



Critical Energy Cybersecurity Accelerator Cycle A Application Instructions



**U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY**

**Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security,
and Emergency Response**

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Overview of CECA

The Critical Energy Cybersecurity Accelerator (CECA) offers a visionary path to accelerate innovation and commercialization of cybersecurity solutions for the modern grid.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), Cycle A helps selected cybersecurity technologies within DOE's research and development portfolio improve their technologies and bridge the market readiness gap between innovation and commercialization.

CECA offers a third-party testing environment with world-class facilities for asset owners of all sizes and types to develop and deploy grid technologies that are not only cost-competitive but also demonstrate the highest level of security by design. The [Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems \(ARIES\)](#) Cyber Range is used to assess solutions in an emulated grid environment. The CECA program provides a pathway to technical assessments and demonstrations to strengthen commercialization efforts, enhance the security of novel grid technologies, and increase adoption readiness.

This guide seeks to provide interested parties and technology owners with an overview of the process for applying to participate in CECA Cycle A.

Benefits of Applying

Technology owners participating in the program will receive the following benefits:

- Funding to participate in CECA Cycle A
- Access to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) unique testing and evaluation capabilities such as the [ARIES Cyber Range](#), which provides advanced simulation environments to evaluate energy system defense
- National laboratory researchers to test and validate the performance of the technology
- Support for commercialization efforts including intake and exit assessments of technology and adoption readiness, informative resources on pitching to investors, developing business plans, licensing the technology, and more
- Exposure to DOE and utility partners and the opportunity to demonstrate technologies to DOE and industry.

Application Timeline

Application open: May 1, 2025, 9 a.m. MT

Application closes: May 23, 2025, 11:59 p.m. MT

Decision notification: June 2025

Project Kickoff: August 2025

CECA Cycle A Process

CECA acceleration cycles help cybersecurity technologies within DOE's research and development portfolio improve their capabilities and bridge the market readiness gap between innovation and commercialization. CECA evaluations are focused on technology maturation to meet the emerging needs of future energy systems. For example, Cycle A may explore scenarios with a large number of grid-interactive edge devices, grid-enhancing technologies, highly distributed energy resources, and/or large fleets of electric vehicles. This premarket track

is designed to complement CECA's existing Track 1, which evaluates commercial technologies that offer solutions to high-priority risks and challenges identified by utilities.

In Cycle A, DOE selects a technology, with advice from utility partners and feasibility input from NREL, to undergo an acceleration cycle. Cycles, which take approximately 6 to 9 months, involve iterative testing and technology improvements, as well as commercialization support.

CECA Cycle A uses widely adopted assessment frameworks to plan commercialization support. Assessment metrics from these frameworks have been tailored to cybersecurity and the energy sector and are used to guide a technology's maturation plan and iterative technology development outcomes.

Additionally, as part of the iterative testing, the technology will be integrated into NREL's ARIES platform and cyber range. This integration may vary depending on the technical details of the technology. This integration could be installing software on a virtual machine or installing hardware into a rack and connecting it to range infrastructure. Once the technology is integrated and verified as functioning in the range, the iterative testing can take place. The iterative testing will involve using the cyber range to run test cases in close collaboration with the technology owner to drive technology improvements.

To be accepted into Cycle A, technologies should be between technology readiness level (TRL) 3 to 6, as defined by the DOE's [Technology Readiness Assessment Guide](#). Planned technology maturation will typically see single-level increases (e.g., TRL 3 to TRL 4) in targeted critical technology elements.

Application Process and Eligibility

1. General Information

- Interested participants can access the application through this [link](#). The application for CECA Cycle A opens on **May 1, 2025**. To be considered, you must complete all application tasks in the Momentive platform (see the following guidelines).
- Deadline for the application submission is **May 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. MT**.

