



Clean. Reliable. Nuclear.

Partnering with U.S. National Laboratories

The mission of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) is to advance nuclear power as a resource capable of meeting U.S. energy, environmental, and national security needs by resolving technical, cost, safety, proliferation resistance, and security barriers through support for research, development, and demonstration (RD&D).

DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) develops the U.S. DOE's policy and vision for expanding the commercial impact of its research investments. OTT streamlines access to information and to DOE's national labs and facilities to foster partnerships that will move innovations from the labs into the marketplace.

Contracting Mechanisms for Doing Business with DOE's National Laboratories

DOE-NE's world-leading irradiation testing capabilities at INL and ORNL are certified under the International Atomic Energy Association's International Centres based on Research Reactor (ICERR) designation.

U.S. national labs can enter into agreements to provide unique research and expertise to international and U.S. companies,

nonprofit organizations, academia, and state or local governments. The labs can provide services and research capabilities related to the laboratory's mission and distinctive capabilities through many different contract mechanisms, some of which are listed on the next page:

- **Agreements for Commercializing Technology (ACT)** – DOE labs use ACT when a partner seeks highly specialized or technical services to complete a project. An ACT agreement also authorizes participating contractor-operated DOE laboratories, such as INL, to partner with businesses using





more flexible terms aligned with industry practice.

- **Strategic Partnership Projects (SPP)** (formerly known as Work for Others) – DOE labs use an SPP agreement when a partner seeks unique technical services to complete a project but does not intend to perform joint research. The partner provides the lab with the necessary resources and fully covers the costs of the work to be performed.
- **Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)** – INL and other labs use a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) when one or more partners outside the federal government and the lab intend to collaborate on a project. It protects a company's and the lab's existing intellectual property and allows the partner to share the results of a jointly conducted research and development project.

- **Technology Licensing Agreement**
 - These agreements involve granting of rights to practice DOE lab intellectual property to enable client's business plan. This mechanism is appropriate for companies interested in using INL's patents and technologies for commercial use.

It is noted that not all technology transfer mechanisms are available at each of the National Laboratories. Please contact the laboratory that you are interested in partnering with for additional information. If you are interested in more information about the DOE's overall efforts and many opportunities in technology transfer, please contact DOE's Office of Technology Transitions or seek assistance from the individual laboratories listed in this guide: <https://www.inl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Revised-Guide-Partnering-with-National-Labs-Final.pdf>.

Supporting innovation in academia through Nuclear Science User Facilities (NSUF)

DO-NE also supports innovation in academia by collaborating with university and other partners, to include international partners under specific guidelines. DOE-NE has established the Nuclear Science User Facilities (NSUF). NSUF offers unparalleled research opportunities for nuclear energy researchers, in which users are provided access to world-class nuclear research facilities, technical expertise from experienced scientists and engineers, and assistance with experiment design, assembly, safety analysis, and examination.

For more information, visit us at energy.gov/ne