FAQ - NP SciDAC4 (DE-FOA-0001698 and LAB 17-1698)

Should I submit a LOI and a Preproposal as part of my application?

Submission of an LOI is required as part of the NP SciDAC4 Application Process; these are due on 12/16/2016 at 5 PM Eastern and must be submitted through PAMS. Preproposals are not required by the NP – ASCR FOA and should not be submitted.

Funding Limits and External Funding:

The FOA specifies constraints on the maximum funding per institution and the maximum funding for an entire collaboration. Suppose however that a PI can secure additional funding for a SciDAC Project from another part of DOE (besides NP or ASCR), another agency, or from some other source which is not a sponsor of the FOA. Should that additional (non-NP and non-ASCR) support be included in assessing whether the funding limits specified in the FOA have been exceeded?

Answer: No. The funding limits quoted in the solicitation only apply to the combined funding of the Offices (NP and ASCR) within the Office of Science that sponsored the FOA. However we do request that any such "external" sources of support and their associated scope be specified in the proposal. These external sources of support and the associated tasks supported should also be described in the Budget Justification. The Budget itself should refer only to NP and ASCR funds.

Can a single proposal receive funding from multiple DOE SC Offices, for example from NP – HEP – ASCR?

This is possible in principal; see for example the "Funding Limits and External Funding" discussion above. However as there is no joint NP – HEP – ASCR FOA, such a proposal would have to be submitted to either the NP – ASCR or the HEP – ASCR FOA, based on which pair has the greatest relevance to the work proposed. The third PM would need to decide in favor of providing additional funding for the proposal. This multi-office funding mechanism, or any similar multiple-funding possibilities should be discussed by the PI and the PMs involved, and approved by the PMs, before the PI submits such a proposal.

Relative NP and ASCR support levels:

Is there an implicit constraint (such as equality) between the relative levels of NP and ASCR funding that should be requested by a SciDAC4 Project?

Answer: No. However if the levels of NP (science) and ASCR (computation) support requested by a SciDAC Proposal differ widely, one might be concerned that the project being described is not a "Partnership" between scientific and computational researchers as envisaged in the SciDAC FOA.

Can a foreign institution apply for an NP SciDAC4 Project?

Sec. III.A. of the FOA specifies the eligible applicants as follows:

All types of domestic applicants are eligible to apply, except Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995.

Thus only domestic applicants are allowed.