2. Eligibility

- Technologies must be or have been supported in part or in whole by DOE research and development funds.
- Technologies must be principally designed to improve the security of critical energy infrastructures, which includes at least one system or asset of the bulk power system, either physical or virtual, of which the incapacity or destruction would negatively impact national security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of these.
- Technologies participating in the program must be at or between **TRL 3 and 6** as defined by the [DOE Technology Readiness Assessment Guide](#). (see appendix for definitions)
- Technologies must be able to be deployed in the ARIES Cyber Range. The cyber range can support physical hardware, but virtualized deployments are strongly preferred.

- Technology owners must be available to collaborate in a CECA acceleration cycle for ~6 months starting in August 2025.

3. Selection Process

- Applications are reviewed and scored by a technical review board comprising NREL researchers and DOE. There may be a two-part process wherein the applicant is interviewed about the detailed technical aspects of their technology, including a demonstration with follow-up questions as necessary. The final selection is made after in consultation with DOE.
- Applicants may be asked to provide clarifying information during the selection process.
- Applicants will be notified whether they were selected to participate in the CECA program in **June 2025**.
 - Applicant technologies will be scored in part on the following criteria:
 - Alignment with critical energy infrastructure
 - Technology project life cycle
 - Availability of technology developer experts to support and participate in an acceleration cycle
 - TRL
 - Existing commercialization paths
 - Complexity of testing
 - Cyber range compatibility
 - Strategic impact.
- CECA will invite one technology to participate in each cycle for a 6–9-month period, depending on the scope of work. Once approved for participation in the CECA program, technology owners will agree to a statement of work.

4. Commercialization Support

- Once selected to participate in the acceleration cycle, NREL researchers will assist the technology owner through an initial intake assessment of their technology using the DOE's Technology Readiness Assessment, and Adoption Readiness Assessment to objectively assess the technology's TRL and adoption readiness level coming into the cycle.
- NREL researchers will use results from the intake assessment to develop a technology maturation plan, which will be used to help guide the development of test plans and prioritize improvements.

- CECA will use results from the Adoption Readiness Assessment to guide additional support and resources for the technology owner's market outreach and readiness.
- At the conclusion of the cycle, CECA will reassess the technology, gather performance metrics, and use results to report to DOE and possibly to support public messaging regarding the successes of the cycle.

5. Technology Assistance and Cybersecurity Testing

- NREL researchers will create the test environment and work with the technology owner to deploy and configure the technology in a replication of its operating environment under normal conditions.
- The technology will receive a series of iterative tests using the ARIES platform and cyber range to test the technology against real-world scenarios.
- The testing cycle is an iterative process in which technologies are tested, NREL researchers suggest improvements, the technology owner makes improvements, and more tests are developed and run. This process will repeat as needed to mature the targeted areas for improvement.
- This stage of the cycle is highly collaborative and will require weekly meetings between the CECA team and the technology owner team.

How to Use the Momentive Platform

CECA uses Momentive, also known as Survey Monkey Apply, to collect information from applicants. You can access the site at any time using [this link](#). If you have questions or have problems with the platform, please contact CECA@nrel.gov for assistance.

To create your application:

1. **Register to apply.** Visit the [CECA application](#) portal and select **Apply**. After entering the name of your technology, select **Register** in the top right corner of the browser. Fill out the required fields to create your account. You will receive an email to verify your account. If it does not appear in your inbox, be sure to check your spam folder. You will not be able to submit applications or complete certain tasks until you verify your email address. Once verified, you will receive another email confirming your registration with a link to the applicant portal. The email address you provide will be the one we use to contact you for further CECA communications.
2. **Identify you are a “technology applying to a program.”** Before starting your application, you need to complete an eligibility profile. Select **Fill Out Eligibility Form**. Next, select **I’m a technology applying for a program** and select **CECA** as the program you are applying for. Then select **Submit**.
3. **Name your application.** Next, you will see the Programs page. Select **More** on the next page, select **Apply**, and then provide your technology name to name your application, then select **Create Application**.
4. **Complete application tasks.** On the left-hand side of the application screen, you will see a progress bar with the number of application tasks you have completed. In the center of the

screen, you will see the tasks assigned to you (e.g., Terms & Conditions, Basic Information, Eligibility, Section A, Section B etc.)

