Follow-On Projects NLRA: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Eligibility and Compliance

Who is eligible to apply for the Follow-On Projects NLRA?
To be eligible, the principal investigator (PI) or the proposing organization must have successfully completed a previous ISS National Lab project. Success is defined as meeting the majority of the scientific or educational objectives and fulfilling all operational minimum success criteria. The previous project must also be in good standing, with all deliverables submitted timely and with high quality.

Can offerors submit a new, unrelated project under this NLRA?
No, this NLRA is specifically for follow-on projects. The new project must build on the results of the previous work and not introduce unrelated research.

How should offerors address challenges or anomalies encountered in previous projects?
Offerors should provide justification for any unmet criteria or challenges from the previous project, citing significant unexpected findings or modifications that improve technical or commercial outcomes. Justification should clearly demonstrate how the follow-on project will address these challenges and lead to successful outcomes.

2. Project Scope

What is the scope of projects accepted under the Follow-On Projects NLRA?
Proposals must align with one of the ISS National Lab lines of business:

- **Fundamental Science:** Peer-reviewed research that leads to new discoveries or advances knowledge in scientific disciplines using microgravity, the harsh space environment, or the unique vantage point of the ISS. Economic outcomes are not required.
- **In-Space Production Applications:** LEO-based R&D demonstrating space manufacturing and production activities that enable new business growth, are scalable and sustainable, and generate demand and revenue from access to space.
- **Technology Development/Demonstration:** Applied R&D and technology demonstrations aimed at improving products and processes with commercial or economic value.
- **STEM Education and Workforce Development:** Programs and partnerships that use ISS research to build a STEM-capable workforce and advance space-based R&D, targeting K-12 and post-secondary students, educators, and underrepresented demographics.

3. Application Process

How should offerors justify their follow-on project?
Offerors should demonstrate how the proposed project extends the results of the previous ISS National Lab project. The justification should include a clear description of how the new work will build on prior achievements, address previous challenges, and align with the focus of the line of business (e.g., scientific merit, economic impact, workforce development).

How long does it take to receive an invitation to submit a full proposal?
Review time for letters of intent is typically two to four weeks, depending on submission volume.

4. Finance/Funding

What types of costs are eligible for reimbursement?
For awarded proposals, Implementation Partner (IP) costs and principal investigator (PI) management costs are eligible for reimbursement under the Fundamental Science, In-Space Production Applications, and STEM Education and Workforce Development lines of business. For the Technology Development line of business, only IP costs are eligible for reimbursement.

For common inquiries related to ISS National Lab research announcements, please refer to the Questions Frequently Asked by Offerors Regarding ISS National Lab Research Announcements.

Backup FAQ (only if needed)

1. Eligibility and Compliance Backup

Are non-U.S. persons or entities eligible to apply?
No, the lead principal investigator (PI) and any co-PIs must be U.S. persons, and the proposing entity must be a U.S.-based organization. Non-U.S. persons can participate as subcontractors or team members.

2. Project Scope Backup

[None]

3. Application Process Backup

What are the steps in the application process?
The application process consists of two steps:

- **Step 1: Letter of Intent (LOI):** Offerors submit a summary of their previous project, the new project's objectives, and a brief outline of budget and schedule.
- **Step 2: Full Proposal:** Invited offerors submit a detailed proposal based on the LOI evaluation.

What should the letter of intent include?
The letter of intent should summarize the previous project's results, outline the new project's objectives, and provide a high-level budget and schedule. Offerors should clearly demonstrate how the proposed project builds on prior work and justify the need for ISS resources, if applicable.

4. Finance/Funding Backup

Is cost matching required for proposals under this NLRA?
Cost matching is required for proposals under the Technology Development and In-Space Production Applications lines of business, with a 1:1 cost match required. This cost match must be supported by letters of commitment from potential customers or partners. For Fundamental Science and STEM Education and Workforce Development projects, cost matching is not required but can strengthen the proposal.

Are letters of support required at the time of submitting a letter of intent?
No, letters of support are not required at the letter of intent stage. However, they are required at the full proposal stage for the Technology Development and In-Space Production Application lines of business.