

**FISCAL YEAR 2025 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
FOR FEDERAL AGENCY APPLICANTS**

Freshwater Oil Spill Preparedness, Response, and Science Research

United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise (GLCOE)

I. INTRODUCTION

This announcement is being made to support the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise (GLCOE) to open a Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity for Federal Agency Applicants (FY25 Funding Opportunity).

This announcement does not constitute a solicitation or a promise of a solicitation in the future. This announcement does not commit the GLCOE to any agreements or arrangements.

No entitlement or payment of direct or indirect costs or charges by the USCG will arise because of submission of responses to this announcement and USCG use of such information.

USCG reserves the right to select for award and fund all, some, or none of the submissions received in response to this FY25 Funding Opportunity. USCG will not provide funding or reimbursement for proposal development costs. Full submissions or any other material submitted in response to this FY25 Funding Opportunity will not be returned. All submissions shall be unclassified.

USCG reserves the right to use this announcement and responses received as part of market research efforts.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. **Agency Name:** United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- b. **Research Opportunity Title:** Freshwater Oil Spill Preparedness, Response, and Science Research Closed Proposal
- c. **Program Name:** Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise (GLCOE)
- d. **Research Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity for Federal Agency Applicants Response Date:**
 - i. Technical Proposals and questions regarding the Technical Proposal submissions must be submitted by the relevant **deadline noted below**.
 - ii. There are three (3) Technical Proposal submission related cut-off dates:
 - 1. If there are questions in response to this FY25 Funding Opportunity, they are due by 12:00 pm EST on May 22, 2024. Send questions to SMB-GreatLakesCOE@uscg.mil.
 - 2. If questions are asked, answers will be provided via email.
 - 3. The deadline for submitting Technical Proposals is June 6, 2024, at 12:00 pm EST. Send Technical Proposals via email to SMB-GreatLakesCOE@uscg.mil.

III. RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

- a. **Background:**

- i. The Great Lakes region, under the jurisdiction of the 9th Coast Guard District, is a uniquely challenging environment for oil-spill preparedness and response. With the environmental and economic importance of the Great Lakes region, Congress mandated that the U.S. Coast Guard must establish the Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise (GLCOE).
- ii. Oil spills threaten the water quality and ecosystems of the Great Lakes. Vessels, pipelines, rail, and nearshore facilities cause most of the spills in the region. Although most spills on the lakes are less than 10 gallons, the oil cannot always be eliminated quickly and completely enough to avoid impairment of natural ecosystems, drinking water, and particular industries, such as commercial fishing. Moreover, although technologies exist to mitigate damage from oil spills, most of these have been developed for saltwater environments; less progress has been made on improving methods of containment and removal in freshwater and ice conditions, which differ in density, water-circulation patterns, and ecosystems from those found in saltwater.
- iii. The GLCOE's purpose is to operationalize innovative ideas that improve freshwater and ice affected water oil spill responses. The GLCOE is an independent, non-operational body with a legislative mandate to conduct research in the domain of oil spill response.

b. History:

- i. In 2018, Congress required that the Coast Guard prepare “assessment results regarding the effectiveness of oil spill response activities specific to the Great Lakes”. That report, which the Coast Guard delivered to Congress in November 2018, informed Section 807 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-282). The act directed the establishment of the Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise. Below highlights many of the significant events in the development and establishment of the GLCOE:
 1. 2016 – Congress required Coast Guard to prepare an oil spill response assessment in the Great Lakes.
 2. 2018 – The report from the Coast Guard to Congress informed Section 807 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, directing the establishment of GLCOE.
 3. 2018 – Senator Gary Peters (Michigan) secured \$4.5M for the Great Lakes Center of Expertise initiative.
 4. 2020 – Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center made recommendations for short/long-term progress and logistics, including staffing positions, partnerships, and site locations.
 5. 2023 – Released first Broad Agency Announcement.

c. Functional Mandate:

- i. Monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, the current state of knowledge regarding freshwater oil response technologies and the behavior and effects of oil spills in the Great Lakes.
- ii. Identify any specific gaps in the Great Lakes oil spill research, including as assessment of major scientific or technological deficiencies in responses to past spills in the Great Lakes and other freshwater bodies, and seek to fill those gaps.
- iii. Conduct research, development, testing, and evaluation for freshwater oil spill response equipment, technologies, and techniques to mitigate and respond to oil spills in the Great Lakes.
- iv. Educate and train Federal, State, and Local first responders in Coast Guard District 9 in –
 - 1. The incident command system structure
 - 2. Great Lakes oil spill response techniques and strategies, and
 - 3. Public affairs
- v. Work with academic and private sector response training response centers to develop and standardize oil spill response training and techniques for use in the Great Lakes.

d. Research Topics: For the FY25 Funding Opportunity, the GLCOE is interested in funding proposal(s) for projects related to the following theme(s):

- i. Theme 1: Freshwater Oil Spill Preparedness
 - 1. Detection of submerged oil (non-floating or weathered)
 - 2. *In situ* oil sensors
 - 3. Non-conventional oil
 - 4. Other freshwater oil spill preparedness topics
- ii. Theme 2: Freshwater Oil Spill Response
 - 1. *In situ* oil sensors
 - 2. Uncrewed systems
 - 3. Sub-orbital remote oil sensing
 - 4. Novel technologies
 - 5. Spill response safety
 - 6. Cold weather response
 - 7. Response equipment innovation
 - 8. Submerged oil
 - 9. On water contaminant
 - 10. Other freshwater oil spill preparedness topics
- iii. Theme 3: Alternative Response Measures' Application in Freshwater
 - 1. Shoreline cleaner
 - 2. *In situ* burning
 - 3. Bioremediation
 - 4. Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART)
 - 5. Other alternative response measure applications in freshwater topics

iv. Theme 4: Fundamental Freshwater Oil Spill Science and Response Technology Research

1. Oil physiochemistry and freshwater data gaps
2. Fundamentals of oil sensing
3. Response ramifications
4. Other fundamental freshwater oil spill science and response technology research topics

e. **Specific Tasks:**

i. Technical Task Management:

1. The offeror agency shall identify a Principal Investigator to manage the technical task effort, which will be considered a Key Personnel position. The Principal Investigator shall be responsible for ensuring proper technical task program planning and control, timely problem identification and resolution, and adequate technical and programmatic interaction with the GLCOE Project Manager. The Principal Investigator shall plan, organize, and manage resources necessary to accomplish the technical task and shall promote strong management, communications, and coordination with any subcontractors and/or associate contractors involved in the technical task. The Principal Investigator shall be responsible for ensuring a timely response to all GLCOE Project Manager information requests.

ii. Project Schedule:

1. The project schedule represents the offeror's commitment to perform the project tasks in an orderly, timely manner. On individual agreements, the awarded agency shall specify specific days after agreement start in the project schedule using a timeline chart showing all major tasks and subtasks, milestones, decision gates, reviews, technical interchange meetings, demonstrations, tests, product deliveries, and overall period of performance.

iii. Meetings:

1. Kickoff Meeting: To be held within fourteen (14) days of the Period of Performance start date.
2. Development Tasks: These tasks will be documented in the draft and final Project Management Plan.
3. Progress Meetings: Via telephone or videoconference, a progress meeting shall take place each month, and a quarterly meeting may be requested for a status update.
4. Annual Collaborative: Via in-person (located in Sault Ste. Marie, MI or Ann Arbor, MI), an annual meeting (tentative April-May 2025) must take place with all GLCOE collaborators.
5. Deliverable: Meeting Minutes from Kickoff and Monthly Progress Meetings.

6. Deliverables: Additional deliverables may be requested based on Technical Proposal.
 7. Monthly Progress Report and Archive: The offeror shall prepare a Monthly Progress/Expenditure Report, and at the end of the period of performance, shall provide an archive containing all submitted deliverables.
- iv. Exit Criteria and Deliverables:
1. Period of Performance: Each individual agreement will be one (1) year from the date of agreement, unless otherwise negotiated.
 2. Documentation: The awarded agency shall provide all documentation necessary for efficient project planning and control.
 3. Deliverables: All agreements will result in the minimum of a Final Report. Other deliverables may be required based on Technical Proposal.
 4. Acceptance Criteria: GLCOE acceptance criteria for each deliverable, product or tangible result shall be specified on individual agreements.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