To begin, select any of the tasks. While completing a task, you have the following options:

- **Save and Continue Editing.** Use if you are not done and would like to continue working on the task later. Note, the Momentive platform autosaves every 20 seconds.
 - **Mark as Complete.** Use if you are done with the task. After marking as complete, you will be taken to a page to review your answers. If you would like to make edits, select the in the upper right corner and select **Edit** from the drop-down menu.
5. **Invite a collaborator.** You can invite your colleague(s) to collaborate on your application. Click on the **Add Collaborator** button on the left and enter your collaborator's email, type of access you want to provide (View only or View + Edit), and an optional message. Your collaborator(s) will receive an email with a link to access the application.
6. **Submit the application.** Once you have completed all the tasks, select **Review & Submit**. Once submitted, your application is still available to edit any time before the deadline.

CECA Application Guide

Next are the required application fields you will need to complete in the Momentive platform. Note the associated word limits per required field.

Terms and Conditions Checkboxes

The following terms and conditions must be agreed to in the application platform:

- I understand that this application should not contain any confidential or business-sensitive information.
- I understand that DOE CESER provides funding for the selected technology with a statement of work drafted by NREL.
- I understand that the CECA team may share that my technology applied to CECA Cycle A with the broader CECA ecosystem or other external parties.
- I approve this application to be shared or reviewed by the NREL technical review team and DOE.
- I have read and understand all the materials in the application guide.

If you have any additional questions, please contact CECA@nrel.gov.

Basic Information

Include technology name and primary point of contact information.

Such as: primary contact name, email, phone number.

Eligibility

Answer the questions in this form to confirm that you meet the requirements for applying to CECA Cycle A.

1. Is or was your technology, in part or in whole, funded by DOE (Yes, No)
2. Do you believe your technology can be deployed in the ARIES [Cyber Range?](#) This could include installing software on a virtual machine or installing hardware into a rack. (Yes, No)
3. Does your technology address an energy sector cybersecurity need? (Yes, No)
4. Is the technology team available to collaborate in a CECA acceleration cycle for ~6 months starting in August 2025? (Yes, No).
5. Read the Terms and Conditions and select whether you agree or not.

Section A: Technology Introduction

Include basic information in your application.

Such as: organization name, technology name, and organization location.

Describe past or present funding from DOE. (100 words)

Which office funded your work? Under which funding opportunity?

Provide a brief elevator pitch for your technology. (150 words)

OPTIONAL: Include an elevator pitch video.

If desired, upload a video of your elevator pitch (no more than 1 minute in length). File size should not exceed 300 megabytes.

Video rules include the following:

- 1 minute in length
- Includes one or two employees talking to the camera no animation or screenshots
- No background music
- Make sure the lighting and audio are clear. We suggest playing the video back for yourself to ensure you can hear the audio and see the people talking.
- Along with audio quality, ensure you are speaking clearly. We advise you do not read off a script.

Include why you are interested in participating in this program. (150 words)

For example, what value does this program provide that you won't get otherwise?

Also, answer: **How did you hear about the program?**

- Channel partner communication (please specify)
- DOE communication (please specify)
- Email from NREL staff
- Networking/industry event
- NREL newsletter
- CECA website

- Social media (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Section B: Technology Description and Plan

Describe the approach used by your technology. (150 words)

For example, what key methods, tools, or principles does it leverage?

Attach a slide deck explaining your technology. (Upload PDF or pptx)

Include a roadmap from the initial year of funding and your development plans from the present, 1 year from now, and 5 years from now. Please also provide information about the use cases for your technology as well as system architecture.

What is the long-term plan for technical development and what are the next steps? (150 words)

What are your future validation plans? What technical risks and barriers do you foresee and how do you plan to mitigate and overcome those risks and barriers?

