

Department of Energy

Fiscal Year 2018 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, 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) 2018, 11 Program Offices within the Department hosted a total of 15 Agency-Sponsored conferences, an overall reduction in conference activity by two events when compared to FY 2017.

Overall, DOE Departmental cost control measures resulted in a 25% decrease in conference attendance and 20% reduction in net costs for Agency-Sponsored conferences from the previous year.

Department of Energy
Fiscal Year 2018 Conference Activity

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors Conference (RERTR)	The annual international conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) was held 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 the Office of Material Management and Minimization's (M3) HEU minimization programs, primarily the reactor conversion, fuel development and spent fuel removal efforts. The meeting consisted of nearly 100 detailed technical presentations made in approximately 17 sessions. RERTR was the primary venue for international stakeholders in M3's HEU minimization programs to present their work and hold meetings to advance HEU minimization projects worldwide. Stakeholders included foreign governments, facility operators, academic and research institutes, industry, and National Governmental Organizations that advocate for HEU minimization.	12 - 16 November, 2017	Chicago	IL, US	54	\$194,293
Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee Community Workshop (BES 40th)	The purpose of this workshop was to help identify a few outstanding examples of major scientific accomplishments emerging from the Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) support that have shaped the fields of BES research, with an eye toward learning from these examples to motivate BES investment strategies for the future. The workshop and subsequent report will help to illuminate the guiding strategies and approaches that will be key to ensuring future U.S. leadership, and more generally, U.S. leadership in the full range of disciplines stewarded by BES. This report will be timely to inform the future investment strategy for the Office of Science as it contributes to fulfillment of the Department of Energy (DOE) missions.	17 January, 2018	Bethesda	MD, US	96	\$115,233

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Solid State Lighting (SSL) Research & Development (R&D) Workshop	The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's (EERE) Building Technologies Office (BTO) conducted an annual Solid State Lighting (SSL) Research & Development Workshop designed to directly involve the SSL industry stakeholders as a functional component of DOE program planning. It was a cost-effective way to engage a large number of manufacturing (of light-emitting diodes, luminaires, drivers, electronic components, and others) and SSL research stakeholders (from industries, universities, and national laboratories) in the development of SSL priorities, targets, and milestones in support of the DOE SSL program's objectives. The workshop provided an opportunity for information exchange with other DOE programs involved in R&D related to SSL (Office of Science, BES, and others) and fulfilled DOE's responsibility to engage industry on DOE's lighting efforts under Section 912 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.	30 January - 1 February, 2018	Nashville	TN, US	16	\$141,664
Workshop on Scientific Machine Learning	The purpose of this workshop was to identify the priority research directions for the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) in developing machine learning capabilities that address and anticipate DOE mission challenges. Participants examined the opportunities, barriers, and potential for high scientific impact through fundamental advances in the underlying mathematical, statistical, and computational research foundations. The workshop and subsequent report will advance the DOE mission by defining the basic research needs and opportunities in computational mathematics that can potentially enable machine learning approaches to transform science and energy research.	30 January - 1 February, 2018	Rockville	MD, US	80	\$223,007

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2018 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit	The 2018 Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) Energy Innovation Summit was dedicated to transformative energy solutions. This annual 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 the Department of Energy 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. The objective of the conference was in direct alignment with the interests, goals, and mission of DOE and ARPA-E.	13 - 15 March, 2018	Oxon Hill	MD, US	255	\$431,088
2018 Project Management Workshop	The workshop provided an opportunity for DOE Capital Asset project Federal Project Directors, senior program/staff office representatives, and other federal and contractor project management staff to hear from senior leadership and to receive training on new project management requirements and practices, and to share experiences and lessons learned from across the complex. The workshop contributed to the path DOE is following to get off of the United States Government Accountability Office's "High-Risk List."	13 - 15 March, 2018	Arlington	VA, US	140	\$225,131
14th Biennial Contractors Internal Audit Directors (CIAD) Department of Energy (DOE) Joint Conference 2018	The meeting was designed for professionals in the DOE Contractor Internal Audit Directors (CIAD) community, the Office of Inspector General and DOE financial areas needing to maintain or enhance skills for performing, overseeing or coordinating audits and inspections in support of the Department of Energy's mission. The session extended over a two-day period and covered relevant learning objectives in topics including cyber security, fraud, ethics, enterprise risk and internal controls in a federal government environment.	24 - 25 April, 2018	Portland	OR, US	116	\$204,741

