

## 2026 Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of HABs Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar Questions & Answers

Below please find the questions that were received during the webinar presentation for this funding announcement.

- Can we get a copy of the slides/presentation?
  - Yes, the slides and recording of the webinar will be posted to our Funding Opportunities Webpage later this week. They can be accessed in our website here: <https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/>
- Is there any flexibility in identifying co-PIs in the LOI?. Can a new co-PI be brought in if they help improve the proposal?
  - Yes, absolutely. We encourage the LOI, so sometimes we identify weaknesses such as a lack of a certain expertise. In such a case, we would encourage the potential applicants to add new co-PIs, including changes in lead PI.
- Are proposals acceptable for research in freshwater lakes?
  - This is an interesting question. Technically, NOAA does not have jurisdiction in freshwater lakes except the Great Lakes and some estuarine areas. But because this is for control technologies, you can test your technology wherever appropriate, as long as the technology is transferable to those areas over which NOAA has jurisdiction.
- Are projects focusing on technologies to improve early warning of toxic marine HABs going to be accepted for full proposal?
  - No, that is not one of the priorities for this NOFO. There is another NOAA funding announcement open right for which such projects may be eligible. Check the announcement at: <https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/>
- Can a non-US for-profit organization participate in a proposal as a funded collaborator? If so, can they lead a project?
  - Yes, they can be funded collaborators. But that will have to be done as a sub award through an eligible US institution. As such, they can't be the lead PI on the proposal.
- I just wanted to ask about the review timeline for applications submitted in September 2025 under this BAA — when should applicants expect decisions?
  - Not aware of that BAA timeline. For this NOFO, we expect to make deliberations over the summer with decisions by early fall. The starting date for funded projects is expected to be March 01 of 2027.
- Are nearshore swimming areas and recreational beaches of interest to this call?

- Absolutely! The technologies can vary in how they are applied. Either in controlled areas and beaches, but also large-scale such as open water.
- Can I have a subcontract for a for-profit company?
  - Yes, absolutely! Do note that there are specific funding stipulations for-profit companies. They can even be the lead on a project!
- I missed the total funding amount. Can you please repeat the amount and about how many LOIs are usually submitted / what percentage are accepted and moved into full proposals?
  - The total amount is \$2.5M in this first year. We expect 3-5 projects. We could have two large projects at \$1M and one small one at \$500K, or other mixes. Focal area 2 can last up to 5 years, as we are allowing time up front (1-2 years) to be built into for testing necessary to obtain permits to conduct the field trials.
  - The number of LOIs is hard to know. We will recommend if your proposal meets the NOFO or not. If we say no, we explain why. A third comment is maybe and we might ask more questions to clarify if you do submit a proposal. The LOI is just to get advice. The choice to apply is completely up to you as long as you submit an LOI.
- Is it okay to have a private company as an access point to one of the Great Lakes
  - Yes absolutely. Either as lead or co-PI.
- Is there a limitation regarding the number of proposals an individual can be lead PI? What about co-PI?
  - There are no limitations to the number of proposals in which an individual can participate in.
- University faculty typically will find it hard to get into the permitting aspects. Will there be guidance?
  - Yes- NOAA has a partnership with University of Maryland and Mote Marine Lab for a US HAB Control Incubator and Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is intended to help with understanding the registration and permitting process. If we can't help directly, then we will reach out to the Clearinghouse for further guidance.
- As a private company does the research become open to the public?
  - No. Any funded organization has the priority to retain IP that results from the funded research. However, NOAA does reserve the right to use. Also, if we fund the work, and the recipient does not exercise that right to IP, NOAA can claim it.
  - Do note that the Data Management Plan requires that project data has to be archived and be made publicly available after a reasonable time. You

may not have to reveal proprietary formulations or technologies, but you will need to make the results of the tests available.

- Assuming invited to a full proposal, how will proprietary information be handled and protected? Do we keep things shrouded, or label things in the proposal “sensitive material,” etc.?
  - Anything that is proprietary does not have to be disclosed, but with the understanding that ultimately information will need to be put into the permitting labels required by EPA. Patented technology does not have to be disclosed.
- In the applications, will NIH Common Forms be required for Current & Pending and SciENCv?
  - In the NOFO there is information on how to submit all the required information and links to a sample application package. We do not use NIH forms.
- The total funding amount is \$2.5M. You talk about \$500,000 awards...so does that mean only 9 final awards
  - No. The \$2.5M is the total amount of money that I have available per year. When I recommend projects, I will look at the two categories and make decisions separately. So if I chose one \$1M project for the first group, then I would have \$1.5M for the other category.
- Given the very short timeline on this NOFO, is there any chance at all of the due date getting shifted a bit later?
  - That is not something we have control over. Get your LOI in as soon as possible!
- LOI is short, but can 1 figure be inserted to help explain things. Basically any strict no-no's for the LOI.
  - It is up to you to decide if a figure can explain better than words. Explain the general idea and not the specifics.
- What email should we the community use to request an extension to the full proposal deadline?
  - Not sure there is one...
- For such a massive global dilemma (i.e., HABs), the funding is quite miserable. Do you anticipate with success these amounts will be improved?
  - This is something we have no control over. We are trying to make the best by increasing opportunities such as our partnership with the Control Technologies Incubator. They have funding opportunities on an annual rolling basis for small quick 1 year projects to test potential new technologies. Their information can be found on their website at: <https://imet.usmd.edu/ushabcti>