



From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: DOE: Chemical Upcycling of Polymers DE-FOA-0002462

Date: February 15, 2021

UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting pre-proposals for the DOE: Chemical Upcycling of Polymers funding opportunity. Applicant (Lead) institutions are limited to no more than 2 pre-applications and applications. There is no limit on the number of pre-applications on which an institution may appear as a partner (not the lead institution). An individual is limited to be named as the Lead PI on no more than 1 submission. This is a link to the current funding opportunity announcement: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331402>.

This FOA supports basic research in chemical and materials sciences to advance the understanding of the chemical upcycling of end-of-life plastics and circular design of next-generation polymers. Chemical upcycling of plastics is defined here as processes which minimize energy consumption in creating new products from discarded plastics while making efficient reuse of the carbon building blocks of polymers, retaining the level of complexity of the plastic feedstock and/or providing enhanced utility of new products formed when compared to the starting material. Beyond chemical functionalization or deconstruction of today's commodity plastics, consideration of the complete lifecycle of plastics may lead to development of new monomers and polymers purposefully designed for more facile atom- and energy-efficient recycling or upcycling of plastics. Circularity-by-design can encompass systems that are not constrained to repeated, closed loop production of the same product, so long as reuse of carbon content is efficient and sustained through many energy-efficient product cycles.

Budgets for non-DOE/NNSA National Laboratories can range between \$200k-\$1.5M per year for three years. **The deadline for the submission of the required Pre-Application is March 10, 2021 at 5pm EST. Encouraged full proposal applications are due to DOE on May 12, 2021 at 11:59pm EST.**

This is a limited competition. **An eligible organization may submit two (2) pre-applications as the lead.** If you are interested in submitting a pre-application, please send a 3-page preproposal (plus cover page, Table 1 (see format for both on pg. 2) and abbreviated PI CV); all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11-point font) to limited@unm.edu by **NOON, Tuesday, February 23, 2021**. The 3-page preproposal should be a clear, concise description of the

objectives and technical approach of the proposed research. Figures and references, if included, must fit within the three-page limit.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.

Cover Page Format **Cover page does not need to be signed at internal preproposal stage.**

The pre-application attachment should include a cover page with the following information:

Title of Pre-application
Principal Investigator Name, Job Title
Institution
PI Phone Number, PI Email Address
FOA Number: DE-FOA-0002462

PROs Addressed: number(s) and titles of the priority research opportunities (PROs) from [Chemical Upcycling of Polymers Roundtable Report](#)

Table 1: Team Members (Lead PI, Task Leaders and Senior/Key Personnel) on the pre-application and institutional affiliations [for single investigator pre-applications this table can include only the principal investigator]

Team Members			Institution
Last Name	First Name	Title	Institution Name