

The following are questions presented at the Webinar on May 28 and their answers

**Q: Please specify what can serve as the match for the costs.**

*A: In order to understand well the cost-sharing mechanism, please note the way the budgets are prepared see <https://www.birdf.com/energycenter-procedures-submission-forms/>.*

**Q: What is a 'test bed' (Energy Water nexus).**

*A: "A testbed is a platform for conducting rigorous, transparent, and replicable testing of scientific theories, computational tools, and new technologies." Note that we are specifically asking for testbeds that address "sensor system design, infrastructure system configuration, and supporting data analytics for monitoring, control, diagnostics and management" at the energy-water nexus.*

**Q: Regarding in-kind matching; are there restrictions on types or levels allowed.**

*A: Budgeting in-kind expenses is allowed, based on the value of the services or goods. Of course, proof of the costs will be required to be presented for an audit. The cost should include direct costs only, since according to the budget preparation instructions, there is separate compensation for the overhead costs (Section 7.14.4 of the submission procedures).*

**Q: Will the Energy Center help us find potential partners to work with? Who will own the final product? If US consortium members share 50% of the cost, and Israeli members share the other 50% of the cost, for a total of 100% of the cost, is the funding then a reimbursement?**

*A: The BIRD team will try to assist in finding partners; the ownerships of the final product: it's for the partners to decide according to their agreements; For the last part of the question – we will quote a statement from the procedures:*

**Cost share:** *The US Budget should include the minimum 50% cost share from the U.S. Consortium Members, **in aggregate**. The Israeli Budget should include the minimum 50% cost share of the Israel Consortium Members, **in aggregate**.*

*Please refer to <https://www.birdf.com/energycenter-procedures-submission-forms/> to understand well how to prepare the budgets.*

**Q: I do not understand the distinction between a "draft full proposal" vs. the "full proposal." A draft implies that it is a separate document than the full. Will you review a draft?**

*A: Please read in Section 6.2, Page 19 of the Submission Procedures.*

**Q: Can you explain the matchmaking process in more detail?**

*A: (1) Prepare a draft Executive Summary using the provided template, even if partial; (2) Describe the type of partners that would fit your initiative; (3) Send to one of the BIRD representatives (see Call for Proposals) and ask to set a phone call.*

**Q; Could you confirm if this is a grant or a loan?**

*A: It's a grant; no repayments or royalties are expected.*

**Q: Is the expectation that the consortium will focus on a single commercial application, or will a coherent set of applications be accepted?**

*A: A coherent set of activities will be accepted. Please refer to the submission procedures, Section 2.1, Page 7 and also to the Selection Criteria (Section 5).*

**Q: We want to ask whether special accommodations have been made for DOE National Laboratories—specifically with respect to ECFA terms and conditions and budget limitations on overhead and G&A.**

*A: If an entity has a regulatory commitment to use certain overheads and G&A (for example, because it has contracts with DOE), it will be possible to accommodate the required rates.*

**Q: Does hydrogen generation from natural gas considered as a relevant topic for this research funding?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: Is there a preference for the USL and ILL to both be commercial entities?**

*A: No.*

**Q; Can academic institutions outside of US and Israel be part of the consortium?**

*A: No.*

**Q: Can you elaborate on NDA signing between the proposers and BIRD before the executive summary ? After ? other timing ?**

*A: We can sign an NDA using BIRD's template at any point in time (the template can be found at: <https://www.birdf.com/agreements-reporting/>)*

**Q: From where will the application reviewers be drawn?**

*A: From DOE, MOE (Israel Ministry of Energy) and IIA (Israel Innovation Authority).*

**Q: Is the proposal a one document for the Israeli and US partners or each of them submit one proposal document? what happen if you like the proposed work of one US group and the proposed work of a different Israeli group...?**

*A: The proposal is a joint document. For the second part of the question: the proposals will be judged as a whole document independently. During the program, there will be a mechanism to include additional members to a consortium (not immediately after award).*

**Q: A company that we'd like to work with is the result of a merger of an US company and an Israeli company. The new company is headquartered in the US. Could that still be considered**

**a company based in Israel? How does BIRD determine nationality of the company? Where the HQ is?**

*A: If the Israeli company is registered in Israel, has workforce and facilities in Israel and it's doing R&D in Israel, it's eligible.*

**Q: For the Energy Water Nexus, what range of scales is acceptable for the 3-5 testbeds? Is it 1/1000 or 1/100 of full-scale, for example?**

*A: Full scale. Note that the testbeds address "sensor system design, infrastructure system configuration, and supporting data analytics for monitoring, control, diagnostics and management" at the energy-water nexus and we are looking for "testbeds that take advantage of existing infrastructure."*

**Q: Can government ministries (e.g., the Electricity Authority) be considered partners?**

*A: No.*

**Q: So..., is it for the Israeli and US companies to decide who is the lead that submit the proposal?**

*A: Yes.*

**Q: Please provide POC address at BIRD to contact for additional questions.**

*A: Please refer to the Call for Proposals at <https://www.birdf.com/energycenter-call-for-proposals/>*

**Q: Will the slides be sent in the follow up email?**

*A: The slides were posted on the website at <https://www.birdf.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/EC-Webinar-Presentation-FINAL-May-28.pdf>*

**Q: Is there a cap on hourly rates?**

*A: No, but there are caps on annual salaries.*

**Q: How many awards will be provided as energy center/s?**

*A: Four awards, one for each topic area*

**Q: Are National Labs eligible?**

*A: Yes, they are eligible*

**Q: Slide 7: You mentioned that the topics are not exhaustive and that topics can be passed by BIRD to ensure that it lies within the scope. How much information do you want us to provide you and how should we do this (e.g. email)?**

*A: Please use the Executive Summary template from [www.birdf.com](http://www.birdf.com) to prepare a draft. No need to fill the whole form, if you don't have all the information at this point. Send it by email.*

**Q: Are Government held Companies seen as commercial company? Do the same rules apply to them?**

*A: Israeli Government owned companies are eligible.*

**Q: Is there any constraint on commercial companies size ?**

*A: No*

**Q: can we get a link to the website?**

*A: [www.birdf.com/energycenter/](http://www.birdf.com/energycenter/)*