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Memo

Date: November 25, 2025

To: Research and Professional Staff

From: M. Schoonen, Interim Deputy Director for Science and Technology 

Subject: **FY27 Type B** Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Proposals

We are now soliciting Type B proposals for the annual LDRD competition for awards that will begin on October 1, 2026, in Fiscal Year 2027. **The deadline for receipt of proposals is COB February 13, 2026.**

Decoupled LDRD Call

The call for the Type A and Type B LDRD proposals remains decoupled. A call for Type A proposals was issued separately today but Leads for the Focus Areas that are eligible for LDRD A investments can redirect concepts submitted for LDRD A to this call. **This solicitation is for Type B proposals only.**

Type B LDRD Proposals

Type B proposals aim to develop science/technology areas for new directions at the Laboratory; provide support for potential Early Career Award (ECA) candidates; and position the researcher for expected funding opportunities about a year after the project concludes. Unlike Type A LDRD proposals, Type B proposals are not constrained to BNL priority areas or Laboratory focus areas but must be consistent with the Laboratory's vision and mission [BNL | Policy & Strategic Planning | Annual Laboratory Plan](#). These proposals can be up to 24 months in duration, and the budget is capped at \$250k/yr for a total of \$500k. Shorter duration proposals to demonstrate a high-risk, novel idea are encouraged. The budget must be formulated for a start date of October 1, 2026. Later starts will not be considered. All permanent staff are eligible to submit proposals to this call. Postdocs are eligible to submit as co-Principal Investigators (PI); they are eligible to submit as PIs, if they are transitioning to a staff position before 10/1/26.

Proposals by staff who are eligible for Early Career Award (ECA) funding after the conclusion of the Type B LDRD are strongly encouraged. Up to 30% of the funding will be reserved for PIs who have **at least three years of eligibility** left for the ECA program. Please include in your proposal a description of how this LDRD will help your ECA effort.

In conceptualizing your idea, it is important to remember that research conducted under the LDRD Program cannot duplicate or directly augment research presently funded at the Laboratory. The policy and guidelines for the BNL LDRD Program are posted at the following location: <https://sbms.bnl.gov/SubjectArea/99/Index>

Proposal Submission Process

The Science Associate Laboratory Directors (ALD), along with their management teams, should determine the best method for screening the proposals for ultimate submission. The use of peer review is strongly encouraged. Each ALD should submit the proposals to the Policy and Strategic Planning Office at psp@bnl.gov. The Interim Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST) will provide guidance to the ALDs on the number of proposals that they can submit. Further information on BNL's LDRD Program is available on the LDRD website ([BNL | Laboratory Directed Research and Development \(LDRD\) | Home](#)).

Proposal Format

The proposals cannot exceed three pages. A one-page CV is required for the proposal's PI and co-PIs.

The proposals will need to be submitted electronically on the attached Proposal Information Questionnaire (PIQ) form, which can also be obtained electronically at the following location: <https://sbms.bnl.gov/SubjectArea/99/FormExhibit/5008041>. Please make sure that you use the most current version.

We would like to draw your attention to several sections of the PIQ, in particular the requests for a budget justification, for the names of four BNL subject matter experts who may be contacted as potential reviewers, and a section on information about future potential ECA applications. Further guidance on these sections is provided in the PIQ.

Proposal Selection Criteria

The criteria to be used for selection include:

1) The intellectual merit of the proposed activity:

- What is the key research hypothesis that the PI aims to address?
- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- What is the specific innovative claim?
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts?
- Is the proponent qualified to lead the proposed research?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- Is the scope of work commensurate with the requested budget?

2) Return on investment:

- Estimates of the financial return on investment are required. Note, this can be in the form of new projects or programs brought to BNL, or maintaining an existing program at the forefront of the field.

- It is important to evaluate whether a new competency developed or seeded through this investment is sought after by DOE or other agencies/organizations. An indication of the time frame for securing funding is also needed.
- Furthermore, it is important to evaluate whether BNL has the relationships and visibility in the relevant community to capitalize on this investment. A plan on how to raise the awareness of BNL's new competency among the relevant communities will strengthen the proposal (explain your communication plan in the milestones).
- Please pay particular attention to Section 2 of the PIQ: Potential Future Funding, since one of the objectives of the Program is to position the researcher for expected funding opportunities about a year after the project concludes.

3) The broader impacts of the proposed activity on the Laboratory:

- How does this project support the Lab's mission and vision?
- Will the activity lead to new competencies that will put the Laboratory in a leadership position?
- Will this project help to ensure the scientific and technical vitality of the Laboratory?
- Does the proposal appropriately anticipate DOE (such as ECA opportunities) or other sponsor needs? How can one tell?
- Does the proposal enable growth in BNL's existing programs, or does it have the potential to grow a new program?

Each proposal will be reviewed against the criteria by two subject matter experts and two members of the Research Staff. The reviews will be sent to the members of the Selection Committee, which will include the Interim DDST, the Science ALDs/Deputy ALDs, and members of the Brookhaven Council. The Committee hopes to conclude the selection process by mid-March. After the selection has been completed, the reviews will also be forwarded to the PIs, at the discretion of the ALDs/Deputy ALDs.

Screening Against the S&T Matrix

Consistent with the Proposal Information Management System (aka PIMS), in the Approvals section of the PIQ is a determination delegated to the Principal Investigator's Department Chair/Division Manager, if the project is a sensitive technology under the S&T Risk Matrix. This must be completed for funding to be awarded.

Thank you.

MS/jf

Attachment

cc: Level I and II Managers of Science and Technology Organizations
 K. Barkigia, BNL
 A. Emrick, BNL
 J. Hartmann, BHSO
 J. Hill, BNL
 S. McKeon, BNL