### Merit Review Criteria

As a guide to the Accelerator and Detector Program Comparative Review (ADR CR) reviewers are asked to evaluate each project against the following criteria:

* Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
* Appropriateness of the Method or Approach;
* Competency of Applicant’s Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
* Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Budget.

The questions below are provided as a guidance to points relevant to each of the criteria above:

#### **Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Proposed Research**

* What is the scientific and/or technical innovation of the research?
* How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
* What is the likelihood of achieving valuable results?
* Does the work have the potential to significantly impact the ADR Program?
* How does the work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?
* Is the work synergistic with, but not duplicative of, existing projects?

#### **Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach**

* Do the project’s summary and presentation clearly describe the work’s current stage, and the technical gaps that must be addressed to fully realize the project’s goals?
* Do the project’s summary and presentation clearly describe specific technical milestones that can be used to evaluate the progress of the R&D?
* Does the work employ innovative concepts or methods?
* How logical and feasible are the approaches?
* Does/do the PI(s) recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?

#### **Competency of Applicant’s Personnel and Adequacy of Resources**

* Does the work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?
* Are the environment and facilities adequate for performing the proposed effort?
* Is the amount of institutional commitment offered adequate?
* If a collaborative project:
* What is the performance of the leading members of the collaboration?
* Are the roles and responsibilities of all key participants well defined?
* How well does the collaboration progress?

#### **Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget**

* Are the budget and staffing levels adequate to carry out the work?
* Is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the scope?

**Scoring System Definition:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualifier** | **Fails**  **Completely** | **Significant Problems** | **Some Problems** | **Minimally meets expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** | **Excellent** | **Outstanding** |
| **Score** | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |