Proposal Requirements Guide
Requirements and recommendations for submitting a winning proposal in 2022

Advances in technology continue to drive rapid change in the design and make industries. Autodesk University is the conference that brings together thought leaders and innovators from the fields of architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and media to share how they’re approaching digital transformation, adapting to challenges, and seizing new opportunities.

During our Call for Proposals, we seek submissions for a range of learning content that will be presented at the conference. This year, we want to balance “how-to” content, including peer-to-peer training about workflows and product features, with proposals focused on insights, business strategy, and thought leadership. In other words, rather than focusing your proposal on how you did something, broaden your story to share what you achieved, how you made those decisions, and why it matters.

Tell us how you’re advancing practice in your field, driving greater sustainability in your projects, leveraging data across the project lifecycle, and developing deeper understanding of the topics, trends, and technologies shaping today’s industries. We’re looking for speakers to do more than share tips and tricks—we want you to share breakthroughs, inspire innovation, and motivate positive change.

- What transformative industry practices are you pioneering?
- How are you connecting your people, partners, projects, processes, and data?
- How are you breaking down siloes within your organization and sharing data?
- What are you doing to reimagine how you engage with customers and deliver business value?
- How are you achieving more sustainable project outcomes and creating more sustainable products?
- How are you building a stronger business and a more equitable team?

Industry topics and themes
Click your industry below to explore the specific topics and themes we’re most interested in receiving proposals on this year.

- Architecture, Engineering & Construction
- AutoCAD & General Design
- Construction
- Forge
- Media & Entertainment
- Product Design & Manufacturing

Call for Proposals FAQ
Click on the question below to jump directly to the answer within the FAQ.

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Architecture, Engineering & Construction

With demand for new buildings growing, it’s never been more important for us to build better, using processes that are smarter, more efficient, and more sustainable. That means moving from CAD to BIM, continuing the digitalization of AEC processes, and advancing cloud collaboration. It means embracing the possibilities of digital twins. And it means keeping data at the center of the process. With an integrated design and build ecosystem, we are connecting and engaging with stakeholders better from the very start and implementing new workflows that span the entire building lifecycle. Simulation and design automation are improving modeling, analysis, and resource management.

Digital Transformation

- Tell us how you are implementing innovative ideas and why it matters, from practical day-to-day changes to long-term initiatives.
- How have you scaled adoption across projects and across your company? What methodologies did you employ, how did you make decisions, how did you measure success, and how did you maintain governance?
- How and why are you using Autodesk Tandem to create a digital twin of your physical assets?
- How are you using Revit, 3ds Max, and other tools for design visualization in your projects?
- What have you achieved using AI in early-stage design with tools like generative design in Revit or Spacemaker?
- How are you automating time-consuming tasks with Grading Optimization for Civil 3D?
- How are you using Insight to analyze data, deepen your understanding of your projects and processes, and make better decisions?
- In what ways are you using BIM and simulation tools from Innovyze in water infrastructure projects?
- How has Generative Design in Revit impacted your projects and/or your business? How are you using it to increase creativity, solve challenges, or iterate more rapidly? What case studies, insights, or thought leadership can you share?
- How are you using Forge to transform your business and reimagine how you connect with customers?
- How are you connecting workflows among Civil 3D, Revit, InfraWorks, and Navisworks?
- How are the simulation capabilities in Navisworks Simulate helping you to achieve better civil engineering outcomes?
- How are you using reality capture capabilities in ReCap to document as-built structures and inform design processes?
Platform

- How and why are you using **project data and the Forge platform** to better connect your teams, processes, and partners? What have you achieved?
- As an owner, how are you using a **cloud-based common data environment** to maximize the full value of AEC project data and empower decision making throughout the lifecycle?
- How has connecting teams and stakeholders using Forge, Autodesk Construction Cloud, BIM 360, or BIM Collaborate changed your project delivery?
- How are you connecting Revit and Civil 3D models with ArcGIS through ArcGIS GeoBIM? What benefits have you seen?
- How are you connecting workflows in Revit and Inventor? How are you harnessing tools and processes from other industries in your projects?
- How is Revit helping you create and maintain a “single source of truth” for your projects?
- How are you connecting your infrastructure projects with Collaboration for Civil 3D?

