

# **Department of Energy**

## **Fiscal Year 2024 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 DOE staffs' conference attendance was necessary, encouraging the use of Federal Facilities when practicable, consolidation of like-themed conferences, and adhering to regulatory 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) 2024, fifteen (15) Program Offices within DOE conducted a total of twenty-four (24) 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, Tribal, and international communities of interest.

**Department of Energy  
Fiscal Year 2024 Conference Activity**

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>DOE Sustainability Summit</b>	This Summit outlined corporate sustainability plans and progress specifically related to carbon pollution free electricity, zero emission vehicles, net zero buildings, and climate action.	17 – 18 October, 2023	Washington	DC, US	81	\$107,153
<b>US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit</b>	The US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit provided an opportunity for senior US officials to engage with their counterparts from African states planning a nuclear energy program. The event hosted multiple sessions and side events exploring issues involved in the safe and secure and sustainable development of a nuclear energy program, including infrastructure and legislative and regulatory frameworks.	30 October – 1 November, 2023	Accra	Ghana	12	\$148,541
<b>IFNEC Ministerial/Steering Committee Meeting</b>	The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) held its annual Steering Committee meeting immediately following the US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit in Accra, Ghana. High level officials represented their countries in the IFNEC meeting, providing an opportunity for the current IFNEC community to engage with potential new members to review the year's accomplishments and to consider new areas of collaboration for the organization, including potential new WG activities focusing on African and other emerging states considering nuclear programs.	2 – 3 November, 2023	Accra	Ghana	11	\$143,593

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>2023 International Conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR)</b>	<p>This 2023 international conference was held in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to highlight global progress toward eliminating highly enriched uranium research reactors around the world.</p> <p>The main objective of the annual RERTR conference is to present and review project progress toward the core conversion of research reactors from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuels with the international collaborators of M3's HEU minimization programs, primarily the reactor conversion, fuel development and nuclear material removal efforts.</p>	5 – 8 November, 2023	Denver	CO, US	69	\$229,204
<b>2023 SCEP All Hands Training Conference</b>	<p>This event provided training to Federal and Contractor staff supporting the Department's State and Community Energy Programs. This training event supported an important component of the DOE mission to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies, catalyze local economic development and create jobs, reduce energy costs, and avoid pollution through place-based strategies involving a wide range of government, community, business and other stakeholders.</p>	7 – 9 November, 2023	Washington	DC, US	164	\$238,357
<b>9th Workshop on Signatures of Man-Made Isotope Production (WOSMIP IX)</b>	<p>The 9th Workshop on Signatures of Man-Made Isotope Production (WOSMIP IX) aimed to support the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom) and united experts from radioisotope and nuclear explosion monitoring communities for this 4-day scientific meeting. The Workshop provided a unique forum for technical discussions and collaborations to discuss the impact of radioisotopes released from civil and industrial sources on nuclear explosion monitoring in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).</p>	4 – 7 December, 2023	Santiago	Chile	13	\$129,133

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>Basic Research Needs Workshop on Measurement Innovation</b>	<p>In response to the Fusion Energy Science Advisory Committee (FESAC) Long Range Plan, and the pursuit of the Administration’s Bold Decadal Vision for commercial fusion energy, there is a need to assess the diagnostic needs for public and private sector fusion efforts.</p> <p>The goal was to identify near-term diagnostic needs and opportunities that are needed by the Fusion Energy Sciences program as it enters this new era of fusion energy.</p>	9 – 11 January, 2024	Rockville	MD, US	34	\$114,119
<b>ESS Southern Coastal Workshop</b>	<p>This workshop addressed the experimental and observational research needs for advancing a Model-Experiment (ModEx) guided predictive understanding of coastal systems in the US Southeast. The workshop focused on key coastal system characteristics and processes within the terrestrial-aquatic interface (TAI) domain dominated by the terrestrial side of coastal regions. As identified in the DOE Coastal Science Basic Research Decadal Strategy, critical knowledge gaps and scalable process predictability are a challenge for the South Atlantic &amp; Gulf of Mexico U.S. coastal regions, which have expansive low-lying topographies, large regional temperature and precipitation gradients, land use pressures from dense and extensive human populations and energy and transportation infrastructure, and are frequently and increasingly impacted by weather and climate-related extremes.</p>	23 – 25 January, 2024	Gaithersburg	MD, US	24	\$164,338

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>Grid Modernization and Clean Energy Cyber Summit</b>	The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Modernization Initiative (GMI) and Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response (CESER) held this event to showcase recent, ongoing, and upcoming GMI and clean energy cybersecurity initiatives and boost industry engagement. The focus of the event was to increase awareness and engagement from industry, academia, Congress and other government stakeholders. The Summit fostered information sharing, coordination, and collaboration among federal, state and local government leaders, energy sector stakeholders, solution providers, investors, academia and national laboratories. It served as an avenue for CESER and the GMI team to present on energy sector activities being led by DOE and seek engagement with the sector. A goal of the Summit was to establish a DOE roadmap for improving device security between DOE, original equipment manufacturers, and the National Laboratories.	5 – 8 February, 2024	Arlington	VA, US	221	\$444,478
<b>2024 DOE Tribal Clean Energy Summit</b>	This summit facilitated the building of networks, exchanged ideas, and explored clean energy solutions that support Tribal energy sovereignty.	27 – 28 February, 2024	Temecula	CA, US	66	\$130,158
<b>Energy Exchange 2024</b>	The annual Energy Exchange continues to be one of the best opportunities for Agencies to ensure their energy workforce understands leadership directions, priorities, goals, and strategies. It also serves as a unique opportunity to fulfill training mandates in alignment with legislative and administration workforce development objectives. The event provided a place to network with energy and water professionals leading to development and implementation of solutions that can make the federal government a leader in the transition to a clean energy economy.	26 – 28 March, 2024	Pittsburgh	PA, US	175	\$353,485

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>2024 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit</b>	The annual 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. Attendees participated in key discussions about technology Research & Development and shared insights from field validations of new, emerging building and industrial technologies. This event strengthened public-private collaboration and education across key national energy priorities within the U.S. building emissions, energy, water, and manufacturing communities.	2 – 4 April, 2024	Washington	DC, US	169	\$257,920
<b>2024 Project Management Workshop</b>	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.	2 – 4 April, 2024	Washington	DC, US	258	\$576,620
<b>2024 Emergency Management Symposium</b>	This year marked the 38th annual event that brings together a collaborative network of experienced emergency management professionals from across the DOE complex/enterprise. The knowledge and expertise at this event were leveraged to identify common policy issues, provide support for current initiatives, promote evolving emergency management technologies, and share best practices and lessons learned in their respective fields to positively impact emergency management programs and continuity of operations in support of the of DOE/NNSA Enterprise mission and goals.	7 – 9 May, 2024	Atlanta	GA, US	240	\$641,415

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>2024 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit</b>	<p>The 2024 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit has been dedicated to transformational energy ideas and solutions. This annual event brought together leaders from academia, business, and government to discuss revolutionary energy ideas and facilitate relationships to move technologies towards commercialization. As such, this meeting was an important forum for the Department of Energy (DOE) to share new ideas and information with the energy innovation community and accelerate impactful energy solutions to 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.</p>	22 – 24 May, 2024	Grapevine	TX, US	272	\$634,902
<b>2024 Department of Energy Small Business Forum &amp; Expo</b>	<p>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 current Administration’s commitment in assisting America’s small businesses with growing and prospering.</p> <p>DOE’s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU / SB-1) hosted the 2024 DOE’s Small Business Forum and Expo. This event was held in direct support of this mission. The event featured educational workshops, an exhibit hall with over 150 exhibitors and supporters, as well as business matchmaking sessions. Over 1,500 attendees were expected to represent all levels of Federal, state, and local government agencies.</p>	3 – 5 June, 2024	Minneapolis	MN, US	197	\$574,562

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>2024 DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference</b>	<p>The annual DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference is designed to bring together the DOE enterprise, the federal interagency, academia, international partners, and private industry to advance cybersecurity and information technology (IT), and information sharing efforts across DOE's diverse and shared missions.</p> <p>Attendees included DOE Federal employees, contractors from DOE Headquarters to support the conference, employees from the National Laboratories, plants, sites, the Power Marketing Administrations, as well as Federal employees from across various Agencies, academic partners, international representatives, and private industry—anyone who is working at the forefront of IT, innovation, and cybersecurity.</p>	29 July – 1 August, 2024	Dallas	TX, US	563	\$1,522,598
<b>Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship (MLEF) Technical Forum</b>	<p>This annual Technical Forum is a critical component that serves as an opportunity for students to share research project results with other students, mentors, and program officials. Students gained valuable experience in the professional presentation of technical information and acquired knowledge of other areas of research conducted at the Department. The Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program provides students valuable hands-on experience in mission related research programs; offers an "inside view" of Federal employment; and serves as an excellent recruitment opportunity to encourage participants to consider future employment opportunities with the Department of Energy.</p>	4 – 9 August, 2024	Pittsburgh	PA, US	61	\$115,306
<b>2024 Energy Storage Grand Challenge</b>	<p>Energy Storage stakeholders gathered to provide input and feedback on the steps they are taking to achieve the Energy Storage Grand Challenge and Long Duration Storage Shot goals. This event provided an overview of the major activities currently happening as a starting point for attendees to provide DOE with ideas on how to facilitate new connections and any additional activities that DOE could undertake in the near to medium term (next 1-5 years) to meet the goals.</p>	7 – 9 August, 2024	Bellevue	WA, US	92	\$348,537



Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
<b>US-Africa Nuclear Energy Summit - Industry Summit</b>	The US-Africa Nuclear Energy Industry Summit provided an opportunity for senior US officials and US industry to engage with their counterparts from African states planning a nuclear energy program. This Summit was conducted under the auspices of the Ghana Regional Clean Energy Training Center and supported an ongoing interagency effort to have Ghana choose the United States as a strategic partner.	25 – 30 August, 2024	Nairobi	Kenya	12	\$306,566
<b>2024 Workshop on Basic Research Needs for Energy-Efficient Computing for Science</b>	The purpose of this workshop is to identify the priority research directions for Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) in energy-efficient computing for science. This workshop aims to help ASCR set aggressive targets for capability and energy efficiency for later in the next decade, and to outline a set of priority research directions and priority testbed opportunities to maximize our ability to achieve those targets.	9 – 11 September, 2024	Bethesda	MD, US	33	\$194,771
<b>2024 - DOE Sustainability Summit</b>	This year's Summit outlined the latest Departmental sustainability plans and progress specifically related to carbon pollution free electricity, zero emission vehicles, net zero buildings, and climate action.	10 – 12 September, 2024	Washington	DC, US	109	\$148,306
<b>2024 Workshop on Basic Research Needs for Analog Computing for Science</b>	The purpose of this workshop was to identify the priority research directions in analog computing for science. The workshop defined the basic research needs and opportunities in computational mathematics, computer science, and engineering that can bring advancements in analog computing to High Performance Computing and the creation of complex physical systems in many areas of relevance to the Department's mission.	11 – 13 September, 2024	Bethesda	MD, US	32	\$109,105
<b>2024 Workshop on Basic Research Needs for Neuromorphic Computing</b>	This workshop brought together interdisciplinary experts to inform and draft a set of basic research needs or challenges for advancing the field of neuromorphic computing and developing proof of principle neuromorphic circuits applicable for High Performance Computer (HPC) acceleration for scientific discovery, as well as to brainstorm ideas needed for a successful, robust, and world leading basic research program.	12 – 13 September, 2024	Bethesda	MD, US	33	\$121,263

## Compelling and Unique Circumstances for FY24 events

### exceeding \$500K in total DOE Net Cost

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

2024 Department of Energy's (DOE's) Small Business Forum & Expo

Event ID# 44292

Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### Conference Package Insertion – Compelling and Unique Circumstances Statement

##### Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

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 to expand the diversity of subcontracts to small businesses. This is in support of the current Administration's commitment in assisting America's small businesses with growing and prospering.

During the 2024 DOE's Small Business Forum & Expo, OSDBU will have an opportunity to continue to push the following initiatives:


- The Federal Government is the largest consumer of goods and services in the world, spending more than \$650 billion each year. This purchasing power makes Federal procurement a powerful tool to support small business growth and build generational wealth throughout the U.S., including firms owned by underrepresented individuals. The President has set a policy of using Federal contract spending to support small businesses and advance equity.
  - ✓ **Supporting EO 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government* and Justice40 initiative as part of EO 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, to diversity and expand the DOE supplier base.**
  - ✓ **The President has set a goal of increasing the share of contracts awarded to small disadvantaged businesses to 15% by 2025 and charged each agency to assess available tools to increase opportunities for small businesses and traditionally underserved entrepreneurs to compete for Federal contracts.**
  - ✓ **Increase the number of new entrants to the Federal marketplace and reserve the general decline in the small business supplier base.**
- DOE and NNSA Acquisition Forecast and presenting current and upcoming small business opportunities with the Department.
- Educating the small business participants regarding DOE's Mentor-Protégé Program and its expansion to include diversity in the supplier base and increase participation in the program.

- Informing the small business participants on OSDBU's ongoing AI Customer Care Chatbot and Vendor Capability Statements Library as multi-functional research tool for DOE buyers.
- **DOE's annual small business forum and expos are the one of a kind. DOE is the only Federal agency who hosts these events annually. Also, this event will be the second, in-person small business conference post COVID pandemic.**
- **With the enthusiastic interest and support from DOE's various program offices, national laboratories, and site offices, this event package has an estimated cost of \$1,680,750. This is an 55.3% increase in participation from DOE's various program offices, national laboratories, and site offices.**

This event is held in direct support of this mission. The event will feature educational workshops, an exhibit hall with over 150 exhibitors and supporters, as well as business matchmaking sessions. Over 1,500 attendees will represent all levels of Federal, state, and local government agencies. This conference is a great opportunity for small business owners and large companies alike to network, partner, and learn how to do business with the Department.

#### **Secretarial Conference Waiver**

Based on the above representations of the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, 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.



