

May 11, 2026

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RTE Administrator

Rapid Turnaround Experiments (RTEs)

NSUF Annual Program Review
May 11-13, 2026

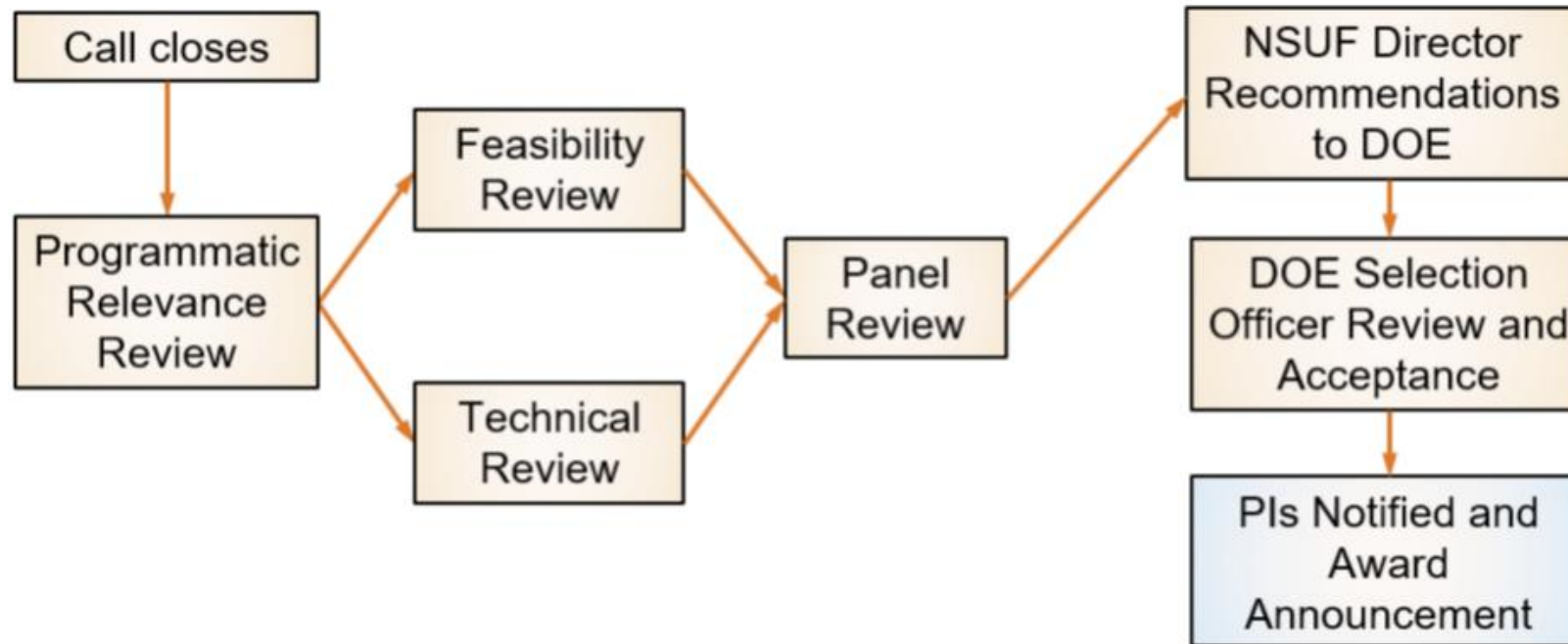
INL/MIS-26-92094



RTE Overview

- RTEs offer researchers the opportunity to perform irradiation effects studies of *limited* scope on a *small* number of samples, at no cost to researcher.
- Projects are selected through open competitive proposal process.
- Proposals welcome from principal investigators (PIs) affiliated with a U.S. university, U.S. government laboratory, U.S. entity, or foreign entity incorporated in U.S.
- International applicants will be accepted as long as the proposal includes a significant collaborator who is from a U.S. university, U.S. government laboratory, U.S. entity, or foreign entity incorporated in the U.S.
- RTE solicitations are typically on a 4-month cycle from the opening of the call to announcement of awards.
 - Traditional RTE project: ~2 calls/year; executed within 9 months
 - Super RTE: 1 call/year; executed within 12 months; twice the allowable access time at partner facilities; two NSUF partner institutions for post-irradiation examination (PIE).
- Irradiation experiments that require use of the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR), Massachusetts Institute of Technology Reactor (MITR), Transient Reactor Test (TREAT), or High-Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) reactors do not qualify as *rapid* turnaround experiments due to expense/duration.

