

Q&A's received during the RSPA/OPS's April 25 BAA Briefing in Denver, CO

Cost Sharing of Projects

Q: Can other Federal agencies provide the cost sharing?

A: Yes. Most often the type of cost sharing provided is in-kind, meaning use of existing facilities, equipment, etc. Types of cost sharing proposed by Federal Agencies acting as "partners" are reviewed and are approved on a case by case basis.

Q: Is it possible to for the cost sharing to be from outside of the United States?

A: Yes

Q: Can we get cost sharing from regulated entities (i.e., the pipeline industry)?

A: Yes.

Q: Can we have stepped or increased cost sharing?

A: No. The Federal Government will provide no more than 50% of the total project cost. The awardee (with their partners) must provide the remaining amount.

Allocation of Current \$2.5 Million in BAA R&D Funds

Q: How many projects do you expect to fund - five projects at \$500,000 each or a lot of smaller projects?

A: It is entirely dependent on the submissions received, although we do not expect to allocate more than \$500,000 of Federal funding to any single project.

Q: Is the maximum of \$500,000 RSPA/OPS's portion of the funding?

A: Yes.

Fiscal 2002 Funding vs. Future Funding

Q: Will the research funds go away at the end of the fiscal year?

A: No.

Award Announcements

Q: Do we need to have proposals in for all three BAAs before you make awards?

A: No. RSPA/OPS expects the first round of awards to be announced by August/September 2002. The awards for the other BAAs will be announced later in the year.

Project Milestones

Q: Do we get paid if milestones have not been met?

A: No. Milestones/deliverables must be met and approved by the Government before any payments are made.

Miscellaneous

Q: What was the quality of previous BAA proposals?

A: Excellent.

Q: Who is going to be on the review panel?

A: We can not give you the names of the panelists, but the panel will be comprised on representatives from Federal government, state government, and pipeline trade associations. .

Q: How large will the panel be?

A: Don't know as yet.

Q: Will RSPA/OPS make available the list of attendees for this briefing?

A: RSPA/OPS has made available the list of people that have requested that we share their contact information. If you would like to add your name to this list, please send your contact information to warren.osterberg@rspa.dot.gov.

Q: Will RSPA/OPS publish the results of the research that you fund?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there no distinction between gas & liquid for submitting proposals?

A: No.

Q: Does RSPA/OPS have a preference for gas or liquid R&D submissions?

A: No.

Q: Will RSPA/OPS only seek full proposals from the white papers that you have a possible interest in funding?

A: Yes. We will notify submitters of accepted white papers to request full proposals. Shortly thereafter, we will notify the submitters of rejected white papers and will explain why such white papers were not accepted.

Q: Is there overlap between BAA#1 and BAA#2 and BAA#3?

A: There are some research projects that could apply to more than one of the BAAs. For example, real time sensors could apply to apply to damage prevention/leak detection or to enhanced operations, controls and monitoring (the second BAA that will be announced soon).

Q: Does RSPA/OPS support smaller research projects?

A: Yes

Q: Can the R&D funds be spent outside of U.S.; e.g, Canada or United Kingdom?

A: Yes