Include how you classify your technology, such as:

- Hardware
- Software
- Cloud
- Other (please specify).

Select the cybersecurity function your technology addresses (select all that apply), such as:

- **Access control and identity management.** Manage user identities, authenticate users, and authorize access to critical infrastructure based on role, location, and other factors.
- **Intrusion detection and prevention systems.** Monitor network traffic for signs of unauthorized access or malicious activity, and block or alert on potential threats.
- **Anomaly detection.** Identify unusual patterns of behavior in network traffic or system logs that may indicate a security incident or advanced threat.
- **Artificial intelligence and machine learning.** Apply artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to detect and respond to security threats in real time, including predictive analytics and automated incident response.
- **Cloud security.** Protect cloud-based infrastructure and data with tools, such as cloud access security brokers, cloud security gateways, and cloud workload protection platforms.
- **Compliance scanning and reporting.** Help organizations comply with regulatory requirements such as the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection plan by scanning for compliance gaps and generating reports.
- **Encryption.** Protect sensitive data both in transit and at rest with encryption technologies, such as SSL/TLS, IPsec, or full-disk encryption.

- **Endpoint detection and response.** Monitor endpoint devices, such as laptops, desktops, and mobile devices for signs of malicious activity and provide real-time threat detection and response.
- **File integrity monitoring.** Monitor files and systems for changes that could indicate a security breach or malicious activity.
- **Incident response and threat hunting.** Provide tools and workflows for responding to security incidents, including threat hunting, containment, eradication, recovery, and post-incident activities.
- **Log management.** Collect, store, and analyze log data from various sources to provide visibility into security-related events and support forensic analysis.
- **Network segmentation.** Divide networks into smaller, isolated segments to limit the spread of malware or unauthorized access in case of a breach.
- **Attack and breach simulation.** Simulate cyberattacks on critical infrastructure to test defenses and identify weaknesses.
- **Security information and event management.** Collect, monitor, and analyze log data from various sources to detect security incidents and provide real-time alerts.
- **Security orchestration, automation, and response.** Automate security workflows, including threat detection, incident response, and compliance reporting to improve efficiency and reduce risk.
- **Vulnerability scanning and management.** Identify and prioritize vulnerabilities in systems and applications and provide recommendations for remediation.
- **Other.** Does not align with any of the above categories.

Describe how your technology supports or secures critical energy/electric infrastructure.
(100 words)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission defines [critical energy/electric infrastructure](#) as a system or asset of the bulk power system, either physical or virtual, of which the incapacity or destruction would negatively affect:

- National security
- Economic security
- Public health or safety
- Any combination of such matters.

Identify your TRL.

See the following descriptions to determine your TRL and select one. Only technologies between TRL 3 and 6 may be accepted into Cycle A.

- TRL 9: Actual system proven in operational environment
- TRL 8: System complete and qualified

- TRL 7: System prototype demonstration in operational environment
- TRL 6: Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
- TRL 5: Technology validated in relevant environment
- TRL 4: Technology validated in lab
- TRL 3: Experimental proof of concept
- TRL 2: Technology concept formulated
- TRL 1: Basic principles observed.

Provide a brief explanation for why you rate it at that level. (100 words)

Describe the ideal testing environment for your technology. (100 words)

Specify any requirements, such as physical hardware (e.g., programmable logic controllers, protective relays) or simulation tools, needed to validate the technology. If needed, the cyber range can accommodate physical hardware in the virtualized environment.

Provide a diagram showing where your technology would fit in a customer deployment in the electric utility sector. (Upload PDF or .pptx)

The diagram should be detailed enough for the CECA team to understand what a test environment for your technology should look like. This diagram should align with your previously described ideal testing environment.

