

# Argonne National Laboratory

## Budget Justification: DE-FOA-0003176

Uncertainty-Robust Machine-Learning-Based Feature Engineering  
Walter Hopkins, Physicist

### A Senior/Key Person

The PI is the only senior person that will be funded and will be funded at an average of 0.5 FTE. The average cost per budget period is \$138,883 of which \$107,661 is the requested salary and \$31,222 comes from fringe benefits. The total direct costs associated with the PI's effort is \$694,414.

### B Other Personnel

Other personnel will include an average of 2.0 FTE of postdocs. One postdocs, at 1.0 FTE, will be hired at the beginning the first budget period while another postdoc, also at 1.0 FTE, will be hired six months later. The contract of the postdoc will end at the end of the fourth and beginning of the last budget period. Funding for graduate students is not included in the proposed budget because laboratories typically do not fund graduate students. However, the PI will collaborate with local universities through the ATLAS Center and work with students through DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research and the Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship programs.

### C Equipment

The requested equipment consists of two laptops for the two postdocs that will be funded for the proposed work and is expected to have a total direct cost of \$6,418.

### D Travel

Travel will mainly consist of trips to CERN for the PI and postdocs. Based on previous experience, travel to CERN costs \$3000 per trip. About two trips per year and per person will be made to CERN. These trips will be to attend the ATLAS Physics, Machine Learning Forum, and E/gamma meetings which are held multiple times a year. The Physics meetings are essential in communicating with ATLAS collaborators and making sure the proposed methods have an impact on ATLAS.

In addition to trips to CERN, two domestic trips to conferences to highlight results are foreseen every year. Based on previous experience, these trips cost \$1500. Table 1 shows the breakdown of travel costs for each budget period. Examples of conferences where new physics search results can be shown are LHCP or ICHEP. These are international conferences that can occur anywhere in the world but the ones that will be domestic will be chosen. For the machine learning work, conferences such as CHEP and ACAT will be considered.

Table 1: Travel budget and trips per period. Indirect costs are not included.

	Domestic trips	International trips	Travel Funds
Budget period 1	2	5	\$18,000
Budget period 2	2	5	\$18,000
Budget period 3	2	5	\$18,000
Budget period 4	2	5	\$18,000
Budget period 5	3	5	\$19,500
Total	11	25	\$91,500

## E Participant/Trainee Support Costs

Not applicable.

## F Other Direct Costs

There are no other direct costs other than the personnel, equipment, and travel costs listed above.

## G Direct Costs

The total direct costs are \$1,802,920 of which \$1,705,002 is in salaries for the PI and postdocs, \$6,418 is for equipment, and \$91,500 is for travel.

## H Other Indirect Costs

Argonne uses several indirect rates and basis for distribution of indirect expenses. The different indirect rates for FY2024 and beyond are shown in Table 2. The total indirect costs, which depend on the mix of costs from various expense categories, are \$947,080 which is equivalent to a combined total rate of 53%. In addition to these indirect rates that are applied to direct costs, an LDRD indirect cost is added but is applied to the total cost (direct+non-LDRD indirect costs).

Table 2: Indirect cost rates for different expense categories.

	FY2023 rate	Applied to
Common Support	33.4%	Effort and other non-M&S costs
IGPP/IGPE	1.1%	Effort and other non-M&S costs
M&S	6.4%	Materials and services
General and Admin	7.2%	All direct costs
Physical Sciences and Engineering ALD	4.6%	All direct costs
LDRD	3.7%	All costs (direct and non-LDRD indirect)

## I Total Direct and Indirect Costs

The total cost of this proposal is \$2,750,000.

## J Contracting Officer's concurrence to participate



### Department of Energy

Argonne Site Office  
9800 South Cass Avenue  
Argonne, Illinois 60439

March 21, 2024

Diane M. Hart  
Manager, Sponsored Research and Contract Administration  
Argonne National Laboratory  
9700 S. Cass Avenue  
Lemont, IL 60439

Dear Ms. Hart:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL FOR ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY TO RESPOND

TO: **DOE SC**  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT: **DE-FOA-0003176**  
CFDA NUMBER: **81.049**  
TITLED: *Early Career Research Program (ECRP)*

Authorization is granted for the Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) to submit or participate in a proposal in response to the subject financial assistance opportunity or other solicitation. The work proposed for Argonne is consistent with or complementary to the missions of the Laboratory and will not adversely impact execution of the current DOE assigned programs at the Argonne. This work will not place Argonne in direct competition with the private sector.

Argonne is managed and operated by UChicago Argonne, LLC for the Department of Energy (DOE) under prime contract Contract NO. DE-AC02-06CH11357. All work conducted by Argonne is subject to the terms and conditions of this contract. It must be clear that no additional terms and conditions, including any specific flow down requirements to subcontractors, are accepted by the action of the Argonne submitting a proposal or participating as a member in a proposal under the subject financial assistance opportunity or other solicitation. In rare instances, additional terms and conditions may be considered by DOE on a case-by-case basis but must be reviewed and approved by DOE before an award or funding is accepted by DOE and/or Argonne.

If Argonne is expected to receive any direct DOE program funding, the DOE sponsor must follow the requirements under DEAR 970.5211-1 Work Authorization and DOE Order 412.1A. Again, no additional terms and conditions are accepted by Argonne Laboratory under a DOE funding action.

Should you have any questions concerning this authorization please contact me at (630) 252-2193 or [jacquelyn.brock@science.doe.gov](mailto:jacquelyn.brock@science.doe.gov).

#### **ANL USE ONLY**

DTN: DOE-137-NLR-24051-24

AA

Sincerely,

**JACQUELYN  
BROCKER**

Digitally signed by  
JACQUELYN BROCKER  
Date: 2024.03.21  
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Jacquelyn D. Brocker  
Contracting Officer

A component of the Office of Science