

Department of Energy

Fiscal Year 2025 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 travel arrangements consistent with government travel restrictions.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, eight (8) Program Offices within DOE conducted a total of twelve (12) 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.

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Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2024 International Conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR)	The 2024 RERTR was a meeting in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to highlight global progress toward eliminating highly enriched uranium research reactors around the world. 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 high-assay low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuels with the international collaborators of HEU minimization programs.	27 – 31 October, 2024	Lyon	France	59	\$329,684
Grid Controls and Communications Program Review	The Office of Electricity (OE) Grid Controls and Communications Division Program Review convened industry stakeholders to interact and get feedback on Grid Controls and Communications division strategy towards modernizing the future power grid to meet critical goals for OE of reliability, resilience, security and affordability.	30 – 31 October, 2024	Arlington	VA, US	55	\$169,347
2024 SCEP All Staff Collaboration and Training Conference	This event brought the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) staff together to train and collaborate. Many of the staff in SCEP are not located in the Washington, DC area, so this was the annual opportunity to come together, tackle tough issues that require resolution, and learn strategies to improve staff performance and enhance project management skills. This training event was 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.	3 – 5 December, 2024	Washington	DC, US	185	\$183,994

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Demonstrate, Deploy, Decarbonize 2024 (Deploy24)	Demonstrate, Deploy, Decarbonize 2024 (Deploy24) was the second annual convening of leaders and decisionmakers across sectors dedicated to accelerating clean energy deployment and investment in the United States. Hosted by the Department of Energy, Deploy24 showed case cutting-edge innovations, encouraged open and honest discussion on breakthrough strategies, and forged collaborations that will strengthen economic competitiveness and enable domestic decarbonization.	4 – 5 December, 2024	Washington	DC, US	72	\$211,875
AMMTO Stakeholder Listening Event	The purpose of the Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO) meeting was to engage our stakeholders and get their input on the direction our office is going. It provided an update our stakeholders on progress made over the last year and provided a venue for them to update on the progress their projects have made. It advanced DOE's mission by strengthening our program strategies and getting buy in from our stakeholders.	10 – 11 December, 2024	Herndon	VA, US	118	\$151,813
Envisioning Frontiers in AI and Computing for Biological Research Workshop	The purpose of the workshop was to identify the priority research directions for transforming the field of biology by new developments in applied mathematics, computer science and computational science including new tools that leverage artificial intelligence (AI). New data-driven AI approaches to streamline analysis of complex genomic, microbial, environmental, and related datasets will allow for the organization of biological data and models across scales in new ways.	4 – 6 February, 2025	Rockville	MD, US	69	\$240,611

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2025 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit	The 2025 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit is dedicated to transformational energy ideas and solutions. This annual event brought together leaders from academia, industry, the investor community, and government to discuss revolutionary energy ideas and facilitate relationships to move technologies towards commercialization. As such, this meeting was an important forum for DOE to share new ideas and information with the energy innovation community and accelerate transformational energy solutions to advance U.S. economic and energy security goals. This objective is in direct alignment with DOE's and ARPA-E's interests, goals, and mission.	17 – 19 March, 2025	National Harbor	MD, US	285	\$560,122
2025 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 foster collaboration across the manufacturing industry and public and private sectors that will advance energy efficiency best practices, technology adoption, and decarbonization pathways. Attendees anticipated in key discussions about technology R&D and share 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.	1 – 2 May, 2025	Washington	DC, US	175	\$193,291

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2025 Emergency Management Symposium	This year marked the 39th annual event, hosted virtually, to bring together a collaborative network of experienced emergency management professionals from across the DOE complex/enterprise. Their knowledge and combined expertise at this event delivered important insights 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 (COOP) in support of DOE/NNSA mission and goals.	5 – 8 May, 2025	Washington (virtual only)	DC, US	430	\$178,960
Inverse Methods for Complex Systems Under Uncertainty Workshop	The purpose of the workshop was to identify priority research directions regarding inverse methods for complex systems under uncertainty. The workshop examined the opportunities, barriers, and potential for high scientific impact through fundamental advances in the underlying mathematical, statistical, and computational research foundations and identified basic research needs and opportunities to advance the creation and application of complex physical systems in many areas of relevance to the DOE mission.	10 – 12 June, 2025	Washington	DC, US	69	\$253,610

Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Theory Engineering AI Modeling and Simulation (TEAMS) Workshop	The primary aim of the workshop was to review recent progress and identify remaining gaps in fusion theory and computation to find solutions that integrate the broad scope of current projects, and potential future projects, into a unified effort towards a Whole Facility Model in support of the development of a Fusion Pilot Plant. Projects were evaluated for their alignment with the charges detailed in the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) Long Range Plan and the subsequent Bold Decadal Vision of a Fusion Pilot Plant. The research advancements by the twelve Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) Partnerships, the development efforts under the AI/ML program, development under the Fusion Innovative Research Engine (FIRE) Collaboratives, and progress made by the two SciDAC Institutes were assessed in accordance with the guidelines of these community documents and recommendations.	31 July – 1 August, 2025	Rockville	MD, US	21	\$111,080
2025 Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship (MLEF) Technical Forum	This recurring Technical Forum is a critical component of the Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program. The Program provides fellowship 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. The Technical Forum also serves as an opportunity for students to share research project results with other students, mentors, and program officials.	3 – 8 August, 2025	Pittsburgh	PA, US	56	\$112,169

Compelling and Unique Circumstances Statement

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

The Department of Energy (DOE) holds numerous mission responsibilities. The 2025 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.

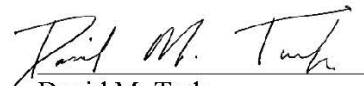
This event will feature leaders from academia, business, and government who are working to advance energy-related science and technology. The Summit is an opportunity for DOE and the larger energy innovation community to participate in technology transfer and outreach activities, including: 1) presentation 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.

Nearly 2,800 energy innovators, industry experts, and researchers registered for the 2024 Summit and, during the 2025 Summit, over 400 attendees will represent all levels of Federal, state, and local government agencies.

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


David M. Turk
Deputy Secretary of Energy

10/17/2024
Date