

Department of Energy

Fiscal Year 2023 Conference Activity

Conferences play an important role in advancing the Department of Energy's (DOE) priorities by providing opportunities for collaboration with academia, the scientific community, and other stakeholders on our national security, environment, energy, and science missions. While conferences serve a valuable purpose, DOE continues to manage conference activity in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

To ensure costs were appropriately controlled when sponsoring and approving participation in a conference, DOE confirmed that all conference-related costs were authorized. Conference planners, Agency sponsors, and attendees all understood their responsibility to conserve funds. DOE invoked widely accepted cost control measures for each conference. Key measures included ensuring conference attendance was necessary, encouraging the use of Federal Facilities, consolidation of conferences, and placing limitations on provision of food and beverage as a direct cost to the Government. Also, conference planners were encouraged to initiate early planning and explore the feasibility of conducting virtual and hybrid conferences. All traveling DOE conference participants made arrangements consistent with government travel restrictions.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, eleven (11) Program Offices within DOE conducted a total of fifteen (15) Agency-Sponsored reportable conferences. The conference themes supported their respective disciplines within DOE's multi-faceted energy, science, and security mission. Each conference was planned to promote engagement and collaboration with Department subject matter experts, industry, academia, and US, Tribal and international communities of interest.

**Department of Energy
Fiscal Year 2023 Conference Activity**

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2022 International Conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR)	<p>The 2022 RERTR was a meeting held in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to highlight global progress toward eliminating highly enriched uranium (HEU) in research reactors around the world.</p> <p>The main objective of the annual RERTR conference was to present and review project progress toward the core conversion of research reactors from HEU to low enriched uranium fuels with international collaborators of Material Management and Minimization (M3) HEU minimization programs, primarily the reactor conversion, fuel development and nuclear material removal efforts.</p>	<p>2 – 5 October, 2022</p>	<p>Vienna</p>	<p>Austria</p>	<p>71</p>	<p>\$196,772</p>

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Mo-99 International Symposium	The 2022 International Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) Symposium was a meeting held in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency to highlight global progress toward eliminating highly enriched uranium (HEU) from medical isotope production, showcasing global non-HEU Mo-99 production technologies, and provided a technical and policy forum for discussion of Mo-99 industry and supply issues. The conference also served as a public workshop to provide updates on the Mo-99 Program Plan as required by the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2012.	5 – 7 October, 2022	Vienna	Austria	35	\$109,652
2022 Energy Exchange	The Energy Exchange, which is sponsored by the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), promotes key elements of the Department’s mission to support the achievement of net-zero emissions in federal operations and help ensure that federal facilities are efficient, resilient, and secure in support of continuous mission operations. The Energy Exchange provides training to agency sustainability professionals to facilitate achievement of these goals.	24 – 28 October, 2022	Cincinnati	OH, US	95	\$178,044

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
IAEA's 5th International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century	<p>The United States Government hosted the 2022 Nuclear Power Ministerial (NPM 2022) on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Ministerial, held every four years since 2005, brings together ministers from the 173 IAEA Member States to explore views on the development and deployment of nuclear power. This high-level dialogue convened both experts and government officials to address challenges and opportunities in the nuclear energy sector.</p>	<p>26 – 28 October, 2022</p>	<p>Washington</p>	<p>DC, US</p>	<p>61</p>	<p>\$2,272,335</p>
2022 Environmental Management Contract and Project Management Workshop	<p>This workshop provided an opportunity for leaders throughout the Environmental Management (EM) complex to discuss recently implemented changes, best practices, policy and procedural outcomes and several lessons learned. It is important that these interactive discussions occur between federal procurement directors, project directors and operations activities managers, as well as EM functional offices. The workshop highlighted the Program's continuous improvements in the planning and execution of its overall cleanup program, contracts and projects while providing an opportunity for Headquarters (HQ) and Field Offices to identify solutions that add to the efficiency of EM's management efforts.</p>	<p>1 – 3 November, 2022</p>	<p>Covington</p>	<p>KY, US</p>	<p>111</p>	<p>\$140,073</p>

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2023 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit	The annual Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) Energy Innovation Summit is dedicated to transformative energy solutions. This event brought together leaders from academia, business, and government to discuss cutting-edge energy issues and facilitate relationships to move technologies towards the marketplace. As such, this meeting was an important forum for DOE to share new ideas and information with academia, industry, government representatives, and accelerate transformational energy solutions to better advance U.S. economic and energy security goals. The objective was in direct alignment with the interests, goals, and mission of both DOE and ARPA-E.	22 – 24 March, 2023	National Harbor	MD, US	329	\$544,419
2023 DOE Project Management Workshop	The event served as a venue to discuss DOE capital asset projects, including major challenges in completing projects, best practices, and lessons learned. The conference also served as an opportunity for senior leaders to share their priorities and recognize excellence in project management.	11 – 13 April, 2023	Washington	DC, US	347	\$586,182

