Q&A Addendum
Questions by funding opportunity

The following are responses to questions submitted during the Discoveries in Safety Grants program open question period for the 2024 funding cycle. Please reference the FAQ and each Notice of Funding Opportunity for additional details.

Funding Opportunity: *Eco-Remediation and Energy Storage*

Does ULRI's interest include high-temperature fuel cells and electrolyzers? Some organizations are interested exclusively in low-temperature fuel cells /electrolyzers.

Yes, ULRI will consider proposals for high-temperature fuel cells.

Funding Opportunity: *Emerging Chemical Threats to Human and Environmental Health*

Is there a specific biological model that ULRI is most interested in, whether models like zebra fish, lung cells, or both systems?

From ULRI's perspective, we are looking for innovative proposals and prefer not to comment on specifics as requested.

Is ULRI interested in a proposal on the intersection of plastics and chemical recycling, with a focus on endocrine disruptors commonly found in plastics? Specifically, would this FOA, whether Focus Area 1 or Focus Area 2, be supportive of proposals investigating the fate of endocrine disrupting compounds during pyrolysis or other chemical recycling technologies, especially in the gas-emissions?

From ULRI's perspective, we are looking for innovative proposals and prefer not to comment on specifics as requested.

Funding Opportunity: *Increased Safety for large-scale Lithium-Ion Battery Systems*

Is research related to sensing gases within the cell of interest, or is it only vented gas?

Currently the research is only related to vented gas.

Can you provide a sense of the maturity or technology readiness levels (TRLs) that are of interest? For example, is basic research that could enable sensing in the future of interest? Should the project include a sensor prototype demonstration in a practical environment?

The TRL level should be 2 to 5 (starting at a 2 at proposal stage and completing at a 5). The project will have a length of three years to provide sufficient time for a prototype demo.

Can you provide any guidance on how important it is to measure multiple species?

There are not any restrictions or requirements on this topic.

Funding Opportunity: *Independent Digital Risk Assessment*

Would the label, referenced in the scope of the funding opportunity, be for software or hardware or both?

The label would be for those elements testable in software. In this request for proposals, we are particularly interested in digital systems that use cloud computing and possibly consumer products (e.g., web cams, health monitoring watches) as the hardware platform.

Will the label be universally adopted across all platforms in digital technology or is this RFP limited to scope in this area?

We prefer labelling methods that are more generally applicable, but part of the research is trying to determine where measures and labels must be platform or application specific to communicate important safety properties.

Does the label need to be static, given that technology and the law is changing, would there be a requirement for iteration, and how would that be supported?

The labeling must be dynamic and digital as it must keep up with the pace of digital system updates. In the requested work, dynamic exploration will be supported by working as part of an agile team who is adapting their goals on a regular cadence. This allows DSRI and its grantees to work together to be responsive to both internal discoveries and external technology and legal developments.

Are there standards to be achieved around the understanding of the label contents, so that users will be able to understand, rather than ignore, the label when prompted?

We do not have standards for labels currently, but plan to experimentally evaluate directly with a grantee on the labels produced. We have a team that is looking at how to get the public to adopt safer digital behaviors – which includes use of digital safety labeling for selecting digital systems to adopt. The bulk of the request for proposal focused on creating the automated, scientifically-sound, full-stack digital safety measures from which the safety labeling could be derived. But we will also consider proposals that research methods to facilitate user adoption of safety information and best practices through labeling. But the team would need to be able to create the digital labels from a database of digital safety information created by others.

Would a healthcare entity focusing on information sharing to patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals be considered a group that could apply?

Yes, if the focus is on helping individuals adopt safer digital behaviors (i.e., to protect their device security, data privacy, decision autonomy, etc.). Perhaps best practices in having patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals adopt sound medical advice could be applied and tested in the digital safety space, to include how labels are created and presented to various audiences.

Funding Opportunity: *Innovative Research Leading to the Reduction of Thermal and Chemical Fire Exposures to Firefighters*

If fire testing is needed, can it be done at ULRI's lab. Is this preferred?

The sharing of facilities for this funding opportunity is not preferred.

Funding Opportunity: *Persistence and Effectiveness in Safety and Sustainability Science Education*

No questions related to this funding opportunity have been submitted at this time.