

**HR001126S0005 High-efficiency Nitrogen Oxidation (HNO<sub>3</sub>)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
**as of 12/5/25**

6Q: Are there restrictions to apply if PI or Co-PI is not a US citizen or green card holder?

6A: Per Section IV of the BAA, all responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs, including both U.S. and non-U.S. sources, may submit a proposal that shall be considered by DARPA. Non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances.

5Q: Can a scientist from a Government laboratory partner with a U.S. university to apply to the solicitation? Is there any cost share required?

5A: Section IV: Special Considerations in the BAA states, “If the proposal is scientifically merited and meets the criteria below, DARPA may fund work proposed by these entities with the following caveats:

- “Government Entities: Government Entities (e.g., Government/National laboratories, military educational institutions, etc.) are subject to applicable direct competition limitations. Government Entities must clearly demonstrate that the work is not otherwise available from the private sector and provide written documentation citing the specific statutory authority and contractual authority, if relevant, establishing their ability to propose to Government solicitations and compete with industry. This information is required for Government Entities proposing to be awardees or subawardees.”

Cost share is not required; however, if proposing as a subawardee, a rough order of magnitude cost should be provided in the technical proposal only—cost proposals must exclude their funding, as DARPA will contact them directly to come to an agreement rather than fund them through the prime contract. Additional information can be found in Section IV: Special Considerations.

4Q: Can we get an extension on the abstract due date?

4A: Abstracts are encouraged but not required. There will not be an extension on the abstract due date.

3Q: Could you clarify whether IV&V’s electrochemical tests are strictly for cross-team normalization or if they function as a gating requirement for Phase 1b? If they are gating, for mechanisms where reaction activity does not manifest under conventional electrochemical testing, is there a pathway for coordinating with LLNL so that IV&V can evaluate performance directly within the relevant reactor environment?

3A: DARPA will coordinate with the IV&V team to determine appropriate testing and evaluation for chosen performers.

2Q: Can we schedule a meeting to discuss our proposal ideas?

2A: To ensure all potential proposers have equitable access to information, discussions will be managed through the FAQ process. DARPA also encourages everyone to submit an abstract if they believe (justifiably) they can achieve the program metrics. Feedback will be provided on specific proposal ideas presented in submitted abstracts, but we will not be meeting with individual proposers to discuss ideas during the solicitation period.

1Q: Will catalyst development for plasma catalysis to produce nitric acid be considered within scope of this solicitation?

1A: As stated in Section B of the BAA, “Although electrochemical approaches to direct nitrogen oxidation appear to be the most promising, the HNO<sub>3</sub> program remains open to any processes capable of achieving the program metrics. However, regardless of the proposed method, **the proposal must include a clear and technically rigorous justification with supporting data showing how the proposed route will achieve the metrics of HNO<sub>3</sub>.**”