Sustainability

- How are you identifying and optimizing for **more sustainable solutions** in your work? How are you measuring the outcomes of more sustainable projects?
- How and with what results are you demonstrating a commitment to green building? Do you have a case study to share?
- How are you preparing your workforce for the future of work, including how to thrive in the era of automation?
- How and why are you creating a more diverse team and a more inclusive workplace?
- What insights or breakthroughs can you share about building resiliency in your workforce, your buildings, and your company?
- Has automation helped you achieve your sustainability goals? How?
- How has your typical process adapted to iterative design technologies?
- In what ways has Insight enabled you to make more sustainable design decisions and create more energy-efficient solutions? What had the greatest sustainable impact?
- How do you utilize BIM data with an Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS) to improve operational efficiency and reduce environmental impacts?
- How have generative design capabilities in Revit helped you increase the sustainability of your projects?
- How are you using Revit, Dynamo, and the EC3 calculator to reduce embodied carbon of your projects?
- How has Spacemaker helped you achieve better outcomes through early-stage design and site planning?
- Has this improved the sustainability, resilience, and livability of your projects?
- How has Innovyz helped you with water conservation and resource management?

AutoCAD & General Design

AutoCAD is trusted by millions for 2D and 3D design. Tell us how you are continuing to innovate and advance your practice to design and make a better world for all with AutoCAD.

Digital Transformation

- How are you improving efficiency in your workflows using new features?
- How are you automating tasks, including design automation?
- How are you using the specialized toolsets in AutoCAD to save time and increase productivity?
- How are you customizing your AutoCAD deployment to better meet the needs of your team? How are you leveraging AutoLISP, the Autodesk App Store, and the Forge Platform?
- In what ways are you approaching AutoCAD to do more for your business?
• How are you advancing your AutoCAD workflows with 3D modeling?
• What insights can you share about analyzing data and extracting insights from AutoCAD to make better decisions?

Platform
• How are you automating and extending AutoCAD workflows using the Forge Platform and by connecting to other Autodesk tools like Revit, Autodesk Docs, and the Autodesk Construction Cloud?
• How are you connecting AutoCAD across desktop, web, and mobile platforms to improve outcomes?
• What have you achieved by integrating work in AutoCAD with other third-party tools and industry partners, including cloud storage providers and hardware vendors?

Sustainability
• How are you using AutoCAD to improve the sustainability and resiliency of your projects?
• How has AutoCAD been used in more diverse teams and a more inclusive workplace?
• In what ways are you preparing your workforce for the future using AutoCAD?

Construction
New technologies and new approaches are transforming what’s possible in construction. The inefficiencies in process and material usage that once defined the industry are giving way to connected teams and workflows that ensure the right people have the right data when they need it, wherever they are. Construction firms are rapidly scaling and adopting technology that improves the entire project lifecycle. Through an integrated approach to people, processes and technology, construction teams are delivering long-term value to their clients, improving project delivery methods, and future-proofing the business of construction.

Digital Transformation
• What will the future of construction look like, and what steps are you taking to get there?
• Tell us how you’re leading by implementing innovation in your projects, from practical day-to-day changes to long-term initiatives?
• How have you scaled adoption of technology across projects and across your company—what methodologies did you employ, how did you make decisions, how did you measure success, and how did you maintain governance?
• How are you piloting new technologies and workflows to innovate your operations and with what results?
• How and why are you using data to better connect your teams, processes, and partners? What have you achieved utilizing the power of data in construction?
• Are you implementing programs to address diversity in construction and foster new ideas and perspectives while creating a more inclusive workplace? What has the process been like and what are the results?
• How are you training and upskilling your workforce to adapt to new workflows and changing processes?
• As an owner, in what ways are you implementing and consolidating technology like Autodesk Construction Cloud across capital projects for better construction outcomes?
• As a specialty contractor, what do you need to consider when working with other teams, and how does your implementation of technology vary from general contractors?
• How are you tapping into new business opportunities by investing in additional services or expanding your workflows?
Platform