Briefly describe the software, hardware, and network requirements of your solution and any dependencies for deployment. (150 words)

Describe the software/hardware required, such as vendor/provider, model/version, and so on, as well as what is required/expected in the deployment environment for successful operation. Is there architecture, internet/cloud access, field device configurations, third-party systems, licenses, or another requirement necessary?

Is there ongoing development work or funding for the technology? (100 words)

If so, describe the current plans, funding and funding source, and timelines for further development.

Section C: Market and Industry Analysis

What is the target market for your technology? (150 words)

Describe the specific critical energy applications your technology is targeted toward? (e.g., generation, transmission, distributed energy resources). Be as specific as possible.

Describe how applicable your technology is for use across different critical energy applications? (100 words)

Highlight other applications besides the target market that your technology might provide value (e.g. generation, transmission, distributed energy resources).

Are there any anticipated barriers to commercialization? (100 words)

Describe any barriers, such as technical, regulatory, or financial.

What differentiates your technology from potential competitors in this space? (100 words)

Highlight any unique features, advantages, or capabilities of your technology compared to the competition.

List any awards and recognitions you have received. (100 words)

This is an opportunity to brag about your selections/wins in any competitions or include other awards you have received.

Section D: Commercialization Potential

Describe any interest from external partners or stakeholders (e.g., utilities, manufacturers) in the commercialization of the technology? (100 words)

Provide examples if possible.

Does the technology currently have a commercialization plan or strategy? (100 words)

If yes, briefly describe the plan or any progress made toward commercialization.

Have you already explored licensing or patenting for your technology? (100 words)

If so, please explain.

Have you participated in a past accelerator or incubator program? (100 words)

If yes, list the name(s) and date(s) of the program(s) in which you have participated.

What are you hoping to get out of the CECA cycle? (100 words)

Section E: Development Team

The technology owner team may include the following functions/roles:

- **Team Lead:** CECA's main point of contact; may be the senior technical lead. Facilitates all technology owner team deliverables to CECA; responsible for the timely coordination, delivery and responses during the acceleration cycle. Has domain knowledge and can inform where the technology should be developed for commercialization.
- **Technical (Integration/Development) Lead:** the team member with the most technology-specific experience; is available to participate in all meetings with the Team Lead; may be the main point of contact for CECA during integration and may be the main point of contact to determine how the technology is developed.
- **Development Team** – may include 1-3 additional team members. Has worked on the project previously; technical skill set necessary to troubleshoot development (and integration) challenges and efficiently develop aspects of the technology based on CECA's tests.

Provide an overview of the team supporting the development of your technology. (200 words)

Include roles, titles, affiliation / employer, expertise, and relevant experience (a full CV is not required).

Can your team provide technology development and troubleshooting support during the CECA cycle to achieve these goals? (200 words)

Include a brief description of the main features or capabilities you hope to improve in your technology. Specify the development, technical troubleshooting, or other forms of support your team will provide during a CECA cycle to achieve your goals.

NREL Technical Capabilities

All solutions participating in CECA will be tested via NREL's ARIES platform and cyber range to study the energy systems' interaction with and dependence on digital communication devices and networks. The cyber range can model and visualize energy systems subjected to energy disruption scenarios, with the fidelity needed to represent future energy and telecommunication systems—from individual devices to regional grids. It uses an electric utility model that includes three layers that represent the integrated electrical, control, and telecommunication systems. Prioritizing deployment of security by design, these layers are used to evaluate grid modernization scenarios such as renewable energy additions, shifts toward new controls such as advanced distribution management systems, and evolving telecommunications architectures such as 5G.

The cyber range offers the ability to:

- Create simulated environments for evaluating emerging threats and the impacts of energy disruption using accurate energy system models and advanced controls
- Provide infrastructures to connect physical devices throughout the lab and DOE complex to these simulated environments to enable high-fidelity emulations
- Explore the interdependencies between the digital communication devices and networks and the underlying power system.

Scoring Rubric

The NREL technical review team and DOE will score each application using the following metrics.