a. FY25 Funding Opportunity Type

- i. FUNDING: USCG/GLCOE has funding available for agreements under this announcement. The GLCOE reserves the right to select all, part, or none of the Technical Proposals received, subject to the availability of funds. All potential offerors should be aware that due to unanticipated budget fluctuations, funding in any or all areas may change with little or no notice.
- ii. FORM: Agreements resulting from this announcement will take the form of an Interagency Reimbursable Working Agreement, although the GLCOE reserves the right to use the type of contractual instrument deemed most appropriate for the proposed work.
 1. Technical Proposals shall be submitted and evaluated in accordance with this announcement.
- iii. COST SHARING OR MATCHING: Cost sharing is not a requirement. The leveraging of funds is encouraged, but not required. Offerors are encouraged to disclose leveraged resources in their Technical Proposal.
- iv. DATA RIGHTS: The offeror shall include a summary of any proprietary rights to pre-existing data related to techniques, prototypes, or systems supporting and/or necessary for the use of the research, results, and/or prototype. Any rights assertions made in other parts of the proposal that would impact the rights in this section shall be cross-referenced. If there are proprietary rights, the offeror shall explain how these rights will impact the USCG's ability to demonstrate the delivered prototype for the

removal or mitigation of released oil and publish the science and results. Additionally, offerors shall explain how the program goals of the USCG's response to removing or mitigating the impacts of released oil on the surrounding environment and manmade structures are achievable considering these proprietary and/or restrictive limitations. If there are no claims of proprietary rights in pre-existing data, this section shall consist of a statement to that effect.

b. Eligibility Information:

- i. All qualified offerors who meet the requirements of this FY25 Funding Opportunity may submit Technical Proposals.
- ii. Offerors cannot submit more than one (1) Technical Proposal per theme.
- iii. You may be ineligible for selection if all requirements of this announcement are not met on the Technical Proposal.

c. Technical Proposal Submission: Separate Technical Proposals are required for each separate theme the offeror is pursuing. Each Technical Proposal must stand on its own merit. The GLCOE will use only information provided in a Technical Proposal in the evaluation process potentially leading to a full proposal request. All Technical Proposals submitted under this FY25 Funding Opportunity must be UNCLASSIFIED.

- i. EXTRANEIOUS INFORMATION: Information not explicitly requested in this announcement is not desired by the GLCOE and shall not be submitted. The GLCOE will only read and evaluate the Technical Proposal up to the stated page limit. Pages exceeding the page limitation will not be evaluated.
- ii. FORMATTING:
 1. Paper Size – 8.5-inch x 11 inch
 2. Margins – one-inch on each side
 3. Font – Times New Roman 12-point font, to include tables, figures, diagrams, and charts. Any other information (e.g., footnotes, or headers, restrictive markings) shall not be smaller than Times New Roman 8-point font.
 4. Page Limit – Total number of pages shall not exceed 20 pages.
 5. Technical Proposals shall be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Additionally, documents should be sent without password protections.
- iii. RESTRICTIVE MARKING: If the offeror wishes to restrict their Technical Proposals, they must be marked with the restrictive language.
- iv. INSTRUCTIONS FOR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL COMPOSITION:
 1. COVER PAGE. Submit in the format of the template provided as Attachment 1. Page limit is one (1) page.
 2. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT. The background and context should convey the essential facts and information to include:

- a. State of the science: Provide a brief summary of the current state of knowledge and define the relationship to the proposed work.
 - b. Relevance of the research to the FY25 Funding Opportunity theme(s): Provide a brief summary on the applicability of the proposed project and the selected FY25 Funding Opportunity theme(s).
 - c. Operational relevance: Provide one sentence describing how the proposed project may advance oil spill response operations.
 - d. Other funding: Disclose any funds related to the proposal the offeror has been awarded, has applied for, or expects to apply for.
3. **PROBLEM STATEMENT/PROJECT GOALS.** The problem statement should summarize the main issue that the proposed project will address. The project goals should outline the distinct tasks and milestones to address the main issue of the proposed project.
4. **TECHNICAL APPROACH.** The technical approach section should address the method of how the proposed project will be executed, including:
 - a. Personnel, identify the key personnel involved in the project, their roles, and time commitment to the proposed project.
 - b. Metrics, outline how progress will be measured throughout the project.
 - c. Approach, provide technical/experimental/statistical designs and methods that will be used to accomplish distinct tasks and milestones.
 - d. Facilities, if applicable, describe facilities that will be utilized for the proposed project.
5. **RESEARCH SCHEDULE.** Provide a tentative research schedule and timeline of the distinct tasks and milestones, including the task dependencies, time dependencies, and potential contingency plans. The schedule should include an additional three (3) months after the end of technical performance to provide for preparation, submission, review by GLCOE, and acceptance of the final report/deliverables.
6. **DELIVERABLES.** The deliverables section must define and describe the specific deliverables that will be produced during/after the duration of the proposed project. Explain how the specific deliverables will advance the mission of the GLCOE and the FY25 Funding Opportunity theme(s).

