Current Federally Funded Project</p>	<p>If you are already working with a national lab on a government sponsored program, can you use this program to potentially supplement or extend ongoing work?</p> <p>Can this be used to enhance existing phase I/phase II research</p>	<p>Yes, however, this voucher will likely need to be a separate agreement and project. If you have a prior or current partnership with a national lab, please describe that work in your submission.</p>

	<p>with national lab partners under the SBIR program?</p>	
	<p>Hello! Our company is in a LEEP program at LBNL. Is it alright if we apply for funds to use at LBNL?</p> <p>We have already won a VOUCHER under the CABLE prize, working with PNNL. under this call, we would like to try a variation of our technology. Does the fact that we have a current voucher hurt us trying to get a second one, for a different purpose? Or, are we equal to anyone else?</p> <p>What are rules/restrictions on combining this Voucher with a related SBIR grant?</p>	<p>Your participation in other DOE / National Lab programs does not affect your eligibility for this Call.</p>
<p>Voucher Expiration</p>	<p>Does this voucher (gift card) expire? I'm working with one of the federal labs to acquire a commercial license for one of their technologies, but I was also looking at securing a CRADA with the same lab and wondered if I could use the voucher to fund the CRADA.</p>	<p>Teams are expected to complete all contracting requirements in a timely manner after being deemed a voucher awardee. Once contracted, your voucher must be completed within one year of the execution date.</p>
<p>Additional Voucher Funds</p>	<p>From the previous experience I know how expensive the National Labs services are. What if like the \$100K voucher amount would not be able to cover the full cost?</p>	<p>Voucher awardees who execute Cooperative Research And Development Agreements (CRADA) as the contracting document with their national laboratory will have the ability to add additional funds into the agreement to meet and/or</p>

		increase the scope of the CRADA.
Voucher Scoping	<p>How would we know the cost of the services for a given scope of work and whether it would fit within the \$100k limit?</p> <p>Is there a range of fees charged by the facilities. Just would help to understand how far \$100K would go in taking work forward.</p>	<p>Teams should make reasonable assumptions on what scopes of work are likely to fall within the \$100,000 voucher. If awarded, teams will work with national laboratory researchers to refine and/or add to the project scope to meet the \$100,000 voucher budget, unless teams choose to add in additional project funds.</p>
Travel	<p>Does the voucher fund travel or you will need to relocate?</p> <p>Does the voucher include visits to the national lab for testing? or everything should be remote?</p>	<p>Voucher funds cannot be used for travel. Voucher funds are to be used solely for the national laboratory researcher's time to develop and execute the agreed upon project scope.</p>