- What have you achieved by integrating tools across a platform to manage your project lifecycle and improve project delivery?
- How are different procurement models helping you get better construction outcomes? How are they affecting technology implementation across stakeholders?
- How have you migrated from PlanGrid or BIM 360 to Autodesk Construction Cloud Unified platform? What benefits have you realized?
- What insights can you share about using the Autodesk Construction Cloud to manage estimation, quantification, bids, and scheduling in project management? How have Autodesk Takeoff, BuildingConnected, ProEst, and Autodesk Build increased efficiency?
- How are you using Autodesk Construction Cloud to improve construction site quality, safety, and commissioning processes for field management?
- Do you use Autodesk Docs for document management? How are you managing sheets, models, and documents, implementing standards and mandates, such as a common data environment?
- How do BIM and connected data change how you coordinate, collaborate, and work with teams in the field? How are they helping you innovate and differentiate your business?
- In what ways and with what results are you using the AEC Collection, Autodesk BIM Collaborate, and Autodesk BIM Collaborate Pro for BIM management?

Sustainability

- How are you preparing your business and your workforce for the future of work?
- Are you utilizing sustainable construction practices such as better material management, prefabrication, and industrialized construction? What positive environmental effects have you realized?
- How and why are you implementing lean construction methodologies and what successes are you seeing, both in productivity and sustainability?
- How are you measuring the sustainability of your projects achieving operational excellence across your company?
- What breakthroughs or insights can you share about connecting suppliers across supply chains to produce less waste in both materials and time?
- In what ways are you building resiliency in your workforce, your projects, and your company?
- How are you using technology to improve the health and safety of construction workers?
- As a capital project owner, how are you looking to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals during construction and into handover and use?

Forge

Autodesk Forge is a design and make platform offering tools and services that accelerate your digital transformation journey and help you achieve the business goals you desire today. Forge offers a growing ecosystem of pre-built APIs and services you can use to automate, connect, and streamline your data, workflows, and processes. Forge is also Autodesk’s platform for the future, powering our vertical industry solutions and a vast ecosystem of specialized solutions from our partners, and opening entirely new ways to innovate and solve challenges faster than ever before. Tell us what projects and outcomes you can share to inspire others in your industry.

Digital Transformation

- How are you automating processes and streamlining workflows, from design and engineering to configuration and sales?
- Have you unlocked new ways to create competitive advantage and transform your business?
• How do you visualize data, create insights, and improve decision making?

Platform
• How are you connecting data, products, processes, and people, especially as part of your overall business strategy?
• What case studies can you share that demonstrate what’s possible with Forge?

Sustainability
• How have you improved the sustainability and resiliency of your projects?
• How has Forge helped to reduce carbon emissions in building design?
• How has Forge helped build a safer and healthier work environment?
• How are you preparing your workforce for the future using Forge?

Media & Entertainment
With the rise in popularity of streaming services, games, virtual reality, and even the metaverse, global demand for entertainment is growing at an unprecedented rate, and so is demand for better visualization and storytelling across industries. We can meet these demands through continued innovation and adopting next-gen technologies that accelerate creative workflows. New data standards and open platforms are making it easier to share and reuse high-quality assets, reducing waste and redundancy. Production pipelines are becoming scalable and comprehensive in the cloud. Animation, modeling, and VFX workflows have evolved to help artists work faster, and rendering has hit new levels of realism. 3D professionals are learning how to better connect, collaborate from anywhere, and scale their work—all while reducing costs and honing their craft to tell stories in more compelling ways.

Digital Transformation
• Tell us how you are implementing innovative ideas and new ways of working in your projects, such as cloud-connected workflows, real-time engines, proceduralism, and open standards?
• How does working with Maya or 3ds Max in a USD pipeline make it easier to collaborate and share assets within a studio or with others? What are the benefits to your projects, your teams, your business?
• How are you using ShotGrid to better connect your teams and adapt to the accelerated move to the cloud and remote work?
• In what ways are you using virtual production or cloud collaboration to reduce on-set staff, make real-time decisions about VFX and animation, and tighten the production process?
• Tell us how you are digitizing your pipeline in the world of digital commerce to elevate your customer experience. Are you creating customized immersive experiences or other innovative ideas?
• What will the future of M&E look like, and what steps are you taking to get there?