RTE Solicitation Review Process



NSUF RTE Proposal Review

Programmatic Relevancy Reviews

- Christopher Barr (DOE)
- Allen Roach (NSUF)
- Rongjie Song (NSUF)

Feasibility Reviews

- Partner Facility Contacts

Technical Reviews (2 per proposal)

- Scientific merit (50%)
- Technical feasibility (30%)
- Capability of the group (20%)

Common issue: Non-alignment with DOE-NE mission. Fusion energy and isotope production are not included in NE mission.

Common issue: Not feasible determined after proposal submitted. PI has not contacted facility ahead of time and unable to change scope substantially after it has been submitted.

Technical Reviewers

Thank you for supporting the RTE program!

- We need more Technical Reviewers – email nsuf-proposals@inl.gov

New for Technical Reviewers:

- Reviewer invitation email will come first. Check if you accept the review, then it will be assigned. Easy to decline a proposal or that specific call.
- Agree online to a Conflict of Interest/Non-Disclosure certificate when you first sign in.

FY25 Rapid Turnaround Experiments

1st call: Opened October 2024, 23 awards made in June 2025

2nd call: Opened June 2025, 29 awards made in December 2025

Super RTE call: Opened July 2025, 19 awards made in January 2026

FY25 Rapid Turnaround Experiments Metrics

Standard RTEs (2)

Awarded 52 of the 161 proposals (32%)

Metrics for the two FY25 RTE calls:

- 27 awards (out of 103 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. universities** (26%)
- 20 awards (out of 46 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. national laboratories and government entities** (44%)
- 3 awards (out of 3 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. industry** (100%)
- 2 awards (out of 9 submitted) to PIs from **international universities** (22%)

