SAFE-UVC RFP — Frequently Asked Questions for Submitters

Getting started

What is this RFP funding? Empirical safety research on far-UVC light (200–235 nm, most commonly 222 nm from filtered KrCl* excimer lamps). The goal is to generate the evidence needed to resolve 10 remaining safety questions and support endorsement of wider far-UVC deployment by standards bodies and public health institutions. The RFP covers three areas: improved general characterization of far-UVC exposure, eye-specific exposure safety, and skin-specific exposure safety.

Is this an efficacy/germicidal-performance study program? No. This RFP is focused on a variety of key safety questions and not on the overall effectiveness of far-UVC against airborne microbes.

Are studies related to the air chemistry or other indoor air quality effects included in this RFP? While the safety considerations of far-UVC's impact on indoor air quality and air chemistry are active areas of investigation for the field, they are not part of the scope of this current RFP.

How much can I request? Our expected total, cumulative awards are anticipated to range from **$500,000 to $2,000,000 per technical area**. Each technical area has its own expected maximum (see the table below). That noted, Blueprint Biosecurity is interested in the best study designs to address our key questions, so do reach out to us if you believe that a budget outside of the given range is needed to deliver the right data.

How do I apply? There are two stages. First, submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** by email. If invited, you then submit a **Full Proposal**. Details on both are below.

Who do I contact with questions? Email **safe-uvc@blueprintbiosecurity.org**. The technical point of contact is Kelsey Quinn, Far-UVC Program Officer. Questions about the program that are not sent to this email may not be answered.

Eligibility

Who can apply? Submissions are welcome from all responsible sources, inside and outside the United States, capable of performing the work. To avoid conflicts of interest, any individual who contributed substantive written or editorial input to drafts of this Request for Proposals within thirty (30) days prior to its public release is ineligible to serve as a principal investigator on a proposal. Teams from photobiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, occupational health, photochemistry, dosimetry, indoor air quality, and related fields are all encouraged.

Do I need prior far-UVC experience? No. Submissions are welcome no matter your level of prior experience with far-UVC. For teams new to far-UVC, Blueprint will make reasonable efforts to arrange expertise support for the work if you are selected for an award.

Can international teams apply? Yes. Applicants inside and outside the United States are welcome. Blueprint cannot provide awards to any entities subject to U.S. sanctions. Awardees and their key personnel must not appear on the U.S. Treasury Department's Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List. Blueprint will request identifying information about directors and key personnel as part of award due diligence.

Can for-profit companies apply? Yes, but awards to for-profit entities may be limited or restricted consistent with laws and regulations governing private benefit and inurement. Blueprint reserves the right to decline awards to for-profit organizations where an award would be inconsistent with those requirements.

Can academic institutions apply? Yes.

Are there any conflicts that make me ineligible? Anyone who contributed substantive written or editorial input to drafts of this RFP within 30 days prior to its public release is ineligible to serve as a principal investigator.

What conflicts of interest do I need to disclose? You must disclose all potential, real, or perceived organizational conflicts of interest. These may include: current or historical funding from organizations that manufacture or sell far-UVC lamps, fixtures, dosimeters, or related products; non-arm's-length relationships with far-UVC product organizations; any direct or indirect financial interest in such organizations; and any familial, financial, or business connection with Blueprint Biosecurity team members.

Can I subcontract part of the work? Yes. You may contract subcomponents of the proposed work to other groups. We reserve the right to:

- Select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this RFP;
- Conduct discussions with applicants where necessary;
  Select entire proposals for award, or only specific portions;
- Fund awards in increments or by milestone achievement, depending on the nature of the work proposed, the required degree of interaction between parties, and other factors;
- Offer options for continued work and additional funding following completion of the proposed work;
- Request additional documentation once the award instrument has been determined (e.g., representations and certifications)

We may stop considering a proposal for award if: all parties involved fail to reach agreement on terms (award, technical, milestones, etc.) within a reasonable time; the applicant fails to provide requested additional information; or the application is deemed noncompliant with the requirements of the RFP at any time.

The Expression of Interest (EOI)

How long can the EOI be? Under 4 single-spaced pages. References and supplemental papers do not count toward the page limit.

What format should it be in? PDF or Word, in English.

Do I have to use the template? Using it is recommended but not required. Whether or not you use it, your EOI must include the items listed under "What must the EOI include?" below. An EOI template is made available alongside the RFP. Clarity of plan matters more than formatting or polish.

What must the EOI include?