Platform
• How have cloud-based production pipelines changed your team’s workflows and how you collaborate?
• How are you using open standards like USD in Maya or glTF in 3ds Max to standardize and easily share data and/or further customize your pipeline?
• How has Unreal Live Link for Maya enhanced your workflows by allowing you to work in real time for virtual production, previsualization, or games?
• How are you leveraging ShotGrid cloud-based production tracking tools to improve resource planning? What results have you seen?
• In what ways are you using ShotGrid to streamline the creative review process and iterate more quickly?
• How are you using Bifrost to create procedural simulations and effects with greater flexibility and speed?
• How does Flame enable you to work faster and solve production issues?

Sustainability

• Are you using the cloud to transform your production pipeline? In what ways is this unlocking opportunities to better collaborate and scale, and drive reusability, thus reducing the costs and improving the way you make things?
• Share best practices for reducing waste and redundancy through data standards.
• In what ways are you using advanced animation performance features in Maya to reduce digital waste and rework?
• How are you increasing efficiency (reducing waste, saving energy) from on-set to post-production?
• How are you using digitalization to improve efficiencies, work-life balance for employees, or other outcomes?

Product Design & Manufacturing

The world is demanding more from manufacturing—more products, more customization, with less impact. We can meet these challenges only through embracing continued innovation and being willing to reinvent what and how we make. Cloud collaboration and cloud-based tools are enabling the connected flow of data among projects, processes, people, and partners. Automation, generative design, and open platforms have put data squarely in the center of the process. We can now use the same data for different workflows, different personas, different purposes—and make decisions in early-stage design based on insights about real-world outcomes.

Digital Transformation

• How are you using extended reality (XR) to revolutionize data interaction and project collaboration?
• Why and how are you using data to better connect your teams, workflows, processes, and partners? What have you achieved?
• How is Integrated Factory Modeling changing how you work, combining BIM and factory CAD data, alongside cloud collaboration tools like Autodesk Construction Cloud?
• How are you using design automation in Inventor to increase engineering efficiency?
• What breakthroughs and insights have you unlocked through PDM and PLM workflow automation?
• In what ways are you using Fusion 360 to increase product development agility and/or optimize the design to manufacturing process on the shop floor?
• How have you used the injection molding capabilities found within the Fusion 360 Simulation Extension to add value to your manufacturing process? What benefits have you seen? Have you used it in conjunction with the Product Design Extension?
• What improvements to your design process or business have been accomplished with generative design capabilities in Fusion 360 and Inventor?
• What have you achieved using Forge in conjunction with iLogic to create automation in manufacturing or distributed IIot networks?
• In what ways and with what results have VRED and 3ds Max been adopted in the factory environment, product development cycles, or automotive design?

Platform

• How have you become a leader in smart manufacturing using the Forge platform to deliver cloud collaboration, automation, and data analytics?
• What new processes are you using to improve product quality, safety, and management?
• How are you engaging customers in the product design process?
• How has connected data and a common data environment in Forge helped your business?
• How are you using **Upchain** to manage new product introductions regardless of CAD platform?
• How and why are you coordinating **collaboration** using **Vault** or **Upchain** or **Fusion Manage Extension**? What are the results?
• Have your **PD&M workflows converged with AEC workflows**? Are you using FDX and Revit interoperability to connect your design and manufacturing processes in the factory environment?
• How are you connecting workflows between **Inventor** and **Fusion 360** and what benefits have you seen?
• How are you using **ShotGrid** to coordinate production?
• How are you using **ProdSmart** to connect **factory production management**, manufacturing scheduling, and shop floor visibility?

**Sustainability**

• Are you **reducing the use of material and energy** in the creation and manufacturing of your products? Tell us about your methods, decisions, insights, results, business strategy.
• In what ways are you using more **sustainable materials** in your design?
• How is **generative design** helping you **reduce material use**?
• How are you **preparing your workforce** to **thrive in the era of automation**?
• What breakthroughs have you achieved in **building resiliency** in your workforce, your products, your company, and your supply chain?
• How are you using technology to **improve to health and safety of your workers**?
• How are you applying **DFMA** to identify, quantify, and eliminate waste or inefficiency in a product design?
• How is BIM data and Autodesk Construction Cloud helping support your **factory optimization to reduce waste**?
• How are **automation tools such as Nesting** in Fusion 360 and Inventor helping you **optimize your materials** and reduce waste?

**Call for Proposals FAQ**

**When can I submit a proposal?**

You can submit your proposal between March 15 and April 15, 2022. Submit as early as possible to get more votes from the AU community.