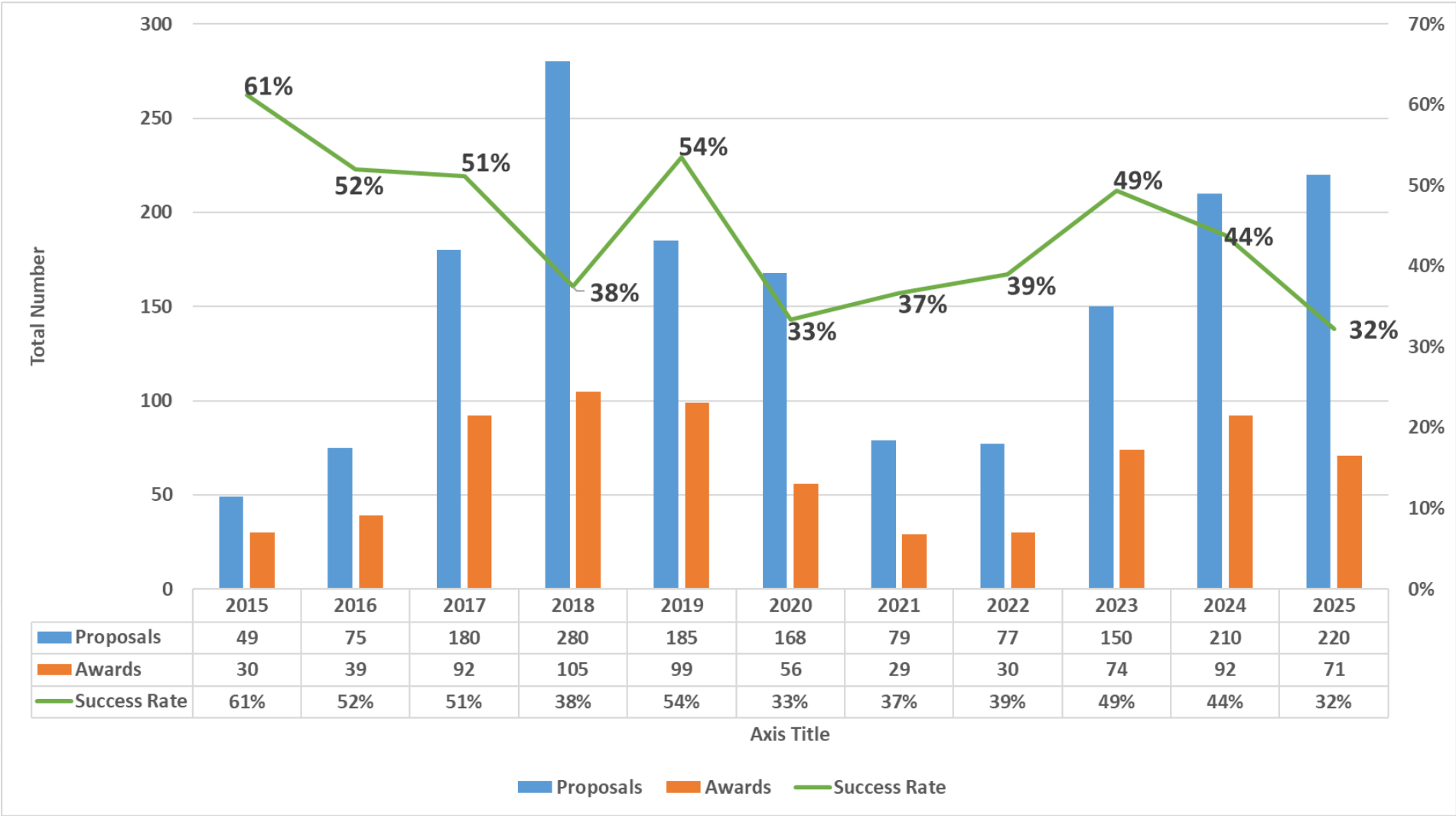
Super RTE

Awarded 19 of 59 proposals (32%)

