The LDRD program is a mechanism for aligning our forefront scientific research and technical capabilities towards addressing vital and emerging challenges at the national level. By allocating investment for rapid and significant contributions, the LDRD program contributes to our scientific staff capability and vitality, transforms our existing programs, and broadens our mission and its impact. Ultimately, the LDRD program is a source of enrichment for SLAC’s core competencies, new areas of discovery, and lab growth.

LDRD projects are typically conducted with a scale of effort that utilizes existing experimental facilities (i.e. bench-scale research and development) or computational facilities at SLAC or Stanford University. **Consistent with DOE policy, LDRD awards cannot be used to co-fund new or existing research projects or for construction line-item, maintenance projects, or for general purpose equipment acquisitions.** External to SLAC partnerships, including partnerships with industry, that would contribute unique capabilities or expertise to the efforts proposed should be considered. Multi-disciplinary collaborations are also encouraged. For FY2022, LDRD proposals are invited under the following two categories:

1. **Category 1- Major Initiatives:** proposals in this category should target preliminary efforts that would enable the development of new research programs and/or capabilities in support of SLAC’s major initiatives. Within SLAC’s major initiatives, we solicit proposals with emphasis on the following:
   a. X-ray and Ultrafast Sciences
   b. Physics of the Universe
   c. Massive-Scale Data Analytics
   d. High Energy Density Science
   e. Biosciences
   f. Quantum Information Science

2. **Category 2- Exploratory R&D:** proposals in this category should explicitly address high-risk, proof-of-concept investigations with potential for significant impact towards all current mission areas of SLAC and emerging areas of science and technology.
Funding in category 2 projects will be limited to $180K per year.

For timely assessment of project feasibility and to allow a vibrant program that accommodates new ideas each year, LDRD projects are required to have a maximum duration of 2 years. In rare cases, exceptions to the 2-year project duration requirement may be granted. Flexibility in the planning of funds may be allowed to accommodate hiring timetables.

**Each directorate should select qualified proposals using a suitable internal selection process before submitting to the LDRD program.** Multi-directorate proposals should be coordinated with the relevant Associate Lab Directors before submitting to the LDRD program. Please plan for your internal process such that it allows investigators sufficient time for narrative and budget development prior to the LDRD proposal due date of **May 3, 2021**. A maximum of 30 proposals across the lab will be considered for evaluation by the LDRD program review. The percentage of proposals awarded will depend on the FY2022 LDRD budget.

All SLAC scientific and engineering staff and faculty are eligible to apply for LDRD funding through their directorate’s internal selection process. The call is open to Stanford University faculty only as part of a collaboration with SLAC staff. Stanford University faculty interested in submitting a joint proposal must consult with their SLAC collaborator and ALD to ensure that the LDRD criteria are satisfied, discuss alignment and benefit to SLAC’s mission and agenda, and participate in the internal selection process of the relevant SLAC directorate.

The LDRD program will initially review the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed efforts through external reviews solicited from subject matter experts and internal peer-review panels. Lead Investigator presentations will take place in front of internal peer-review panels (SLAC/Stanford University staff and faculty) **June 2021, date TBD**. Highly ranked proposals from this phase will advance to a strategic review where proposal impact on the mission areas and the lab’s growth strategy will be evaluated. Ongoing LDRD projects will be reviewed by the mission ALDs in June-July and will receive approval to continue at the same time as newly awarded projects, no later than end of August. More information about the LDRD program and proposal templates can be found here ([https://ldrd.slac.stanford.edu](https://ldrd.slac.stanford.edu))

cc: Stephanie Carlson, Gail Fong, Michael Gonzalez, Connie Morimoto-Yu, Christine Soldahl, Suzanne Hansen, Norbert Holtkamp, Brian Sherin, Lori Zscherpel, Victoria Lee