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2023 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit	The Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit is a key activity of the Better Buildings Initiative that allows leaders from the manufacturing, commercial building, multifamily, and public sectors to discuss decarbonization and energy efficiency challenges, solutions, and proven strategies. This in-person meeting was critical to fostering collaboration across the manufacturing industry and public and private sectors that will advance energy efficiency best practices, technology adoption, and decarbonization pathways.	11 – 13 April, 2023	Washington	DC, US	108	\$159,675
2023 EMI SIG Annual Meeting	This year was the 37th Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG) Annual Meeting where emergency management professionals and response subject matter experts throughout the Department, along with local, state, federal and international stakeholders assembled to identify common policy issues, standard procedures, current initiatives, lessons learned and best practices to better implement continuity of operations and emergency management programs across the Department in support of the DOE/NNSA mission and Emergency Management Enterprise goals.	25 – 27 April, 2023	Denver	CO, US	163	\$423,206

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference	The DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference was designed to bring together the DOE enterprise, the federal interagency, academia, international partners, and private industry to advance cybersecurity and information technology, and information sharing efforts across DOE's diverse and shared missions.	8 – 11 May, 2023	Minneapolis	MN, US	454	\$1,086,069
2023 Department of Energy's (DOE's) Small Business Forum and Expo	The Secretary of Energy supports America's small businesses and encourages all Agency program elements to examine and expand their contract opportunities. Additionally, the Secretary encourages DOE's Facility Management Contracts (FMCs) to expand the diversity of subcontracts to small businesses. This is in support of the Administration's commitment in assisting America's small businesses with growing and prospering. This event was held in direct support of this mission.	10 – 12 July, 2023	New Orleans	LA, US	166	\$383,225
ASCR Basic Research Needs in Quantum Computing and Networking Workshop	The purpose of the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) workshop was to explore the science and engineering advances that are needed to develop our Nation's quantum computing and networking capabilities. Accelerated basic research to develop the foundation for our Nation's quantum computing and networking capabilities is central to the DOE mission to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.	11 – 13 July, 2023	Gaithersburg	MD, US	70	\$270,976

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2023 Energy Storage Grand Challenge Summit	This year's summit brought together stakeholders from across the DOE, industry, technology innovator ecosystem, and end user landscape to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange on the state of energy storage. The summit fostered valuable discussions and focused on engaging with a diverse set of energy storage stakeholders specifically to inform how DOE will formulate strategies and pathways to accelerate energy storage innovation and deployment over the next decade and beyond.	25 – 27 July, 2023	Atlanta	GA, US	78	\$332,058
Basic Research Needs Workshop on Laser Technology	This Basic Research Needs Workshop assessed Research & Development (R&D) needed to enable high-impact applications of laser technology requirements to address the Department's Office of Science and other federal agency missions.	14 – 18 August, 2023	Bethesda	MD, US	95	\$314,107
Clean Cities 30th Anniversary Industry and Stakeholder Event	The Vehicle Technologies Office within DOE hosted an industry stakeholder event to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Clean Cities Coalition Network. The Technology Integration Program created a one-day agenda to highlight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE's role in establishing and building the Clean Cities network • The role of coalitions in carrying out the Clean Cities mission • The contributions of stakeholders and industry partners. 	6 – 8 September, 2023	McLean	VA, US	41	\$205,540

Compelling and Unique Circumstances for FY23 events exceeding \$500K in total DOE Net Cost

2023 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center
National Harbor, MD

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver

The 2023 Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) Energy Innovation Summit is dedicated to transformative energy solutions. This annual event brings together leaders from academia, business, and government to discuss cutting-edge energy issues and facilitate relationships to move technologies towards the marketplace. As such, this meeting is an important forum for the Department of Energy (DOE) to share new ideas and information with academia, industry, and government representatives and accelerate transformational energy solutions to better advance U.S. economic and energy security goals. This objective is in direct alignment with the interests, goals, and mission of both DOE and ARPA-E.

This meeting will allow DOE and its representatives to advance energy related science and technology and participate in technology transfer and outreach activities, including: 1) presentation of ARPA-E-funded R&D projects; 2) participation in discussion panels; 3) collaborative engagement with representatives from industry, academia, and government; and 4) sharing best practices on core concepts and skills to transition and accelerate ARPA-E projects to the next stage of development and market adoption.

ARPA-E has an unprecedented number of active and alumni prime- and sub-award recipients from DOE National Laboratories that could benefit from the Summit's focused technology transfer programming and collaboration opportunities. This Summit will allow ARPA-E to ensure that the National Laboratories can showcase their ARPA-E-funded projects instead of ARPA-E significantly limiting attendees from the National Laboratories. The Summit will also ensure that relevant technology transfer and licensing personnel from the National Laboratories can attend the event.

Secretarial Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations of the Acting Director of ARPA-E, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on attendance at this conference is the most cost-effective option to achieving a compelling purpose.



David M. Turk
Deputy Secretary of Energy

09/20/2022

Date

5th International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century
26-28 October 2022
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C., USA

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:


The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has selected the United States to host the Fifth International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century. The Ministerial, held every four years since 2005, brings together minister-level officials, along with government and private sector experts, from the IAEA's 173 Member States. Participants will engage in meaningful dialogue on the role of nuclear power in the transition to clean energy sources, contributing to sustainable development and combatting climate change. Conference attendees will discuss and exchange views on key issues related to the development and deployment of nuclear power, including its contributions to the post-pandemic economic recovery.

The United States will be the first country in the Americas to host the Ministerial, following the success of previous Ministerials organized by France in 2005, China in 2009, Russia in 2013, and the United Arab Emirates in 2017. France, Russia, and China are major competitors to the United States in civil nuclear technology exports. The Ministerial provides an opportunity to facilitate exports of U.S. technology through government to government bilateral meetings. It will also allow our industry partners to hold events on the margins of the conference, where they will showcase the range of U.S. technology that can assist other member countries in meeting their energy and decarbonization goals. A major outcome of the Ministerial will be a forward-looking Concluding Statement given by the U.S. President of the Conference.

The U.S. Government (USG), through the Department of Energy, successfully bid to host the Ministerial over a competing proposal by another IAEA Member State. The IAEA and its Director General, Rafael Grossi, has placed its trust in the USG to host a successful and productive conference. Due to the high profile nature of the event, the expectations of the USG as the host, and the significant opportunity the Ministerial provides to further U.S. energy and decarbonization goals on an international stage, we are requesting a waiver to the \$500,000 limit to expenditures.

Secretarial Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations of the Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on attendance at this conference is the most cost effective option to achieving a compelling purpose.



Deputy Secretary of Energy

06/14/21

Date

2023 Project Management Workshop
Hilton National Mall The Wharf
Washington, DC

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver

The 2023 Project Management Workshop is the first gathering of the project management professional community since the 2019 workshop. The annual workshop is an important event which brings together senior leaders from across the Department of Energy (DOE), with program managers, Federal Project Directors, and other associated personnel who work on capital asset acquisition for the Department. The Office of Project Management provides updates on recent developments to the DOE Order 413.3B, *Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets*, which has been revised once since the previous workshop and has another revision planned for later this year.

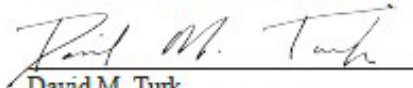
Leaders from major DOE programs, including the Office of Environmental Management and the Office of Science, provide updates on their capital asset programs. Federal Project Directors are able to share best practices and lessons learned from across the Department. General purpose presentations, covering the broader construction industry economics, workforce issues, and leadership, are also on the agenda. The workshop is also the venue where DOE recognizes its top performing project management teams, with the annual presentation of the Project Management Awards, covering the previous fiscal year.

This waiver will improve project management across DOE by reinforcing best practices and promulgating policy updates. This waiver will also facilitate improved communications and inclusion across the various programs conducting capital asset acquisition under DOE O 413.3B.

This is the first time the Workshop has exceeded \$500,000. The venue is honoring the 2020 contract price, however higher travel costs and increased attendance caused an increase in the original estimated net cost.

Secretarial Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations of the Director of the Office of Project Management, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on attendance at this conference is the most cost-effective option to achieving a compelling purpose.



David M. Turk
Deputy Secretary of Energy

02/1/2023

Date

2023 DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 8-11, 2023 (tentative)

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

The DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference is an annual capstone event designed to strengthen relationships, provide training and practical exercises to enhance the capabilities of the Information Technology (IT), Operational Technology (OT) and cyber workforce, and share best practices and lessons learned promoting cybersecurity and innovation priorities. The agenda is being crafted to drive innovation and cyber priorities in a way that dovetails with the Secretary's goals of combating the climate crisis, creating clean energy union jobs, and promoting energy justice.

The 2023 DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference will bring together the DOE enterprise, the federal interagency, academia, international partners, energy sector owners and operators, and other private sector leaders for thoughtful conversations about advancing cybersecurity, modernizing IT and OT environments and solutions, sharing tools, technology, and best practices with the energy industry, and developing technical solutions to meet national challenges.

Since 2004, OCIO has hosted these conferences to address critical technology innovation and cybersecurity issues for DOE. The conferences provide timely opportunities for stakeholders to evaluate their individual program, office, or site efforts from a broader enterprise perspective, and enable collaboration across the shared mission space.

The 2023 conference will take place May 8-11, 2023, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference will be hosted by OCIO, and co-hosted by the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), in conjunction with Idaho National Laboratory (INL). To protect the health and safety of all conference attendees, OCIO will host a hybrid conference, which will allow for both in-person and virtual attendance. DOE hosted a similar hybrid-format conference in June, 2022 in Portland, Oregon, which was a successful and productive event with more than 1,000 participants. As such, even with a virtual component, in-person attendance at the 2023 conference is anticipated to total more than 800 in-person attendees and will require an investment of over \$500,000.

The 2023 conference agenda will be developed collaboratively, with input from across the DOE enterprise. Each session will be crafted to drive innovation and cyber priorities in alignment with the DOE mission. The conference will be a venue for training to enhance the capabilities of the workforce and equip them with best practices and information to take back to their respective offices.

Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations of the Chief Information Officer, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on attendance at the 2023 Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.



David M. Turk, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

11/30/2022

Date