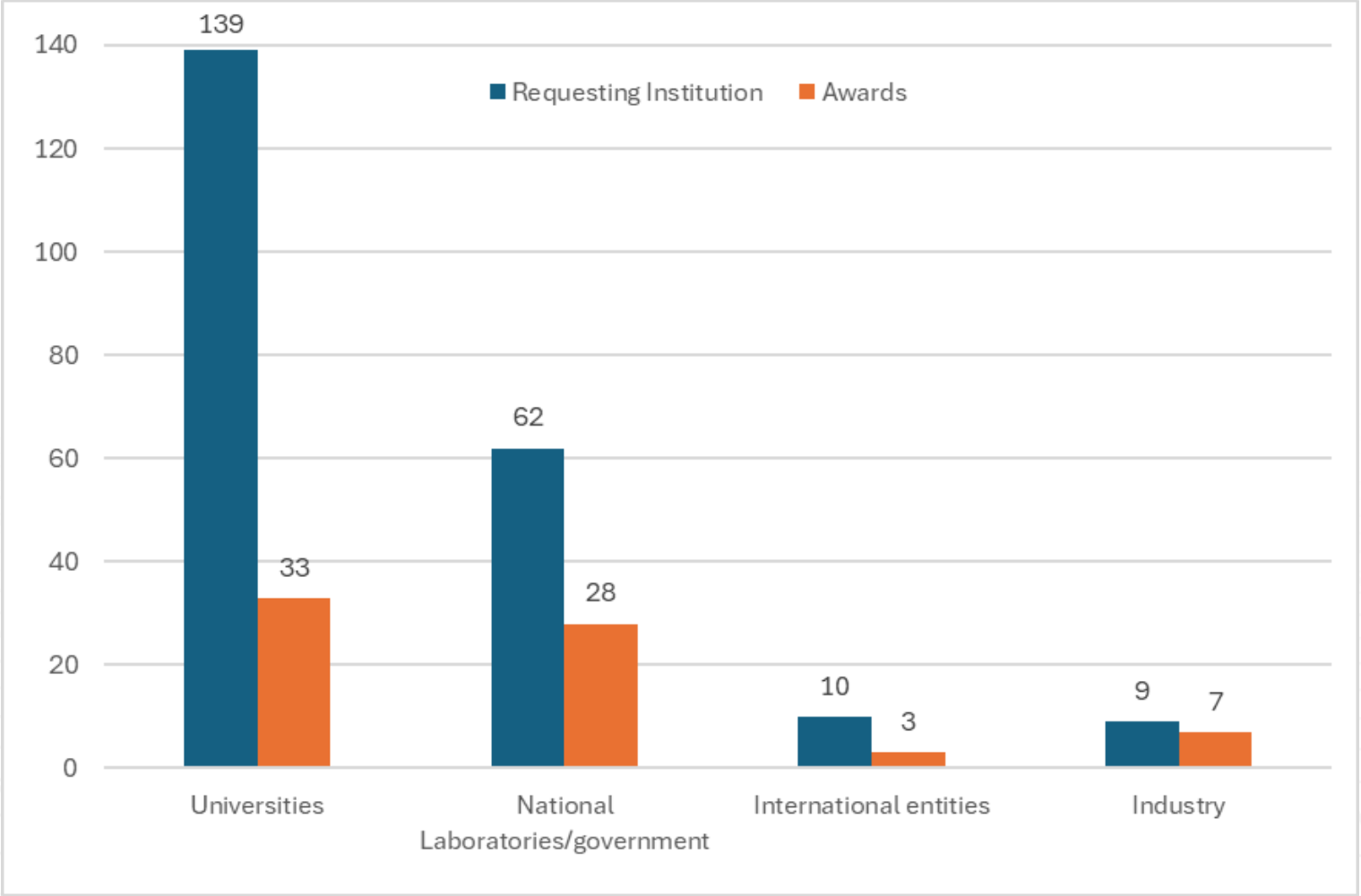
Metrics for the single FY25 Super RTE :

