Department of Energy
Fiscal Year 2020 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 or approving participation in a conference, DOE confirmed that all conference activity supported the Department's mission, costs were minimized, and conference planners, sponsors, and attendees understood their responsibility to conserve funds. The Department adhered to widely-accepted cost control measures such as ensuring conference attendance was necessary, encouraging the use of Federal Facilities, consolidation of conferences, limitation of food and beverage, early planning, exploring the feasibility of conducting virtual conferences, adhering to government travel restrictions due to COVID-19, and selection of dates and location based on the lowest available costs that met the mission need of the conference. DOE also ensured that their Management and Operating contractors were taking appropriate measures to reduce costs.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, five Program Offices within the Department hosted a total of nine Agency-Sponsored reportable conferences, a decrease in conference activity from FY 2019, primarily as a result of travel restrictions related to COVID-19.

Attachment – DOE Report of Conference Activities throughout FY20.

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Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Innovation XLab Artificial Intelligence Summit	The Innovation Experimental Social Science Laboratory (XLab) Initiative is a vision of the Department of Energy's (DOE) executive leadership led by the Under Secretary for Science, to convene industry representatives around specific topics to showcase the technical resources and capabilities resident in the 17 Department of Energy National Laboratories and how they can be used by private companies, investors, universities and other organizations as a source of innovation. This event convened participants to discuss how to leverage DOE's artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities and technology as a platform for improved competitiveness and performance for a host of important industry sectors.	2 – 3 October, 2019	Chicago	IL, USA	119	$192,467

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
40th International Conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR 2019)	The main objective of the Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) was 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 international collaborators of Material Management and Minimization Program's (M3) HEU minimization programs. During the three-day meeting, there were nearly 100 technical presentations made. This meeting was the primary venue for key international stakeholders in M3's HEU minimization programs to present work and hold meetings to advance ongoing projects worldwide. Stakeholders included representatives of foreign governments, facility operators, academic and research institutes, industry, and non-governmental organizations that advocate for civilian HEU minimization. Meeting topics included development and testing of new LEU fuels, design and safety analyses for reactor conversions, transportation/disposition of nuclear material, and lessons learned from past reactor conversions.	6 - 9 October, 2019	Zagreb	Croatia	62	$316,381

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Science Town Hall Meeting	This meeting was aimed at collecting community input on the opportunities and challenges facing the scientific community in the era of convergence of High Performance Computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and the expected integration of large-scale simulation, advanced data analysis, data driven predictive modeling, theory, and high-throughput experiments. In addition, the meetings convened broad expertise in software, data infrastructure, mathematics and AI foundations research, hardware and architecture research. An underlying focus of all town halls were data, including generation, curation, sharing, and acceleration of data-driven models. This is the fourth in a series of town hall meetings which will frame the overall opportunities and the needed research and facilities advancements need to drive AI-related agendas in alignment with Department of Energy missions. An integrated, consolidated report from the four town hall meetings will be delivered.	22 – 23 October, 2019	Washington	DC, USA	129	$369,075

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
DOE and NNSA 2020 Acquisition Workshop	The Workshop provided a meaningful venue for learning, questioning, and sharing of ideas and best practices among the Department of Energy's and Nuclear National Security Administration's acquisition workforce. The Workshop covered a wide range of topics, including recent developments in acquisition and financial assistance-related policies and procedures, Office of Management and Budget Government-wide initiatives, small business initiatives, strategic sourcing developments, acquisition and financial assistance successes, acquisition legal developments, and Inspector General/Government Accountability Office audit developments. The Workshop provided continuous learning credits to attendees for their required re-certifications.	5 - 6 November, 2019	Arlington	VA, USA	244	$195,373

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Basic Research Needs Workshop on Detector Research and Development	This workshop was conducted to assess the present status of the High Energy Physics (HEP) technology landscape, and to identify Priority Research Directions (PRDs) in the form of strategic instrumentation areas, aligned with the strengths of the United States HEP community, that future long-term research and development (R&D) efforts should focus on the pursuit of the HEP science drivers identified in the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) report. For each of these areas, the study identified promising underlying technologies where long-term R&D thrusts could lead to transformative breakthroughs resulting in game-changing experimental capabilities. In turn, for each of these technologies the study elucidated crucial R&D challenges that need to be overcome to advance them well beyond the current state of the art. The workshop activities included a core group of distinguished researchers and produced a workshop report.	11 – 14 December, 2019	Bethesda	MD, USA	69	$270,577

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Innovation XLab Biomanufacturing Summit	The Innovation Experimental Social Science Laboratory (XLab) Initiative convenes industry representatives around specific topics to showcase the technical resources and capabilities resident in the 17 Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratories and how they can be used by private companies, investors, universities and other organizations as a source of innovation. Attendees discussed how to leverage DOE's biomanufacturing capabilities and technology as a platform for improved competitiveness and performance for a host of important industry sectors.	28 – 29 January, 2020	Berkeley	CA, USA	95	$150,480
Basic Research Needs for Transformative Manufacturing Workshop	The purpose of this workshop was to identify the basic science research priorities that would accelerate innovation to transform manufacturing in the future. This is a topical area in which the Office of Science has never organized a Basic Research Needs workshop. The workshop addressed the following topical areas and the associated basic research challenges: Precision Synthesis Science, Processing and Scale Up Science, System Integration Science, Sustainable Manufacturing, Digital Manufacturing, and Crosscutting topics.	9 – 11 March, 2020	Rockville	MD, USA	94	$268,016

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5G Enabled Energy Innovation Workshop	This meeting was attended by more than 200 Department of Energy (DOE) scientists and members of the research community. The goals of the workshop were to deliver a community-based input report highlighting 5G and beyond high speed wireless network opportunities for basic research, development, applications, technology transition, infrastructure, and demonstration opportunities for the U.S. Department of Energy mission. This workshop helped DOE Office of Science understand the challenges and opportunities for 5G and potential beyond technologies such as 6G and/or WiFi6 in support of the DOE scientific mission in basic research and scientific user facility operations.	10 – 12 March, 2020	Chicago	IL, USA	140	$343,782

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2020 Energy Exchange	The Energy Exchange promoted key elements of the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's mission to strengthen and secure America's resilience through enhanced redevelopment of the country's energy infrastructure, and the integration of energy efficiency best practices, leveraging of partnerships between the public and private sectors and ensuring Federal accountability and transparency through government progress updates by the Office of Management & Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality. This training event fulfilled both Federal Energy Management Program's statutory requirements to provide training for Federal agencies and requirements for agencies to ensure their employees are comprehensively trained. Training topics were determined by the current critical needs of the Federal government and the Department of Energy, focusing on resilient portfolio planning and grid integration, facility design and operations including optimized energy storage, commissioning, energy modeling, Measurement & Verification, water efficiency, emerging technologies, and optimized fleet management.	11 - 13 August, 2020	Virtual	DC, USA	238	$341,027