

LaserNetUS Proposal Submissions

Submission Schedule

Cycle	Type	Proposal deadline	Cycle begins	Cycle ends
4	LaserNetUS Standard proposal call	Dec. 10, 2021 4pm PST	July 2022	July 2023
5	LaserNetUS Standard proposal call	Dec. 19, 2022 4pm PST	Sept. 2023	July 2024
6A	LaserNetUS Standard proposal call	Dec. 12, 2023 4pm PST	July 2024*	July 2025
6B	LaserNetUS Joint Research Initiatives proposal call	Mar. 29, 2024 4pm PST	July 2024*	July 2025

*Earliest start date will depend on facility readiness and proposal feasibility.

Proposal Preparation Guidelines

LaserNetUS encourages scientists from all institutions and any field of research to propose experiments utilizing the consortium's wide-ranging laser capabilities. International Principal Investigators (PIs) and collaborations are welcome.

A **Virtual Town Hall for Cycle 6B** will be held on **March 1, 2024** from **12pm – 1pm PT** to inform users about this new Joint Research Initiatives mode and the technical capabilities offered by each of the LaserNetUS nodes followed by a moderated Q&A. More information about each facility can be found on the [LaserNetUS website](#).

Submitting LaserNetUS Proposals

LaserNetUS proposals are submitted through the [LaserNetUS User's Portal](#) which is operated and managed by SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. All users serving as the spokesperson of a proposal must register for a User's Portal Account before they can submit a proposal – please note that if you already have a user account for facilities at SLAC (i.e. LCLS, SSRL, CryoEM), you do not need to make a new account. The proposal submission process will take approximately 30 minutes to complete including a safety management portion at the end. If you have any problems while submitting your proposal, please [contact us](#).

Proposal preparation guidelines are summarized below. Users will want to review [our Facilities Pages](#) and contact the Point of Contacts (POCs) to discuss the technical feasibility of proposed experiments.

LaserNetUS Proposal Contents

Effective Cycle 5, LaserNetUS proposals must be prepared using an official template. A modified version of the proposal template for Joint Research Initiatives is available for download from the LaserNetUS website at: <https://lasernetus.org/proposal>.

The main sections of the proposal are as follows:

- **Main proposal (max. 6 pages)**
- **Appendix I: References**
- **Appendix II: Tentative Research Team**
- **Appendix III: Technical Parameter Table**
- **Appendix IV: Target Support Request**

When submitting a proposal that is substantially similar to a previous proposal (declined or awarded LaserNetUS facility time), we require applicants to upload a summary of changes since last submission or a **Progress Report (max. 1 page)**; for the latter it should include: the proposal number(s), dates of experiment(s), facilities/instrument(s) used, and a brief summary of the experiment and how results have been disseminated (list major invited talks, papers published or in press, awards or special recognition). These documents are uploaded separately in the proposal submission portal.

Key Criteria for Consideration in Cycle 6B

LaserNetUS Joint Research Initiatives (Cycle 6B), our newly developed mode, aims to strengthen collaboration between external users and LaserNetUS facility personnel, promote knowledge sharing, and accelerate innovation and discovery. This collaborative framework underscores LaserNetUS's commitment to fostering synergistic partnerships between external and facility researchers. All proposals must have **Dual Principal Investigators (PIs) which both play an equal role in defining the scope and execution of the proposed research.**

- **The User PI** is responsible for initiating the Joint Research Initiative by contacting the listed Facility Point of Contact (POC). The User PI serves as the Spokesperson and is responsible for submitting the proposal.
- **The Facility Co-PI** ensures the smooth execution of the experiment within the LaserNetUS facility. However, the LaserNetUS Point of Contact (POC) is responsible for the performance and operation of the facility, consistent with Standard LaserNetUS experiments.

Notes

- **Safety**
Safety related documents must be submitted during the safety management portion of the LaserNetUS proposal submission process in the user portal. List and describe any safety concerns that may arise with samples you will examine, equipment you will use, or techniques you will perform (including any physical, chemical or biological hazards) and how these issues will be addressed.
- **Cost**
There is no cost to submit proposals or conduct experiments at the participating institutions. DOE provides access free of charge to users at all LaserNetUS sponsored facilities. Users are generally responsible for their own travel and target expenses as well as any extraordinary consumables required by the experiment.
- **Scientific Campaigns**
Proposals may be made in the context of a larger scope than can be covered in a single experiment. All proposals, even these broader proposals that address important problems, must be resubmitted each cycle in order to be peer reviewed and considered for facility time. However, in the absence of sufficient information to evaluate progress (data disseminated from previous facility time, publications, etc.), the PRP may recommend that some proposal(s) be postponed for consideration until a future review cycle.
- **Publication Record from Previous LaserNetUS Experiments**
In future calls, the PRP will pay particular attention to the applicant's publication record from prior LaserNetUS facility times. Failure to publish in a timely manner could impact the chances of a successful application in a similar area.
- **Resubmission**
Proposals can be re-submitted at each call, but this will not happen automatically and a re-submission will not receive preference during the review process.
- **Multiple Submissions**
Multiple submissions from the same team for similar experiments at different LaserNetUS facilities will not be considered. While there is no limit to the number of distinct proposals that can be submitted by a scientist or team, the Proposal Review Panel (PRP) may impose a relative advantage to the first-best proposal from each team.
- **Required Language**
Proposal teams must **acknowledge** the host institution and DOE Office of Science in presentations and publications using the template: "*This work was supported by the U.S. DOE Office of Science, Fusion Energy Sciences under Contract No. [LaserNetUS contract number from facility]: the LaserNetUS initiative at [Facility],*" and any other acknowledgement required by the host institution.