This document will be updated with answers to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) that are received – please visit this page occasionally.

Q1: In the funding section you list each university award at $100K and lab awards at $450K in year 1 and $750K in years 2 and 3. I'm not clear on if this is the total amount of funding for a university-led project and a lab-led project or if a project could, in theory, be $3M total with four labs, each at $750K. Could you clarify what you had in mind?
A1: Individual Lab funding profile: $450K, $740K, $750K for years 1, 2, and 3 respectively.
No-non DOE Lab funding profile: $100K per year for years 1, 2, and 3 respectively.
For collaborations: PIs could come up with a number of innovative scenarios that can be considered at the preproposal stage by the Program Manager (PM).

Q2: The FOA lists both the minimum and maximum being the dollar amounts given above – does this mean you're looking for proposals at exactly that amount?
A2: Yes

Q3: Under eligibility FOA gives constraints on no more than 4 proposals led by a particular institution – but says that an institution can submit as many white papers as we like in the pre-proposal stage, and will an institution need to down select to 4 if more than 4 are encouraged – is that correct?
A3: Yes

Q4: FOA says that individual PI's can participate in no more than 3 applications, but doesn't comment on limitations at the pre-proposal stage – is that also true at the pre-proposal stage?
A4: PIs can participate in any number of pre-proposals.

Q5: Would a Lab + Lab collaborative proposal could have 2 times Lab funding award guideline for all year's budget?
A5: Yes

Q6: Would a lab + university be Year Lab + Year Non-Lab for all specified three years?
A6: Yes, unless the university (or any non-lab proposal) is a sub-contractor in the proposal. The same applies to a Non-lab (or university) led proposal where any other institution is a subcontractor and the limit is $100K/yr.

Q7: If you write a collaborative proposal that includes both labs and universities, can you combine the two funding guidelines? That is, $100K/yr for the university partners and $450K, $750K, $750K for the lab partners?
A7: Yes

Q8: Is there a projected start date for the budget planning?
A8: Yes (as soon as possible), and it is dependent on the availability of funds to make any awards as stipulated in the FOA.

Q9: Page 12 (on LAB 16-1575) says narrative is limited to 10 pages, but page 16 states 15 and up to 22 for collaborative proposals?
A9: Yes, single PI proposal up to 15 page, collaborative proposal up to 22 page limits.

Q10: Does COI list need to include those that are from the proposing institutions?
A10: Yes, anyone from whom any performer in the proposal is a COI.

Q11: Can escalation in years two and three be requested?
A11: No

Q12: FOA states "*The budget in the full proposal may differ from the budget in the preproposal*", but there is no request for budget information to be provided in preproposal submission?
A12: It is an option to provide any budget information in the pre-proposal, and in particular, if the budget differs from FOA guidelines or for collaborations or subcontractors. The goal is to ensure a PI understands that any tentative budget proposed in the pre-proposal stage is not a commitment and can be changed until the full proposal is submitted.

Q13: Are the Research Area to identify the proposal Cover Page the three below (found on page 2) or something else?
a. **Supervised Learning**
b. **Unsupervised Learning**
c. **Reinforced Learning**
A13: Yes, "*Applications may address one or more of the announcement themes. Preference will be given to projects that offer focused and coherent research and solutions. All projects should be appropriately integrated into a whole and not a collection of disjointed efforts.*"