U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Secretary of Energy Advisory Board

Laboratory Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Working Group

April 2024

SEAB Charge

How can DOE accelerate the deployment of technological innovation both within and outside of the National Laboratories?

How well are existing entrepreneurship programs leveraging laboratory resources to support and accelerate start-ups? How can they be improved?

Is an entrepreneurial mindset fostered within the laboratories?

Organization and Communication

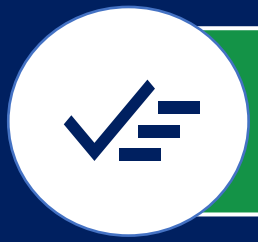
DOE should encourage cooperation across all labs to share best practices in their entrepreneurial partnering programs, and bolster efforts to involve both established and potential entrepreneurs, particularly from underserved and underrepresented communities.

Funding

DOE should find ways to increase stable funding support to entrepreneurship programs from DOE HQ for the support of Fellows and basic programmatic elements.

External Partnerships

A focus on joint venture opportunities could provide Lab Entrepreneurship participants opportunities to have their technology inserted into larger supply chains as a method to scale and have impact.



Metrics

Metrics should be developed with milestones related to desired outcomes including bridge funding for scaling up to commercial viability, and the achievement of DOE clean energy goals.

Recruitment and Mentoring

Labs should provide a timely, consistent and structured approach to orientation and mentoring. Broader outreach and participation of entrepreneurs from underserved populations should be structured into the Lab Entrepreneurship programs.

Incentives for Lab Scientists

Financial incentives and compensation structure for Lab scientists should reflect the importance of entrepreneurial thinking to DOE mission accomplishment.