The following are questions presented at the
Webinar on September 10, 2020 and their answers

The answers refer to the Submission Procedures:
https://us-isr-energycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/EC-Procedures-
Handbook-Version-F8-280720.pdf

Q: Are submissions treated as public or confidential?

A: Submissions are confidential. For the winning consortium, a short summary will be published, coordinated with the Consortium Leaders.

Q: What are your expectation at the end of the 3 years term of the program to have? What a successful program will look like?

A: please refer to Section 2.4 (Topic definition) and Section 5 (Selection Criteria) of the Submission Procedures for a detailed answer.

Q: From your experience what is an optimal number of participants ?

A: There is no "optimal" number of participants. As explained the minimum is 4, 2 from each country. The Israeli Team must include a commercial company. For examples of the already awarded consortia, see https://us-isr-energycenter.org/.

Q: Is there a maximum size of a consortium?

A: No.

Q: Do these partners have to be from industry or they can be from academy?

A: The can be from industry of academy. The only restriction is that the Israeli Team must include at least one commercial entity.

Q: Can defense companies be part of the consortium?

A: Yes.

Q: Just to clarify – the leader in each side can be a university or a research institute?

A: Yes, universities can be Leaders, as well as companies. DOE Labs can be consortium members (not Leaders).

Q: Do we need partners from the U.S. and Israel only or we can have partners from other countries?

A: From the U.S. and Israel only.

Q: Do the consortium need to be legally established?

A: No. The consortium members need to prepare and sign a Consortium Agreement, as explained in Section 3.6 of the Submission Procedures.

Q: What were the issues with the previous proposals submitted during the last call in March?

A: The conclusion was that for the Cyber Topic the duration of the program should be reduced (to 3 years instead of 5) and the Topic's definition reviewed and expanded.

Q: Are these topics and examples exclusive? or are you accepting proposals beyond these topics which also serve to enhance the cyber security of OT Critical infrastructure?

A: Please read Section 2.4 carefully. The presented subtopics are examples.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the ownership of developed intellectual property? For instance, does any intellectual property rights have to stay with the DoE, BIRD or the Israeli government?

A: No, but please review the contract posted on the website and consult with us if there are further questions. https://us-isr-energycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Energy-Center-Funding-Agreement-082020.pdf

Q: What qualifies as in-kind match for the 50% match requirement?

A: Budgeting in-kind expenses is allowed, based on the value of the services or goods. Of course, proof of the costs will be required to be presented for an audit. The cost should include direct costs only, since according to the budget preparation instructions, there is separate compensation for the overhead costs (Section 7.14.4 of the Submission Procedures).

Q: Can you please discuss what counts as cost share. Is there a restriction on cash vs. in-kind cost share?

A: It is important to read Section 7.14 of the Submission Procedures, which provides the information on how to prepare the budget, what expenses are recognized, etc. (for each of those expenses cost-sharing is accepted). The 50% cost-share requirement is calculated at the Leader level. See the statement below from the procedures (Section 3.5). Thus in a consortium, there may be consortium members that provide less than 50% cost-share.
Cost share:** The USB should include the minimum 50% cost share from the U.S. CMs, **in aggregate.** The ILB should include the minimum 50% cost share of the Israel CMs, **in aggregate.

Q: In other awarded projects, how have awardees dealt with complexities around data sharing and privacy internationally? Has that been an issue in other projects?

A: It has not been raised as an issue. However, there may be specific issues/concerns related to cyber security – please contact us to discuss, if necessary.

Q: Do we need to have a utility company in the consortium for the technology demonstration?

A: No. There is no requirement to have a utility, but you should consider where would the demonstration of the technology take place.

Q: Can a national lab be considered as a replacement for a US university or is a US University still required for the US group?

A: A national lab can participate as a partner (a consortium member, not as a Leader).

Q: Can most of the work be non-classified, sensitive, and some of the actual data, applications and technologies become classified?

A: The proposal and the work to be performed should be unclassified. For any questions related to a specific proposal, please approach a BIRD representative.