7. DETAILED COST PROPOSAL. The detailed cost proposal explains how much money the offeror is requesting to complete the project. The cost proposal section should provide a justification for supporting the numbers provided for each budgeted category. For a collaborative proposal submitted by multiple organizations, each organization must include a separate budget justification. The detailed cost proposal must include the following applicable cost categories and must not exceed \$250,000:
- a. Direct costs including,
 - i. Salaries and wages: Specifically outline the detailed cost for personnel including: names/position, estimated number of full-time-equivalent (based on 40-hour work week) for which funding is requested, and that total amount of salaries requested.
 - ii. Fringe benefits,
 - iii. Equipment,
 - iv. Materials and supplies,
 - v. External research test facility fee (when different than indirect cost fee),
 - vi. Domestic and foreign travel, (include an estimate of one (1) person attending the Annual Collaborative for both Sault Ste. Marie and Ann Arbor),
 - vii. Subawards,
 - viii. Other direct costs,
 - b. Indirect costs,

8. REFERENCES/CITATIONS: References/citations are highly encouraged, but not required.

d. Handling and E-mailing Instructions:

- i. All Technical Proposal Questions and Technical Proposal Submissions shall be sent electronically to the following email addresses:
 - 1. They must be electronically submitted to SMB-GreatLakesCOE@uscg.mil, with an email subject line referencing the FY25 Funding Opportunity title and offeror name as follows: “GLCOE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL QUESTIONS FY25 Funding Opportunity [offeror name]” or “GLCOE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FY25 Funding Opportunity SUBMISSION [offeror name]”.

e. Technical Proposal Review and Selection Information:

- i. The evaluation team will independently evaluate each Technical Proposal submitted for selection or non-selection based on a peer or scientific review process.

- ii. Technical Proposals will be evaluated through a peer or scientific review process using the following criteria, stated in descending order of importance:
 - 1. Importance to GLCOE functional mandate and to the FY25 Funding Opportunity's research themes
 - 2. Scientific and technical merit
 - 3. Funds availability
 - 4. Cost realism and reasonableness
- iii. Technical Proposals submitted will be evaluated as they are received.
- iv. Submitting organizations whose Technical Proposals are not selected for submission of a proposal will be notified via email.
- v. AWARD NOTICES: Offerors will be notified in writing whether their proposal is recommended for award. An award recommendation is not to be construed to mean the award of an agreement is assured as availability of funds and successful negotiations are prerequisites to any award. This announcement is not an authorization to commence work or to incur any costs to perform the tasks described above. If funds become available after the Notice of Unsuccessful Offerors has been delivered, the GLCOE may on-ramp additional Technical Proposals that were submitted under the FY25 Funding Opportunity.

V. ATTACHMENTS

a. Technical Proposal Cover Page Template

Technical Proposal Cover Page Template

(Offeror shall complete each block with a brief explanation for any item that may not be applicable or available at time of submission.)

Solicitation Title:	
Research Topic Theme:	
Project Title:	
Prime Offeror: Name, Division and Full Postal Address of corporation, organization, individual, or other legal entity submitting:	
Technical Point-of-Contact: Full Name; E-Mail Address; Telephone:	
Principal Investigator (PI) Key Personnel – if different from Technical Point-of-Contact: Full Name; E-Mail Address; Telephone:	
Contracting/Administrative Point-of-Contact: Full Name; E-Mail Address; Telephone:	
Federal Department:	
Federal Agency:	
Principal Place of Performance:	
Period of Performance:	
Use of Government Property – Yes/No:	
Use of Government Information – Yes/No:	
Use of Government Facility – Yes/No:	
Proposed Price:	
Technical Proposal Date of Submission:	