What type of reseach outputs are you expecting?

The type of research output is largely left to the applicants to propose. Research Reports, Case Studies, Policy Briefs, Documentaries, and Infographics are possible, though other outputs will also be considered.

How might USAID use this research?

This may guide advocacy and programming such as future research or guide program design. Results maybe shared with the governments whose citizens are AI workers or with organizations that conduct advocacy on behalf of these workers.

Would the LASER-PULSE team consider allowing a five-page maximum for the research narrative?

Please adhere to the 3-page maximum limit since all other teams will use that same format.

Is there a preference or expectation for multi-country studies within the proposal or a single-country study?

The Call for Applications states that applicants need to research 'The size, demographics, and geography of the workforce supporting and enabling AI technologies' on a global scale.

USAID's primary interest is in a broad range of information from across the global south, and a multi-country study will be most likely to meet that need.

Are there particular countries or regions in the Global South that USAID or LASER PULSE would prioritize for this study? Additionally, is there a recommended or required number of countries that the research should focus on?

There is no priority country or region and no recommended number of countries to focus on, though USAID is interested in proposals that research AI labor across the global south.

Is there going to be one award of (a maximum of) USD 280,000 for one proposal or multiple awards?

There will be a single award to a single proposal (which can come from a consortium team).

How does a pending sam.gov registration affect our proposal evaluation?

The pending registration has no bearing on the selection evaluation criteria. This is an eligibility requirement. The Apparently Successful Applicant will be expected to enter into a

subagreement with the LASER PULSE Prime Organization. As a subrecipient, a full registration is not required. However, the organization must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The UEI process should be started as soon as possible prior to the submission of the Capacity Statement (or Concept Note). Please indicate in your application's Organizational Profile section whether you've begun this process. If the UEI has not been received within two weeks of the notification of being the Apparently Successful Applicant, we will forfeit the selection and move to the next highest qualified and eligible Applicant.

Could you provide more details about the Gender and Research Translation training? Specifically, where can we access information about it, and how is it expected to influence the proposal?

LASER's online training discusses Gender and how it should be addressed and engaged in the research process. Applicants should make clear in their proposals how their research will collect data in ways that respect gender and avoid gender bias. Research Translation has been a hallmark of the LASER Pulse program, and applicants should ensure that their proposal includes an early collaboration period where outputs will be planned with the users of the final research, who for this project will mainly be the project's USAID team and other invited members of the US Government. We would like to see plans for participation by study participants in the research process, which might include some or all of the research planning, collection, analysis, or dissemination.

Are there specific expectations regarding the academic qualifications of team members? For instance, would it be acceptable for some members to have extensive professional expertise but not necessarily hold a PhD?

Proposals from teams with strong professional expertise are very welcome. PhD degrees are not required.

Is it permissible to collaborate with a recognized higher education institution outside of Purdue University, and would such a partnership fulfill the application requirements?

Feel free to collaborate with other schools besides Purdue. Such a team will fulfill the application requirements.

Will USAID or LASER PULSE provide any baseline data or resources to support the research, or will the research team be responsible for collecting all primary data independently?

There won't be any baseline data supplied, and since there is currently little or no information available on this topic, the research team will need to collect primary data independently.

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The attached .pdf indicates a project timeframe of 6 to 24 months, while the website mentions a 19-month timeframe. Is there a preference between these options? Additionally, could you provide insights into how the 19-month timeframe was determined?

Please proceed with a timeline that's appropriate for your team's intended research. While 19 months was an early estimate, the wider window of 6-24 months was given to ensure more flexibility for the different styles of research work that teams may need. The priority is on the delivery of quality research and not on whether the work is done quickly or slowly.

For a team based across multiple countries, is there any guideline on who could be the administering institution or organisation? My guess is that the Primary Investigator's University can be an 'umbrella institution' in this call? Am I right?

That's correct. Please discuss this with your relevant departments and ensure that your University has management abilities and the UEI and sam.gov registration as described in the call document.

For budget purposes, what kinds of costs are allowed and not allowed? I could not see it on the funding page. This will help us prepare the budget properly.

This award is subject to terms and conditions set forth in 2 CFR 200 and the ADS 303. This project allows research expenses like salary, travel, and overhead and does not have specific budget exemptions beyond these two federal guides.