THE Ames Laboratory
Creating Materials & Energy Solutions
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

1 March 2016

FY17 Call for LDRD Proposals

Total Funding Available: $900,000 (tentative, includes continuations)

Project Duration: 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017
Up to 3 years of funding may be requested, but funding must be re-approved annually.

Overview of LDRD: LDRD projects are compelling and mission-oriented (usually team) research whose objective is to stimulate R&D innovation supporting our laboratory's *strategic initiatives*, *enhancing capabilities* to maintain our scientific and technological vitality, and *building capacity* to respond to rapidly emerging R&D opportunities of clear potential benefit to DOE's mission.

LDRD **cannot provide additional support** for a currently funded program (i.e., no supplementing with people, materials, or equipment) **nor support travel**, except as needed for experiments, or, in some instances, to ensure success for the project (approval from LDRD Program required). See *LDRD Overview and Documentation, including restrictions:* http://www.ameslab.gov/ldrd.

Areas Considered for Funding:

1) **Novel Projects**
2) **Exceptional Opportunities** (helping acquire future talent and leadership, e.g., *Spedding Post-Doctoral Fellow* – see Fellowship description and criteria, page 3)
3) **Strategic Initiatives** –
   a. Materials on the Edge of Stability (EdgeS)
   b. Green Advances for Catalysis and Energy (GrACE)
   c. Solid-State NMR Sciences (PRIMROSE)

LDRD Focus for FY17:
While all areas remain open for exceptional proposals, support for the laboratory's strategic initiatives remains the program's highest priority.

A Spedding Fellowship may be included in the request, if appropriate and an exceptional candidate is identified before the submission (Fellowship information is on page 3, below).

It is highly encouraged that you discuss your proposed submission with program/division director to establish program support and coordination. Certainly, discussion with LDRD Program may be worthwhile to ensure that proposal is appropriate, e.g., not "supplementing" ongoing projects, which is unallowable by law.

Review and Selection Process:
A 4-page proposal for full-year funding will be accepted **until 5/1/2016** (limit one per PI). For a proposed mid-year LDRD start, make a request to submit full LDRD proposal for screening, and if instructed (dependent upon available LDRD funds), submit a full proposal in **January 2017**.

A *compliance screening* of the proposal will be made, and only the best and most relevant LDRD proposals will receive review. Proposals not selected for review will be notified immediately. Of those reviewed, only a select number will be funded, commensurate with available funds and Director's focus areas. Upon receipt of the reviews, a ranking and down-selection recommendation will be made. The lab director (or designee) makes final project funding selection, and the Ames Lab site office makes final approval in official letter.

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Project Datasheets*:
A LDRD Project Datasheet* is required for all LDRD submissions – **no** proposal will be considered without this form. The budget should be estimated using the LDRD Budget Worksheet. Self-assign a *Project Identifier* **FY2017-ID#-R#**, where **ID#** is *first letter of PI first name* plus *first three letters of PI last name* (i.e., *4 letters, which for Bob Dylan are BDYL*) and **R#** is the submission day given as a four-digit number with two-digit month and day (e.g., for Jan 03, R# is 0103), given Project ID of FY2017-BDYL-0103.

Full Proposal Requirements

Items to be submitted as part of the full proposal:

1. LDRD Project Datasheet*
2. Full proposal (*4-pages, references may be on 5th page*) – address all items stated in the LDRD Proposal Requirements reflected on the LDRD Scoring Sheet.
3. Budget on the Budget Office approved LDRD Budget Worksheet, with request for appropriate equipment and personnel to perform work. ***Consult with your Division/Program Office to develop an appropriate budget***.

The approved LDRD Project Datasheet, LDRD Scoring Sheet, and LDRD Budget Worksheet template are available on the LDRD website http://www.ameslab.gov/research/ldrd.

Proposal Submission:
PI or Program Office submits 3 PDF files (*FY2017-ID#-R#-**XXX***, where **XXX**=Datasheet*, Budget, and Proposal) via email sent to LDRD@ameslab.gov with *Subject:* **LDRD submission FY2017-ID#-R#** no later than May 1, 2016. Late submissions will **NOT** be reviewed.

***The datasheet is an interactive template and must remain so, requiring newer versions of Acrobat to maintain this.**

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Spedding Fellowship at Ames Laboratory

The Spedding Fellowship is the most prestigious fellowship at Ames Laboratory and honors Frank Spedding, the first Director of the laboratory. The Spedding Fellowship attracts new scientific talent to Ames Laboratory, making it possible for these outstanding new scientists to continue on the path to excellence while substantially contributing to Ames Laboratory and U.S. Department of Energy scientific missions.

The Spedding Fellowship provides the opportunity for recent doctoral degree recipients of exceptional talent and ability to pursue their own research directions in support of our scientific initiatives in a collaborative, multidisciplinary, team environment under the guidance of a senior staff scientist who serves as a mentor. While not guaranteed, the intention of the program is to select individuals who will qualify for scientific staff positions at Ames Laboratory upon completion of the appointment.

Support for the fellowship is from our Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Program, which requires a reviewed research proposal that aligns with the Laboratory's strategic initiatives and is submitted by the proposed senior staff scientist mentor, requiring early planning. The LDRD proposal process is announced each year on the laboratory's website (see https://www.ameslab.gov/research/ldrd) in March, with proposals due in April.

Key Selection Criteria: The statement of technical interests (a succinct research plan), letters of recommendation, and your scientific track record (publication record) are all very important. A Ph.D. in a relevant field is required. Finalists are invited for a two-day interview which will include a seminar about their current research work. The seminar and interview are important for demonstrating excellent communication skills, particularly the ability to successfully explain specialized topics to a broad, interdisciplinary audience.

2015 Frédéric Perras (inaugural fellow)
Dynamic Nuclear Polarization NMR Sciences