**Can I submit a proposal in any language?**

We’re currently accepting submissions in English only.

**How do I submit my proposal?**

Submit your proposal via the **Call for Proposals page**. You'll need an Autodesk ID to sign in. If you don’t have an Autodesk ID, you’ll be prompted to create one. Check out the resources also available on the Call for Proposals page, including sample proposals and the Proposal Worksheet to draft your ideas prior to submitting. **Do not submit test proposals because they will show on the website.**

**If my proposal is selected, what is the time commitment to create a class?**

The time commitment to create a class exceeds 40 or more hours on average. Minimum requirements include producing a handout, presentation slides, and a video which will be recorded with an Autodesk agency (self-recordings will not be allowed this year). Session length will be assigned upon acceptance, and most formats will average 30 minutes.

**Can I propose a class for an audience with any level of experience?**

Yes. Instructional content for all experience levels is welcome. We ask that you designate the level of skill or experience your audience should have to get the most from your content (see below). Note that this year we
seek proposals focusing on insights, business strategy, and thought leadership as well as peer-to-peer training about workflows and product features.

- **Associate** (Beginner)—Entry-level professionals
- **Professional** (Intermediate)—Mid-career and seasoned professionals
- **Expert** (Advanced)—Senior-level professionals with years of experience and advanced skills
- **Not Applicable**—Content is not skills-based and is of interest to any audience; often includes industry talks with thought leadership content, case studies, panels, and some roundtables. **Note:** Managers and executives, C-level staff, VPs, and decision makers who oversee business operations are often most interested in these types of sessions.

**What class formats will be offered this year?**

We’re accepting proposals for six types of classes at this year’s conference, including one new format. Note that some formats have been renamed for alignment with our conference audiences:

- **Industry Talk**—Lecture format for sharing thought leadership, industry insights, and new perspectives on innovation. Speakers are not expected to provide in-depth product demonstrations or workflows.
- **Case Study**—A presentation of a specific project from inception through completion, spotlighting the challenges you faced, the solutions you chose, and outcomes. Share what you achieved, how you made decisions, and why it matters.
- **Technical Instruction**—A skills-based instructional format showcasing workflows, processes, and tips and tricks that can help other professionals improve.
- **Product Demo**—An opportunity for Autodesk employees, partners, sponsors, and other product experts to share updates, road maps, and insider views of product development efforts.
- **Panel**—Conversational format with 3-5 experts facilitated by the speaker showcasing multiple viewpoints and insights on an industry topic.
- **Roundtable**—Mediated discussion engaging attendees. A collaborative experience intended to help solve a challenge or answer a question shared by industry peers.

Hands-on Labs will not be offered in 2022 due to health and safety concerns.

Community Meetups will be back in-person this year. Meetups are not classes; rather, they are a way to engage with like-minded people in a more social setting. Think of classes as "formal learning" and meetups as "casual community gatherings."

We accept only proposals for classes through the Call for Proposals. Theater talk proposals will be by invitation in 2022, and article proposals are accepted year-round.

**How will classes be delivered this year?**

AU will return as an in-person conference in the United States during the last week of September 2022 (location to be announced). Though you will likely be required to pre-record your class content prior to the conference, you will also be teaching it on location in front of a live audience. Formal delivery specifications will be communicated to approved speakers.

**Who is eligible to be an AU speaker?**

AU speakers are experts in their field, presenting professional innovations and insights that can help advance their industry. The AU audience expects a dynamic, polished, and professional learning experience and subject mastery is essential. We welcome both experienced and first-time speakers and offer a strong mentorship program and training resources to support you. It’s worth noting that more than half of the 2021 class award winners were first-time AU speakers, so we take great care to balance new voices with experienced ones.
What are the technical requirements for speaking at AU?

AU speakers must provide their own laptop for teaching on-site and be able to capture high-quality video and audio prior to the conference. At minimum you need a good computer, microphone or headset, web camera, and a reliable Internet connection. We’ll review technical specs with approved speakers.

Are speakers compensated?

Speaking at AU helps you broadcast your expertise and build your reputation, so being selected to present is a high honor. Eligible primary speakers also receive one complimentary pass to the conference (travel and lodging are not included). The primary speaker is responsible for meeting AU event requirements, including submitting all class materials and completing all class tasks on time. Primary speakers with more than one accepted proposal also receive a US$400 honorarium for each additional class they lead (if eligible).