- 6 awards (out of 36 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. universities** (17%)
- 8 awards (out of 16 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. national laboratories and government entities** (50%)
- 4 awards (out of 6 submitted) to PIs from **U.S. industry** (66%)
- 1 award (out of 1 submitted) to PI from **international university** (100%)

RTE Proposals/Awards 2015-25



FY 2025 Institutions Requesting and Receiving RTEs



24%

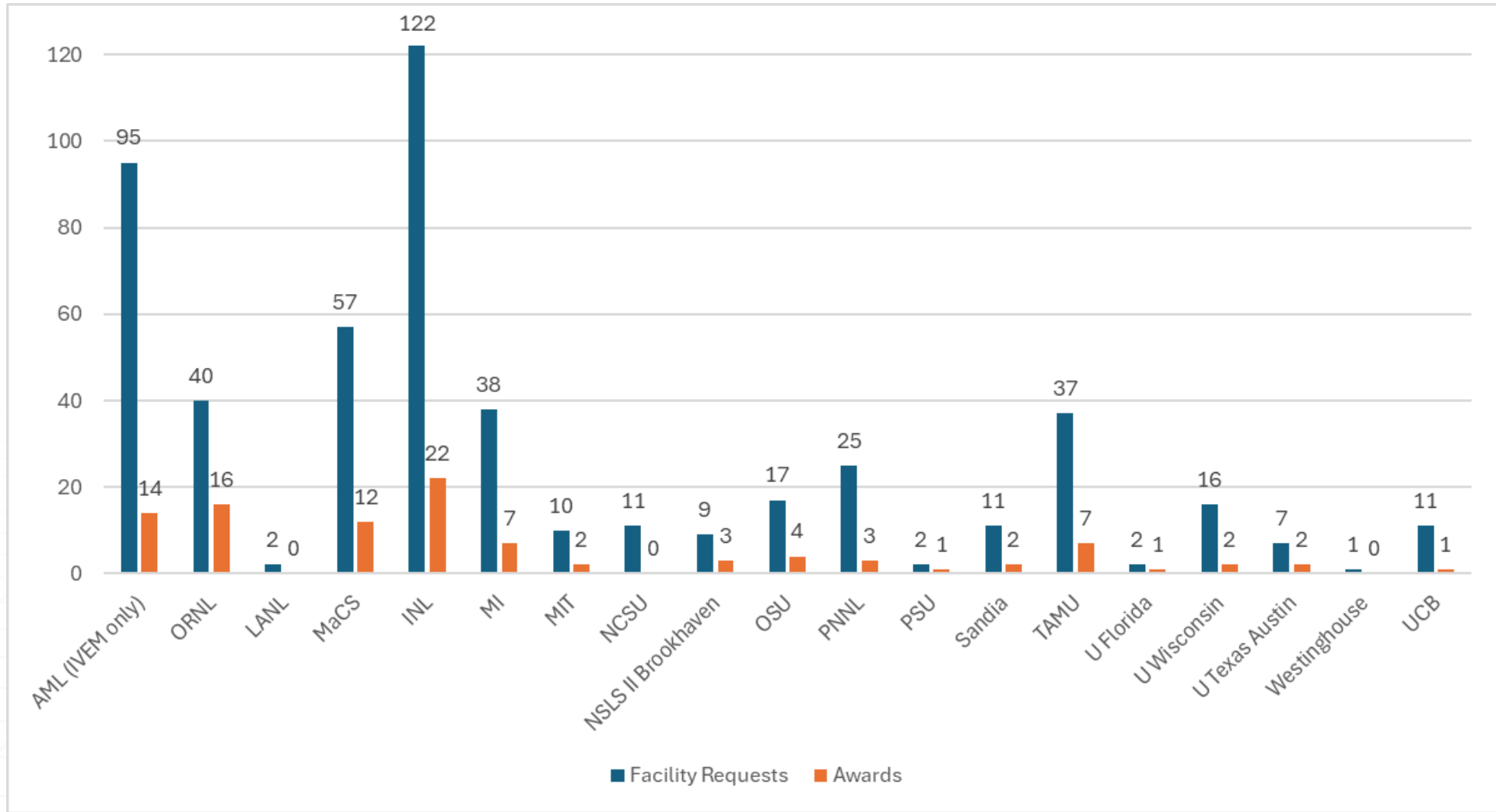
45%

30%

78%

Facility Requests and Awards FY 25 Calls

Each proposal may request up to 3 facilities.



FY 2026 RTEs

1st call: Opened December 2025, closed January 29, 2026, under review & awards expected in May/June

Super RTE call: Opened May 4, 2026; Closing June 1, 2026, 4 pm MDT/6 pm EDT

New and noteworthy: PIs and senior/key personnel

- MFA authentication required for NSUF account (not new, but still causes issues).
- PIs must have an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) account.
- All proposals must include a biographical sketch or CV (maximum two pages) for the PI and any senior/key personnel.
 - **NSUF strongly encourages applicants to generate biographical sketches using SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (nih.gov). Additional guidance on the biographical sketch is available at <https://www.energy.gov/ia/common-forms-sciencv>
- Senior/key personnel (defined same as CINR/R&D NOFO): individuals who make a defined, material contribution that is critical to the success of the project and/or contribute to joint publications.
- Senior/key personnel must have a NSUF account to be added on a proposal.

PIs and senior/key personnel

Similar to the **resume/cv requirements** for CINR/R&D NOFO, note the following:

- There should be no lapses in time over the past 10 years or since age 18, whichever period is shorter.
- Include all education and training, foreign or domestic, full time, part time, or voluntary
- Include all appointments or experience, beginning with current position, in order, full time, part time, or voluntary
- All applications submitted are subject to a DOE research, technology, and economic security due diligence review. This is separate from the technical merit review. This due diligence review includes review of PIs and collaborators and includes, but is not limited to review of CV/biosketch and any other disclosures/certifications.

New and noteworthy for the FY26 Super Call

- Proposals no longer require a separate project narrative. All content, including text, images, figures, tables, and other supporting materials, will be entered directly into the online form. Additional supporting files may be uploaded if needed. A proposal document will be automatically generated based on the submitted content and established word limits.
- A User Agreement between Battelle Energy Alliance acting on behalf of NSUF and the awarded PI's institution will be required before the initiation of physical work. This User Agreement is an umbrella agreement and not specific to an award.

Questions?

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