Metric	Description
Program fit	The technology focuses on securing critical energy infrastructure, is in an appropriate development stage, is between the target TRL, and the status of existing commercialization paths and partners aligns with the program.
Technical considerations	The technology is compatible with the NREL ARIES Cyber Range and can be emulated with minimal effort.
National considerations	The technology aligns with current national security threats and DOE strategic interests, and there is interest in the technology from CECA's utility working group.

Technology Readiness Level

	TRL Level	Description
Deployment	9	Actual system proven in operational environment
	8	System complete and qualified
	7	System prototype demonstration in operational environment
Development	6	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
	5	Technology validated in relevant environment
	4	Technology validated in lab
Research	3	Experimental proof of concept
	2	Technology concept formulated
	1	Basic principles observed

Work Plan

A statement of work will be provided to the accepted technology owner. Once the statement of work (SOW) is accepted by the technology owner, NREL will facilitate the subcontract. For questions, please contact CECA@nrel.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

- Technologies must be or have been supported in part or in whole by DOE research and development funds.
- Technologies must be principally designed to improve the security of critical energy infrastructures, which includes at least one system or asset of the bulk-power system, (physical or virtual) the incapacity or destruction of which would negatively impact national security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of these.
- Technologies participating in the program must be at a **TRL between 3 and 6** as defined by the [DOE Technology Readiness Assessment Guide](#). (see appendix for definitions)
- Technologies must be able to be deployed in the ARIES Cyber Range. The range can support physical hardware, but virtualized deployments are strongly preferred.
- Technology owners must be available to collaborate in a CECA acceleration cycle for ~6 months starting in August 2025.
- Technology owners must agree to the terms and conditions of this application.

How does the program work?

CECA operates in two tracks. CECA is a public, private partnership.

Track 1 sponsorship includes utility partner cost share and DOE CESER, in collaboration with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Track 1 assesses market-ready (commercial) security products in representative testbed to address utilities most urgent security questions.

Track 2 cycles are focused on technology maturation of DOE cybersecurity research and development technologies. To be accepted into a CECA cycle, technologies should be between TRL 3 to 6 as defined by the DOE's [Technology Readiness Assessment/Technology Maturation Plan Process Guide](#). Cycles consist of iterative cybersecurity testing and technology improvements, as well as commercialization support. Each cycle starts with an application process.

Cycle A is sponsored by DOE CESER, in collaboration with EERE. Track 1 utility partners act in an advisory role for Track 2.

What technologies have participated in the past?

The Pilot of CECA's Cycle A program supported a vendor-agnostic [Cybersecurity Situational Awareness Tool](#) (CySAT) designed for distributed energy resource-integrated grid networks. CySAT uses machine learning techniques to detect advanced threats facing critical energy OT systems by monitoring and interpreting cybersecurity and operational data. In the Pilot Cycle, CECA supported the CySAT team in both technical and commercial improvements to the tool. Using NREL's ARIES Cyber Range and CECA's technical experts, the CECA team created an entirely virtual initial representative hydroelectric environment in which to deploy the technology, developed test scenarios and procedures to validate and baseline the CySAT CySAT tool.

CECA worked closely with the technology owner team to plan for the test iteration cycle, integrate the technology/software into the cyber range environment, document results, identify improvements, iteratively test new versions of the CySAT tool in new environments, and collect lessons learned for future cycles. Through CECA testing and commercialization support, CySAT was able to transition their proof-of-concept tool to a verified product under controlled laboratory testing, validate the core capabilities of its product with simulated components, and develop new features to expand its market segments. CECA also supported additional commercialization improvements including updating business plans and marketing materials, exploring additional revenue streams through licensing and other partnerships, and overall increasing its adoption readiness. During the cycle, the CySAT team also sought additional potential partnership or future funding opportunities, to further increase the tool's TRL.

How do I apply?

Use the application instructions (guide) as you create your account and to complete your application.