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David M. Turk  
Deputy Secretary of Energy

05/03/2023

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Date



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



October 17, 2023

2024 Emergency Management Symposium  
Atlanta, Georgia  
May 7-9, 2024

**Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:**

Since 1986, the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG) has been a nationally recognized and highly respected body within the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). EMI SIG serves as a hub for subject matter experts across all disciplines, and representatives from all DOE labs, plants, and sites to network, collaborate, support, and learn from their colleagues.


EMI SIG members make sure DOE is trained and prepared to respond to any site or national emergency involving its assets and/or personnel. In addition, EMI SIG certifies DOE emergency response personnel are ready to integrate for a whole-of-government response to a national emergency. Many DOE emergency management accomplishments are directly attributed to the EMI SIG, including DOE Order 151.1 D implementation complex-wide; writing and revising the emergency management Criteria and Review Approach Documents; and developing emergency management training and products used to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of DOE emergency response.

Throughout the year, the EMI SIG members interact through subcommittee virtual monthly meetings to create value-added products that enhance the DOE community. The capstone of all these contributions is the annual Emergency Management Symposium (EMS), which gives members the opportunity to recognize and showcase their arduous work and achievements while also learning from others across the emergency management community.

NA-40 will sponsor the 2024 EMS in Atlanta, GA, the week of May 7-9, 2024, and will provide attendees with the option to attend in-person or virtually. This combination will create a flexible environment for DOE and NNSA attendees to collect insight, technical support, and non-technical support; and facilitate communication, coordination and collaboration between DOE contractors, federal employees, and DOE/NNSA Headquarters on emergency management topics of interest.

Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations from the Office of Emergency Management, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending an excess of \$500,000 on attendance at the 2024 Emergency Management Symposium is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.

  
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UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATOR, NNSA

10/17/23  
DATE



## Compelling and Unique Circumstances Statement

### Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

The Department of Energy (DOE) holds numerous mission responsibilities. The 2024 Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) Energy Innovation Summit is an event dedicated to transformative energy solutions. This event is in support of DOE's mission and is an important forum to share new ideas and information with the energy innovation community. The Summit brings together thought leaders from different technical disciplines and professional communities to accelerate transformational energy solutions that will 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 event will feature leaders from academia, business, and government who are working to advance energy-related science and technology. The Summit is an opportunity for DOE and the larger energy innovation community to participate in technology transfer and outreach activities, including: 1) presentation of ARPA-E-funded research and development (R&D) projects; 2) participation in technical panel discussions; 3) collaboration with representatives from industry, academia, and government; and 4) exchanging ideas to accelerate ARPA-E projects to the next stage of development.

Over 2,700 energy innovators, industry experts, and researchers registered for the 2023 Summit and, during the 2024 Summit, over 400 attendees will represent all levels of Federal, state, and local government agencies.

This event is an excellent opportunity for ARPA-E's active and alumni prime- and sub-award recipients from DOE National Laboratories. DOE National Laboratories could benefit from the Summit's focused technology transfer programming and collaboration opportunities. This Summit will allow ARPA-E to ensure that 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 Summit.

### Secretarial Conference Waiver

Based on the above representations 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.

  
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David M. Turk  
Deputy Secretary of Energy

10/24/2023  
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Date

2024 DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference  
Dallas, Texas  
July 29-August 1, 2024

**Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:**

The DOE Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference is an annual capstone event designed to strengthen relationships, expand upon cybersecurity and innovation strategies and tactics with our geographically dispersed partners, provide development opportunities and promote a diverse workforce by sharing best practices and lessons learned. The agenda is being crafted to drive a range of innovation and cyber priorities in a way that dovetails with the Secretary's goals of securing our clean energy future, and investing in our workforce, and promoting energy justice.

The 2024 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. The conference will build on recurring themes of collaboration, innovation, and collective cyber defense to continue momentum and partnerships built over past years.

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 2024 conference will take place July 29-August 1, 2024, in Dallas, Texas. The conference will be hosted by OCIO and will be co-hosted by the Office of Environmental Management (EM), Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Southwestern Power Administration. The 2023 conference hosted in Minneapolis, MN, was a successful and productive event with more than 1,000 participants. We anticipate a similar level of participation at the 2024 conference, thus requiring an investment of over \$500,000.

The 2024 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 2024 Cybersecurity and Technology Innovation Conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.



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

10/24/2023

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Date



2024 Project Management Workshop  
Hilton National Mall, The Wharf  
Washington, DC

**Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver**

The 2024 Project Management Workshop continues as a gathering of the project management professional community. This 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 undergoes revisions on an occasional basis.

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 also 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 allow for an improvement of 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 Workshop exceeds \$500,000. The prospective venue is providing a “same time as last year” meeting space reservation offer to the Office of Project Management. This is a key event held annually in the DC area with benefit to the DOE project management community, with overwhelming interest year after year.

**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.

  
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Deputy Secretary of Energy

12/08/2023

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Date