

# FAQs – Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program

Last updated February 3, 2025

## **Is this program open to federal agencies?**

We are not taking Statements of Intent (SOIs) from other federal agencies under this solicitation at this time. However, if a federal agency would like to work with ERDC on this topic, they should email their project point of contact to this office and that information will be forwarded to the appropriate ERDC teams.

**I am working on a site where we believe a flushing channel would be the appropriate solution for mitigating an HCB. The focus on restoring/resetting flushing flows was developed after years of monitoring, numerical modeling, and alternatives analysis. My question is whether a flow manipulation project could be competitive under this solicitation. My sense in reading the program information is that it is more targeting technologies developed in a lab, and I'm not sure that flow manipulation would fall under this umbrella. Am I interpreting the solicitation correctly? And is your sense that a demonstration project focusing on flow manipulation would not likely be competitive? It is also not in one of the priority water bodies listed, so it is a bit of a stretch from that perspective as well. Thank you.**

No. You may receive funding again for the same work.

Please send a description of your field site location and request a determination of eligibility. If the field site is eligible, we will provide additional information.

## **Are new funds available for this project in FY 2025, and does this mean new proposals are invited?**

Yes. New funds have been allocated to this project for FY 2025. The ERDC technical team wishes to receive new proposals.

## **Where is the proposal format requirement located?**

It can be found in the CSO solicitation document as listed under the 'How to Participate' section of the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program opportunity on ERDCWERX.org.

## **Should the identified monitoring or management technologies be ones listed in the ERDC, USACE Freshwater HAB Research and Development Initiative document, or can others be considered such as oxygenation or the use of expanded Floating Island technology?**

All scalable HAB combatting technologies that have been proven in the laboratory or in the field are eligible for consideration.

**We will be working with stakeholders from Lake Hopatcong (NJ) to conduct and critically evaluate the effectiveness of various innovative treatments, which may include both innovative measures (such as floc and sink; floc and lock) and strategies (such as treating earlier in the year and/or immediately over the sediments). While we will file for necessary permits, have the ability/resources to conduct the treatment and associated monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness, as well as conduct the data analysis required to evaluate the outcomes, we do want to work with ACE on these projects. Thus, while our pre-proposal will be developed with Princeton Hydro working with others locally to conduct the work we would like to work with ACE on these projects as well. Thus, we were wondering how we can establish the working relationship for the proposed Scope of Work with ACE and will be the associated roles.**

We are unable to advise on the underlined portion of your question.

**In addition to Lake Hopatcong, the memorandum on HAB from 1/11/22 does mention tidal and inland waters of NJ. For clarification, does ACE have specific types of waterbodies in mind? I am assuming private waterbodies are not eligible but just wanted to confirm. What about waterbodies owned/operated by water utilities that provide potable water to customers? Also, would public lakes and/or lakes with public access be eligible as well?**

Private waterbodies are not eligible. Any waterbodies that would be considered for this Solicitation should be included in the solution brief.

**Would real-time detection of HABs using AI/ML, data analytics, and data visualization fall under this program?**

All scalable HAB combatting technologies that have been proven in the laboratory or in the field are eligible for consideration.

**Should the solution brief detail the logistics of the commercial solution? Should subcontractors and deploying equipment be described in detail? Can we mention that we will work closely with USACE and detail the extent of this collaboration?**

Please view the CSO Solicitation document as listed under the 'How to Participate' section of the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program opportunity on ERDCWERX.org.

**Will accepted solution briefs also be notified within 30 days of submission?**

We are unable to confirm the schedule at this time as dates may vary to accommodate project team availability.

**Is it necessary to choose one of the water bodies in the project or can it be left open?**

Please view the CSO Solicitation document as listed under the 'How to Participate' section of the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program opportunity on ERDCWERX.org.

**Is there a unique format of postulation?**

Please view the CSO Solicitation document as listed under the 'How to Participate' section of the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program opportunity on ERDCWERX.org.

**What level of cost breakdown is required?**

Please view the CSO Solicitation document as listed under the 'How to Participate' section of the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program opportunity on ERDCWERX.org.

**Can we submit only one application per company, or can we submit more than one application (or solution)?**

There are no restrictions to multiple entries.

**Can a flow manipulation project be competitive under this solicitation? My sense in reading the program information is that it is more targeting technologies developed in a lab, and I'm not sure that flow manipulation would fall under this umbrella. Am I interpreting the solicitation correctly? And is it true that a demonstration project focusing on flow manipulation would not likely be competitive?**

Please send a description of your field site location and request a determination of eligibility. If the field site is eligible, we will provide additional information.

**Where can we include letters of support for non-federal interest agencies responsible for these focus areas?**

If the pre-proposal is selected for a full proposal, then this information would be included with the full proposal.

**Our team submitted a proposal to this program last year but never received reviews (just a rejection letter). Would it be possible to see our reviews to inform a potential new submission?**

We do not have a formal debriefing policy for this program. However, you may contact the contracting officer directly via email, to request a more detailed debriefing.

**We have a persistent aerial autonomous platform that can carry very large payloads with a very low flight hour cost and can integrate a payload that would detect and integrate into a TAK interface for data aggregation. Would this be of interest, or are you just looking for a software or something like that?**

We are not interested in this technology for this program at this time.