CECA uses Mmentive, also known as Survey Monkey Apply, to collect information from the applicants. You can access the site at any time using [this link](#). If you have questions or have problems with the platform, please contact CECA@nrel.gov for assistance.

To create your application:

1. **Register to apply.** Visit the [CECA application](#) portal and select **Apply**. After entering the name of your technology, select **Register** in the top right corner of the browser. Fill out the required fields to create your account. You will receive an email to verify your account. If it does not appear in your inbox, be sure to check your spam folder. You will not be able to submit applications or complete certain tasks until you verify your email address. Once verified, you will receive another email confirming your registration with a link to the applicant portal. The email address you provide will be the one we use to contact you for further CECA communications.
2. **Identify you are a “technology applying to a program.”** Before starting your application, you need to complete an eligibility profile. Select **Fill Out Eligibility Form**. Next, select **I’m a technology applying for a program** and select **CECA** as the program you are applying for. Then select **Submit**.
3. **Name your application.** Next, you will see the Programs page. Select **More** on the next page, select **Apply**, and then provide your technology name to name your application, then select **Create Application**.
4. **Complete application tasks.** On the left-hand side of the application screen, you will see a progress bar with the number of application tasks you have completed. In the center of the screen, you will see the tasks assigned to you (e.g., Terms & Conditions, Basic Information, Eligibility, Section A, and so on.)

To begin, select any of the tasks. While completing a task, you have the following options:

- **Save and Continue Editing.** Use if you are not done and would like to continue working on the task later. Note, the Momentive platform autosaves every 20 seconds.
 - **Mark as Complete.** Use if you are done with the task. After marking as complete, you will be taken to a page to review your answers. If you would like to make edits, select the in the upper right corner and select **Edit** from the drop-down menu.
5. **Invite a collaborator.** You can invite your colleague(s) to collaborate on your application. Click on the **Add Collaborator** button on the left and enter your collaborator’s email, type of access you want to provide (View only or View + Edit), and an optional message. Your collaborator(s) will receive an email with a link to access the application.
 6. **Submit the application.** Once you have completed all the tasks, select **Review & Submit**. Once submitted, your application is still available to edit any time before the deadline.

I have a question about the application of the program. Who should I contact?
CECA@nrel.gov

Who will review the applications?

The review team consists of the CECA team along with CESER. Utility advisors and other DOE stakeholders may also provide input in the review and selection process.

When will I hear back after I apply?

Cycle A technology selection and notifications to all applicants will take place in June. Cycle A technology selection and notifications to all applicants will take place in June 2025.

How many technologies are accepted into CECA acceleration cycles?

Cycle A plans to select one technology to accelerate. Future cycles may be able to select more than one technology/applicant at a time.

What will I receive if my technology is selected for a CECA cycle?

Once the technology has been selected, a SOW will be provided and when agreed upon, funding will be provided to the technology owner. The technology owner will then partner with CECA and CESER to deliver on the time bound deliverables in the SOW and complete the cycle.

- The selected technology owner (team) will work with the CECA team to complete an initial intake to determine the baseline technology state and identify development goals (or critical technology elements and gaps) for the technology team to navigate during test iteration cycles.
- An exit assessment will also be conducted to support further commercialization activities and growth of the technology.
- NREL researchers will create the test environment and work with the technology owner to deploy and configure the technology in a replication of its operating environment under normal conditions.
- The technology will receive a series of iterative tests using the NREL ARIES platform and cyber range to test the technology against real-world scenarios.
- The testing cycle is a highly collaborative iterative process in which technologies are tested, NREL researchers suggest improvements, the technology owner makes improvements, and more tests are developed and run. This process will repeat as needed to mature the targeted areas for improvement.

What is DOE CESER's role in CECA Cycle A?

CESER has the following roles in Cycle A:

- Directs and funds Cycle A
- Selects the DOE technology to be accelerated in each cycle
- Informs program managers and offices within CESER of upcoming cycle applications.