- Applicant name and organization (including organization type and country of primary applicant), a technical and administrative point of contact, key personnel and their affiliations, and whether your team has prior far-UVC experience.
- The technical area(s) you are proposing to study.
- A brief summary of the proposed work and how it addresses the goals of this RFP and your selected technical area(s).
- Your intended approach and study design, including multiple stages or components as appropriate. Bullet points are acceptable.
- A rough timeline with key milestones and deliverables.
- The main technical or feasibility risks to your approach and how you would address them. This does not need to be an exhaustive list.

- A description of your team's previous experience conducting research similar to the proposed work, including relevant personnel roles and related projects. Prior far-UVC experience is not required.
- A requested budget, with a rough approximation of personnel, materials, overhead, and other costs. We encourage budgets for conference travel, presentations, and open-access publications, where appropriate.
- Other funding sources you are pursuing concurrently for this work, including co-funding options or funding sources you would pursue if not selected under this RFP.
- Disclosure of any conflicts of interest (see eligibility questions above).

Can I include supplemental materials? Yes — you may add links or supplemental papers, though these may not be reviewed in their entirety. Please do not include brochures or marketing materials.

Is anything in my EOI binding? No. All elements, including the requested budget, may change as you develop a Full Proposal.

When are EOIs due? Deadlines are staggered by group, all at **11:59pm ET**:

- **Group 1 — General Characterization (Technical Areas 1–3):** August 28, 2026
- **Group 2 — Eye Safety (Technical Areas 4–6):** September 18, 2026
- **Group 3 — Skin Safety (Technical Areas 7–10):** October 9, 2026

EOIs are evaluated on a rolling basis.

How do I submit? Email your EOI to safe-uvc@blueprintbiosecurity.org.

After the EOI

What will I hear back? Each EOI receives either a **Notice of Recommendation** (you're invited to submit a Full Proposal) or a **Notice of Disinclination**. Where possible, a brief description with feedback is included. Notices are emailed to the contact listed in your EOI.

If I get a Notice of Disinclination, is that the end? No. Any proposer may still submit a Full Proposal regardless of Blueprint's response to the EOI. Full Proposal reviews are conducted independently of the EOI reviews, though consideration may be given to how proposers responded to any feedback.

The Full Proposal

Who submits a Full Proposal? Select proposers are invited after EOI review — but any proposer may submit one regardless of their EOI outcome.

What does it include? A technical section and a cost section. Templates and further guidance are provided to proposers after the EOI stage.

When is it due? Within **3 weeks after the Notice of Recommendation**.

What happens after the Full Proposal? You'll receive either a **Notice of Selection** (selected for award negotiation, in whole or in part) or a **Notice of Non-Selection**. Selection leads to negotiation of terms.

Technical areas and budgets

What are the 10 technical areas, and what's the total expected budget for each?

#	Technical area	Group	Expected max
1	Multi-year human exposure study	General Characterization	$2,000,000
2	Standardizing biomarkers of acute biological effects	General Characterization	$500,000
3	Real-world dosimetry of far-UVC exposure to human tissue	General Characterization	$500,000
4	Conjunctival effects and eye surface assessment	Eye Safety	$750,000
5	Mechanisms of far-UVC-associated eye irritation	Eye Safety	$750,000

6	Dry eye and ocular surface disease	Eye Safety	$750,000
7	Age-related variation and thinner-skin populations	Skin Safety	$600,000
8	Skin type and melanin effects	Skin Safety	$750,000
9	Photosensitizing medications	Skin Safety	$600,000
10	Wound and disrupted-skin exposure	Skin Safety	$750,000

These figures represent Blueprint's best estimate of the maximum a study might cost if run efficiently.

Can I propose more than one technical area? Yes — indicate the technical area(s) you're proposing in your EOI. Note that different groups have different deadlines.

Can I exceed the stated budget for a technical area? Proposals above the cost guidance will be considered, but such requests require additional justification and will be evaluated accordingly.

How many awards will be made? It varies. Blueprint may not make an award in every technical area, and may make multiple awards in some. Decisions depend on proposal quality, cost-effectiveness, and available funding. Blueprint also plans to adjust the total funding pool to match the quality of proposals once all EOIs are in. We will be unable to provide awards to any individuals or entities subject to United States sanctions.

Are there any notes specific to certain technical areas?

- **TA1 (multi-year human exposure):** Longer timelines are expected and encouraged here — this is the exception to the 24-month preference. Speed is judged on time to enrollment / protocol launch rather than study duration. The study can be embedded in an ongoing far-UVC RCT or pilot installation.
- **TA2 (biomarkers):** May require follow-on animal or human work beyond this RFP; you can include a rough estimate for that.

