

**FY17 TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
EXPLORATORY PROPOSALS
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT BPA-EXP-0002017
Due May 1, 2016 4PM PST**

How to Submit the Proposal

Applications will only be accepted through the [BPA Exchange website](#). Proposals are due to be submitted via the BPA Exchange website by 4PM (PST) on May 1, 2016. Applicants have to [register and create a BPA Exchange account](#) prior to submitting the proposal. Questions regarding the application process and/or the contents of the Exploratory Proposals should be directed to the Technology Innovation (TI) Portfolio Manager, Judith Estep, jaestep@bpa.gov, 503.230.5997.

Exploratory Project Category

Purpose of an exploratory project is the following:

1. To provide some small amount of time and money to explore and understand the beginnings of an idea in order to then properly present it for consideration as a project to be developed ultimately for BPA's use.
2. To enable exploration of new technology areas not currently addressed in BPA's technology roadmaps or research portfolio.
3. To provide a richer pipeline of potential projects and avoid needlessly duplicating work already completed elsewhere.
4. To help insure that BPA staff are cognizant of technology developments outside of BPA and prepared to better articulate the scope of a proposal, the basis for it (how it builds on other work), and the potential benefits to BPA.
5. To create information that can be used to update BPA's research agenda (as articulated via technology roadmaps).
6. To fill potential gaps in the Portfolio.
7. The purpose of the exploratory proposal is *not* to make preliminary contact with external contractors. Rather, the intent is to conduct internal research, with the potential objective of submitting a proposal as part of the Technology Innovation Research and Development solicitation process.

Eligibility

An exploratory proposal can only be provided from inside BPA. This is not an opportunity for outside entities to be paid for developing project proposals.

Exploratory proposals should:

- Take less than 4 months to complete
- Require less than 0.1 FTE
- Require less than \$30,000 for expenses associated with travel, research, some materials, and other incidentals. There will be no contracting associated with these proposals.
- Focus on a literature search, laboratory experiments, purchasing reports to substantiate objective (e.g. JDPower reports, etc.)

Exploratory Proposal Content

The proposal must include the following content identified in points 1 through 14 below.

Descriptors

1. Concept title
2. Date of submission
3. Name, organization, and routing code of person submitting concept
4. Proposed start date: (mm/yy)
5. Proposed end date: (mm/yy)
6. Brief description of concept: (no more than 3 sentences)

Connection to BPA's Goals

7. Describe how this concept is connected to a particular technology need identified in a Technology Roadmap or explain that the technology or need isn't addressed in the current roadmaps and why it ought to be. Link to current roadmaps: <http://www.bpa.gov/ti> .

Results and Benefits

8. Describe how/where the concept's results could be used at BPA. List the areas (functions or offices or organizations) of BPA where the results of this concept could be used.
9. What are the potential qualitative or quantitative benefits to BPA?
10. Work is certainly already being done¹ (or has already been done) in the R&D community that is related to the concept. Describe how this concept could improve on this related R&D work. Would the results of this concept be an incremental change or a radical/breakthrough change, and why?
11. Additional comments:
 - a. What risks should be considered?
 - b. Is there potential for leveraging costs?
 - c. Are there other potential known or yet to be verified uses/applications?
 - d. What is it about this concept that would have BPA invest in it; why is it important to BPA?
 - e. Other?

Doing the Project

12. Describe the concept in more detail along with a recommended work plan for developing the concept including a schedule for reporting progress. This schedule should not exceed 4 months but need not begin immediately; you can propose a particular 4 month period.
 13. Is there a role for the BPA Labs in doing the work on this proposed concept? Describe the contact made with the Labs and reasons for using or not using them.
 14. BPA requested funding:
 - a. Year
 - b. FTE
 - c. Material costs
 - d. Travel costs
 - e. Total estimated cost to BPA excluding FTE costs
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Reporting Expectations

- Interim Progress Report

Technology Innovation will schedule a meeting coincident with all approved exploratory projects, sometime within the fiscal year. The purpose of this meeting is to provide a verbal update on your project relative to activities and spending.

- Final Report

At the conclusion of your project you will be expected to provide a final report. The contents of the report should include:

- Were the goals and objectives of the project achieved?
- Were the original objectives correct?
- What is the potential value added to BPA as a result of the project?
- What potential barriers have you identified to implementation?
- If the project didn't meet objectives or isn't worth pursuing any further, this is important to know and why.

Selection Basis

1. Qualifications and availability of Principle Investigator (BPA staff).
2. Degree to which it addresses a technology gap in a Roadmap R&D Program or provides a compelling argument for why it should have been in the roadmap.
3. Potential for benefit to BPA.
4. Proponents compelling argument and knowledge of how to get application to BPA accomplished

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Selection Criteria

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1. Qualifications and availability of Principle Investigator	Low	Modest	Medium	High
2. The degree to which the concept addresses a technology gap identified in a Roadmap	Does not	Somewhat	Adequately	Clearly
3. Degree to which it addresses a gap in the Portfolio	Does not	Indirectly	Somewhat	Directly
4. Potential for benefit to BPA	Low	Modest	Medium	High
5. The probability of near or long term successful application to BPA	Low	Modest	Medium	High