Only primary speakers receive the free conference pass and honorarium; these are not available to co-speakers, panelists, or Autodesk employees. Note that compensation may be forfeit if AU requirements are not met, including the timely submission of class materials and resources.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

You may submit multiple proposals, using a new form for each. However, if you’ve never presented at AU, it’s unlikely that more than one class proposal will be accepted.

Can I submit the same proposal from past AU events?

If you have submitted a class proposal in previous years, we do not recommend submitting the exact same proposal. Consider proposing a follow-up class that takes the topic further. We encourage proposals that build on previous topics, business practices, or product workflows.

How do I add the names of my co-presenters?

If your class is approved, you’ll be able to add the names of co-presenters and/or panelists online in the Speaker Resource Center (SRC).

Can I change or update my proposal?

Yes. You can make edits via your proposals dashboard until the submission period closes on April 15. Sign in to the AU website and click on your profile photo in the upper right. Select My Proposals from the drop-down menu. Note that changes will not be possible after the submission period closes and proposals enter the review phase. If your proposal is accepted, you will be able to make further changes.

Will voting on class proposals be available this year?

Yes. We invite the extended AU community to review proposal submissions online March 15 to April 25 and recommend those that resonate with their interests. Do not submit test proposals this year—proposal submissions are immediately displayed on the website. Each proposal will have a unique URL to share with your social networks. All proposals will also be available on the Community Voting page. The earlier you submit, the more votes you can accrue. Note that votes are only one of many factors we consider in selecting AU classes.

What is involved in the proposal selection process?

Proposals go through an extensive review process. We consider how well proposals align with the specified topics and themes, our AU audience, industry trends and best practices, the holistic AU experience, AU community votes, and how content will support year-round learning initiatives globally. We also balance new and experienced speakers to capture all voices.

How and when will I know if my proposal has been accepted?

You can check the status of your proposal beginning in late May. Sign in to the AU website and click on your profile photo in the upper right. Select My Proposals from the drop-down menu to view the status. Approved speakers will receive an email also in late May.
How many proposals are accepted each year?
We’re accepting approximately 450 classes this year. We routinely receive more than 2,200 proposals. It’s worth noting that more than half of the 2021 class award winners were first-time AU speakers. That’s an impressive and inspiring statistic, given that the AU Call for Proposals is highly competitive. Many experts submit multiple proposals over the years before they finally get one accepted.

If my proposal is selected, what are the next steps?
If your proposal is accepted, you’ll be expected to meet the program’s requirements, including the timely submission of class materials such as recorded videos, handouts, presentation decks, and other important resources to aid learning and professional development.

- **Time commitment**
  - The time commitment to create a class exceeds 40 or more hours on average.
  - Minimum requirements include producing a handout, presentation slides, and a video.
  - Session length will be assigned upon acceptance, and most formats will average 30 minutes.

- **Class materials**
  - Create a class handout that is a concise written presentation of the topic covered and/or the specific workflows and practices examined. Many high-quality handouts are published as articles. AU template is provided.
  - Produce a slide presentation that will be available on the AU website. AU template is provided.
  - Record a class video. You will teach live, but also be required to record your class video with an Autodesk agency. Exact deliverables will be discussed with approved speakers.

- **Additional requirements**
  - Sign the AU Speaker Agreement.
  - Attend or view speaker training calls and webinars.
  - Ensure your content aligns with your accepted class proposal.
  - Communicate all relevant AU information to your co-speakers and panelists (if applicable).
  - Supply your own laptop for your presentation and specify any special audiovisual or software requirements.

Who owns my session’s intellectual property once it’s accepted and posted to the AU website?
As an AU speaker, you grant Autodesk a perpetual, unlimited, royalty-free, worldwide right and license to print, reprint, distribute, use, display, and redistribute all or any portion of the session’s materials. These are licensed under Creative Commons. You’ll find details in the AU Speaker Agreement once accepted.

Where can I find general information about the conference?
Visit the AU website for the latest information on dates, registration, cost, and more.

Who can I contact with questions on my proposal?
Email au.speaker@autodeskuniversity.com with questions about proposal submissions.