- **TA6 (dry eye):** Can be standalone or embedded as a second arm within a broader eye-irritation mechanism study.
- **TA7 (age-related/thinner skin):** Direct infant human studies are not feasible; use computational modeling, ex vivo tissue, and animal proxies.
- **TA10 (wound/disrupted skin):** This area can be addressed through *in vitro* and *ex vivo* work, or can include an optional clinical component. Proposals are not required to include a clinical stage and more details are available in the full RFP document.

Timeline expectations

How fast do you expect the work to be done? Blueprint has a strong preference for proposals that reasonably aim to deliver within **24 months or sooner** from contract award. Speed of execution is an explicit evaluation criterion.

Is anything exempt from the 24-month expectation? Yes — Technical Area 1 (the multi-year human exposure study), where longer timelines are expected and encouraged.

Funding and budget details

What can I include in my budget? Beyond materials, personnel, and overhead, Blueprint encourages budgeting for conference travel, presentations, and open-access publications where appropriate.

How are awards paid out? Awards may be milestone-based or funded in increments, depending on the nature of the work. Blueprint may also select entire proposals or only specific portions, and may offer options for continued work and additional funding after completion.

Evaluation

How are proposals judged? On four criteria:

1. **Scientific and technical quality** — a logical, achievable plan with clear timelines, deliverables, a realistic schedule, and identified risks with feasible mitigations, connected to the RFP's goals.
2. **Demonstrated capability and related experience** — team expertise and a track record of delivering similar projects on time and within budget. Include related past/current efforts with funder, timeline, results, and award value.

3. **Cost-effectiveness** — assessed through cost effectiveness (most useful information per dollar), cost realism (each expense necessary to the objectives), and cost reasonableness (justified monetary value).
4. **Speed of execution** — how quickly the work is initiated and completed without sacrificing scientific integrity. For TA1, this focuses on time to enrollment / protocol launch.

Who reviews proposals? A review team of two Blueprint Biosecurity team members plus a small number of outside contractors, consultants, or experts. Reviewers evaluate individually, then discuss. Final funding decisions are made by Blueprint Biosecurity team members. Reviewer conflicts are managed by the Chief Operating Officer, who is not on the review team.

Reporting and publication

What reporting will be required if I'm awarded? Terms are negotiated per award, but at minimum expect: monthly technical reports on milestone progress and any problem areas, quarterly virtual meetings to discuss progress, and a report within 60 days of defined project phases summarizing findings.

Do I have to publish my results? Awardees must use good faith efforts to publish findings promptly following completion of the applicable work, in a manner designed to maximize broad public dissemination. Peer-reviewed journals and open-access repositories are strongly preferred. Pre-registration of clinical and experimental protocols remains expected where appropriate.

Awardees will have a 12-month exclusive window to publish after completing each phase of work. Following that period, Blueprint or its funders may independently publish or deposit underlying data and datasets, with appropriate attribution to the research team.

How is my submission handled confidentially? Submissions are treated as protected information and shared only with evaluation personnel, including support contractors and external experts bound by non-disclosure obligations. Blueprint retains one electronic copy; other copies are destroyed. Submissions are not returned.

Compliance and administration

What ethics and regulatory requirements apply? Awardees are responsible for conducting research in compliance with the relevant institutional, local, and national research regulatory bodies, such as Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) or Institutional

Ethics Committees (IECs). Award agreements will include specific human subjects research requirements. Most technical areas call for a plan for efficient ethics review.

Do I need any government registrations (SAM.gov, UEI, etc.)? No. This is a private philanthropic RFP, not a federal one, so those federal registrations are not required. Blueprint may request representations and certifications once an award is determined.

What rights does Blueprint reserve? Blueprint may select all, some, one, or none of the proposals; conduct discussions; fund entire proposals or specific portions; fund in increments or by milestone; offer options for continued work and funding; request additional documentation post-award; and stop considering a proposal if terms can't be agreed in reasonable time, if requested information isn't provided, or if a submission is deemed noncompliant. Blueprint retains sole discretion over award selection and negotiation of terms.

Asking questions

How do I ask a question about the RFP? Email safe-uvc@blueprintbiosecurity.org in English, and include the name, email address, and telephone number of a point of contact. Questions sent elsewhere may not be answered.

Will my question be shared publicly? Blueprint may post answers (paraphrased to protect submitter information) in a public FAQ on its website where it would help other interested parties.

Can I ask for help understanding far-UVC or the study requirements? Yes. Blueprint welcomes general questions about far-UVC and study requirements at the same address.