

Request for Information (RFI) - Visioning Event Co-Host, Virtual
for

The Role of Engineering in Addressing Climate Change

the inaugural Visioning Event of the **Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA)**
to be held virtually December 7 and 8, 2021, with related events in early 2022

The National Science Foundation-supported [Engineering Research Visioning Alliance \(ERVA\)](#) is seeking to identify event co-hosts for virtual visioning events in support of its mission. As a co-host, you will work with ERVA staff and volunteers to create and execute a visioning event that convenes top researchers from various sectors and other interested parties to discuss and develop a bold strategy for addressing contemporary engineering research themes of national interest.

The theme for this visioning event is *The Role of Engineering in Addressing Climate Change*. As outlined in the recent White House priorities memo for the FY2023 Budget, “the United States and the world face a profound climate crisis with a narrow moment to pursue action to avoid the most catastrophic impacts and to seize the opportunities that tackling climate change presents.” Unsurprisingly, respondents to ERVA’s initial survey of the engineering community identified *combating climate change: disaster resilient infrastructure* and *carbon neutrality: alternative fuels, energy storage, and enhanced carbon management* as the highest priority themes for ERVA to explore. The goal of this inaugural visioning event will be to identify specific, basic and use-inspired research lines within this broad theme that are ripe for multi-disciplinary contributions from the engineering research community. Events in early 2022 will delve deeper into identified areas.

These invitation-only events will bring together an interdisciplinary group of top researchers and other relevant parties from the public and private sectors to accomplish our mission to identify and develop bold and transformative new engineering research directions and to catalyze the engineering community’s pursuit of innovative, high-impact research that benefits society.

The visioning event will be held virtually over two days on December 7 and 8, 2021, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET. The selected organization/organizations will act as a co-host on ERVA’s chosen virtual platform.

Co-Host Benefits

Co-hosting an ERVA virtual visioning event will bolster the institution’s reputation as a thought leader in the role of engineering in addressing climate change and promote the organization as a driver of new ideas and collaboration. Co-hosts have the opportunity to recommend sessions, speakers, and topics of interest to them, as well as the potential to deepen existing partner relationships and develop new ones.

A visioning event is a great business development opportunity to showcase your institution, faculty, programs, and capabilities. It raises your visibility among top thought leaders in this research area, who represent dozens of top-tier universities and multi-national companies. Because many universities have set institutional goals and have initiated specific programs aimed at this topic area, co-hosting offers an opportunity to elevate your programs and become a leading voice on a national level.

By creating an environment for the engineering community to speak with one voice while addressing the nation’s greatest challenges, ERVA seeks solutions through collaboration across different sectors. Therefore, **we encourage submissions that partner academia and industry together to create a joint bid to demonstrate ERVA’s commitment to convergence, diversity of ideas, and inclusion.**

As a visioning event co-host, your organization will work with ERVA staff, our Executive Committee, and a Thematic Task Force on:

- **Agenda development.** Develop an agenda that will result in actionable recommendations.
- **Participant recruitment.** Identify subject matter experts from relevant sectors (academia, companies, government, and nonprofits).
- **Facilitation.** Provide an expert to lead discussions, guide event flow, and optimize the experience and results.
- **Report development and writing.** Create a report that reflects the current research and development environment and shares actionable recommendations that can be evaluated by government funding agencies for adoption.
- **Welcoming remarks.** Deliver the greeting and set the tone to bring visibility to your organization.

Visioning Event Facilitator Selection

The co-hosting organization will be asked to provide a facilitator for the visioning event. The visioning event facilitator is responsible for coordinating breakout facilitators and notetakers for each session with the support of ERVA staff, as well as assisting in developing the visioning event introductory research intelligence session crafted by Elsevier. Visioning event facilitators are responsible for compiling the notes from each breakout session. Facilitators compile and reconcile comments and edits to the draft and help produce the report that is submitted to NSF and distributed to the engineering community. This person will need to have knowledge of the theme at hand to encourage conversation and ideation. The Visioning Event Facilitator must have the availability to attend our virtual visioning event (December 7 and 8, 2021). They will also need to attend pre-event planning calls. Please include a CV with your candidate's expertise and experience with your submission.

Visioning Event Report Writer(s)

The visioning event report writer(s) will draft the initial draft and final report in collaboration with other thematic task force members. This role is vital to ERVA's successful completion of our report output that is sent to NSF and shared with the community. Elsevier will assist in the development of the research intelligence report one week after the visioning event sessions conclude. Availability to attend our virtual visioning event (December 7 and 8, 2021) as well as generate initial drafts and a final report in the months following the event is required. Please include a CV with your candidate's expertise and experience with your submission. NOTE: The writer and facilitator roles may overlap.

Eligibility

Eligible organizations include:

- U.S.-based colleges and universities
- Non-profit organizations such as professional associations/societies
- Companies with an operational presence in the United States
- National labs or other research institutes

Joint applications from two or more eligible organizations are encouraged.

Critical Review Elements

When considering proposals, ERVA will evaluate the proposers' ability to provide:

- a. **Knowledge:** Selected organizations will possess in-depth knowledge of the visioning theme
- b. **Dates:** Staff availability during the two-day virtual event, December 7 and 8, 2021
- c. **Administrative support:** Designated note-takers for each session
- d. **Facilitator(s):** demonstrated experience successfully executing events with positive results
- e. **Report writer(s):** recognized scholarship and demonstrated experience with similar reports

In-Kind Contribution

We anticipate your in-kind contribution to hosting an ERVA virtual visioning event will be your time, effort, and support in report writing.

Submission Process

In your response, please provide:

- I. A signed cover letter indicating your desire to host
- II. Responses to the critical review elements and any additional information that will help in making a determination
- III. Availability to host a virtual two-day event on December 7 and 8, 2021

ERVA will conduct bidder conferences, as requested, and will follow up with finalists to provide additional background and solicit further information, as needed, to inform a final decision. Applications will be filed for consideration for the related 2022 and later virtual and in-person events.

Response Deadline

Please submit responses by October 7, 2021 to receive full consideration. Send complete responses or any questions to info@ervacommunity.org.

About ERVA

The Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) is a neutral convener that helps to identify and develop bold and transformative new engineering research directions, directly supporting the nation's ability to compete in a rapidly changing global economy. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Engineering, ERVA is a diverse, inclusive and engaged partnership that enables an array of voices to impact national research priorities. The five-year initiative convenes, catalyzes and empowers the engineering community to identify nascent opportunities and priorities for engineering-led innovative, high-impact, cross-domain, fundamental research that addresses national, global and societal needs.

Learn more at <https://www.ervacommunity.org>.

ERVA Role

The engineering research community is the target audience for this event. We will work with the host and members of the steering committee (comprised of senior research officers, company representatives and others) to develop a high-impact program and ensure that the event delivers value to the host and participants.

Good Faith Statement

All information provided by ERVA is offered in good faith. Specific items are subject to change based on business circumstances. ERVA does not guarantee that any item is without error. ERVA will not be held responsible or liable for use of this information or for any claims asserted therefrom.



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant #204841. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.