**In the announcement for the HAB Demo funding opportunity, there is a statement saying "Applicants from universities and/or non-profit organizations should be aware that commercial clauses will be integrated into the award and should coordinate proposals with associated legal counsel prior to submission." Could you provide the language to which are you referring so that we can send this through DSP for review prior to submission?**

We are not referring to specific language, but rather contract clauses. The clauses that will be selected for the award will be those applicable to commercial contracts. For example, FAR 52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders—Commercial Products and Commercial Services, and 52.212-4, Contract Terms and Conditions - Commercial Products and Commercial Services, which are two of the main contract clauses applicable to commercial contracts. Contract clauses can be reviewed at <https://www.acquisition.gov/smart-matrix>.

**We are currently developing a prototype nutrient/algae bloom forecast for Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee, and St. Lucie. Would developing a project that builds upon this prototype to create a more widely used and operational tool would generally fall within the scope of the HAB CSO program?**

Yes.

**Does this program primarily focus on freshwater systems, just inside the rivers or lakes, or does it also encompass estuarine environments, including the interactions between rivers and oceans?**

Our focus is freshwater, but estuarine systems are within the scope of our authority too.

**The applicants may propose to use technology developed by the Corps under Section 1109 of WRDA 2018 (i.e., the Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom Research and Development Initiative; report available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.21079/11681/48176>) or other viable technologies with legal authority and ability to be permitted and applied under appropriate federal laws. The link takes you back to an ERDC library page and this specific link is under the URI Section on that page. It does not appear to take you to an additional report. Are there any additional reports that should be associated with this specific link?**

Once the link location is opened, you should click on the file listed as *ERDC-EL SR-24-1.pdf* (25.47 MB) to view *USACE freshwater harmful algal bloom research and development initiative*. This is the only document associated with the link in question.

**Autonomous floating designs are needed due to fluctuating water levels, which can exceed sixty feet throughout the year, and they have large shoreline-to-surface area ratios. Would this be supported in an application? Are there local contacts I could collaborate with if selected, and should I reach out to them for compliance? Lastly, since water is a national resource, are there any additional stakeholders I should contact?"**

Scalable HAB management technologies with autonomous capabilities are eligible for consideration under the CSO HAB opportunity. We are unable to provide further guidance regarding stakeholder engagement at this stage. If you are interested in having your project idea considered, please submit a pre-proposal.

**We have submitted applications for these programs before, in our own right and together with a third-party research organization to no avail. We have proven scalable technology and methodologies for eliminating hypoxia, reversing eutrophication and preventing and suppressing HABs. Successful projects range from an 850-acre drinking water reservoir in Puerto Rico, to a 320-acre recreational lake in Missouri, and a 30-acre municipal drinking reservoir at Bowling Green, OH, that draws HAB-loaded water all summer from the Maumee River. We have projects that we could bring into this program, or we can tackle one in the fourteen focus areas listed. Is there any point in once again submitting an application for this program?**

In order to be considered for this program, a pre-proposal would have to be submitted. Therefore, if you are interested in the program, you must submit a pre-proposal.

**Are the locks and dams in Caloosahatchee River considered applicable to the water resources development projects?**

Yes, because these structures and waters are associated with a water resource development project.

**If proposing to use commercial satellite imagery, should this be budgeted for in the ROM? Or will the cost associated with this imagery be covered by current contracts that are in place?**

Please account for all costs to deliver your project in the ROM. If any portion of these costs may be covered separately and does not require funding, clearly state that in a budget footnote. However, it is prudent to state all costs required to deliver the proposed scope in its entirety.

**Is it expected for the contractor/vendor to select a demonstration location? Or can we simply propose the solution which can be applied to any location the USG deems feasible?**

Pre-proposals will not be rejected on the sole basis of no project location identified. If you have a water resource development project in mind, please state that in the pre-proposal. It helps you to describe the proposed scope and envisioned outcomes more concretely.

**Since these demonstration projects will be funded by a federal agency and there are endangered species in our proposed project location, we will likely need to complete a Section 7 (or 10) ESA Consultation with NOAA and US FWS. Will that permitting be led by the ACOE, or would the ACOE want us to complete that process on behalf of the ACOE? This determines which section we would have to complete.**

The USACE will complete Section 7 ESA consultation and may require information from the contractor. The contractor is also responsible for obtaining all required permits.

**According to SAM.gov, the current due date of the submission is January 22, 2025, and according to your site, it's January 27. Can you please advise which is currently accurate?**

This deadline has been extended and is now February 7, 2025. Please submit proposals by that date.

**Are any extensions for this proposal submission likely or possible?**

This deadline has been extended and is now February 7, 2025. Please submit proposals by that date.

**Can you advise on any related projects, grants, and related agency solicitations or RFPs to which we may apply?**

You can submit pre-proposals (or white papers) to the [ERDC Broad Agency Announcement](#) at any time. If you are looking at other federal agency funding opportunities, you could look at <https://hab.who.edu/national-programs/>.

**Is a UEI sufficient on SAM.gov to apply, or is a CAGE Code required?**

In accordance with FAR 52.204-7 (b)(1), an offeror is required to be registered in SAM when submitting an offer or quotation, and shall continue to be registered until time of award, during performance, and through final payment of any contract, basic agreement, basic ordering agreement, or blanket purchasing agreement resulting from this solicitation. Having an active SAM registration will provide both a UEI and Cage Code.