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17th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo	<p>The Secretary of Energy supports enabling small businesses to partner with all departmental elements to examine and expand their contract opportunities. Additionally, the Secretary supports DOE's Facility Management Contracts (FMCs) in encouraging the diversity of small business subcontracts that provide goods and services to DOE. This is in support of the White House's commitment to assisting America's small businesses to grow and prosper, which is essential to strengthening the nation's economy.</p> <p>The 17th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo was held in direct support of this mission. The event featured educational workshops, an exhibit hall with over 100 exhibits/supporters, as well as business matchmaking sessions which allowed small business owners and large companies alike to network, partner, and learn how to do business with DOE.</p>	22 - 24 May, 2018	Houston	TX, US	136	\$344,293
DOE Cyber Conference 2018	<p>The DOE Cyber Conference played a critical role in the implementation of the Department's cyber efforts, as it brought together DOE leadership and DOE enterprise stakeholders, spanning across a geographically dispersed Department. The DOE enterprise includes Program Offices, Power Marketing Administrations, Plants, Site Offices and National Laboratories of approximately 110,000 people, and 85 facilities spread across 27 states.</p> <p>The DOE Cyber Conference reduced administrative costs by consolidating senior management communication needs, training requirements, practical exercises, and program office/field site working meetings into a single event.</p> <p>The conference included our interagency and international partners, academia, and private sector to create an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative environment and remove barriers that prompted dialogue to further the Department's cyber mission, and foster enduring relationships.</p>	4 - 7 June, 2018	Austin	TX, US	309	\$574,172

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2018 EIA Energy Conference	<p>The Energy Information Administration (EIA) Annual Energy Conference brought together approximately 950 thought leaders from industry, government, academia, media, and the general public to discuss current and future challenges facing energy markets and policymakers. The conference allowed for two-way communication between EIA and its customers and stakeholders in order to allow EIA to successfully accomplish its mission to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.</p>	4 - 5 June, 2018	Washington	DC, US	245	\$246,359
2018 Legacy Management Long-Term Surveillance & Maintenance Conference	<p>The purpose of this conference was for the Office of Legacy Management (LM), as well as other organizations that have similar responsibilities for other agencies or in other countries, to provide technical information on long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) of remediated sites and facilities.</p> <p>LM is the largest governmental organization in the world that manages post-closure responsibilities of sites. However, other organizations within DOE have similar responsibilities for remediated sites and facilities at continuing mission sites (e.g., National Nuclear Security Administration's Long-Term Stewardship program). In addition, other U.S. government agencies as well as organizations in other countries are also developing programs with objectives to those of LM's LTS&M program.</p> <p>Attendees at the conference had the opportunity to learn about LM's program, and also share lessons learned and best practices from other similar programs in the United States and abroad.</p>	20 - 23 August, 2018	Grand Junction	CO, US	158	\$287,905

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
The 2018 Energy Exchange and Better Buildings Summit	The Energy Exchange and Better Buildings Summit promoted key elements of the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy's mission to strengthen America's resiliency through enhanced redevelopment of the country's energy infrastructure, and implement best energy efficiency practices as well as facilitate innovation sharing between the public and private sectors. This event fulfilled federal agency training initiatives for energy managers and key partners, outlined in numerous Federal laws and regulations. The summit promoted key Better Buildings goals of developing innovative, market based solutions, enhancing the development of a nation-wide clean energy workforce.	21 - 23 August, 2018	Cleveland	OH, US	123	\$206,194
InnovationXLab: Energy Storage Summit	The Innovation XLab Initiative brought together corporate and university researchers, and venture capitalists to hear from lab scientists and researchers from across the national labs on specific lab capabilities and models for engagement on particular technology topics. The discussions and interchanges between the labs, government, and industry will lead to new lab-industry engagements. The specific Summits under the initiative will rotate across the National Lab enterprise, hosted by different labs depending on the topic. The format will be adjusted and flexible to address additional or combined topics or directed toward existing or potential user facilities.	18 - 19 September, 2018	Menlo Park	CA, US	98	\$149,861

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Mo-99 Topical Meeting 2018	The 2018 Mo-99 Topical Meeting served as a forum for policy and technical experts to present, review and discuss domestic and international progress in converting medical isotope production from using HEU targets to LEU targets and to discuss a variety of technologies under development in the United States and worldwide to produce Mo-99 without the use of HEU. This meeting supported the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) mission to encourage a reliable supply of Mo-99 without the use of HEU and 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. During side meetings, Federal and laboratory staff met with domestic and international entities to review ongoing projects, resolve barriers to implementation, and discuss policy and programmatic issues that may impact efforts to encourage establishment of a reliable supply of Mo-99 without the use of HEU.	23 - 26 September, 2018	Knoxville	TN, US	47	\$117,770
RAP 60th Anniversary	The Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) event was hosted by the NNSA Administrator to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of RAP. This event highlighted RAP's role as the preeminent Federal radiological response program, and looked ahead to challenges and opportunities of the future.	26 September, 2018	Washington	DC, US	51	\$262,895

DOE Cyber Conference
Austin, Texas
Renaissance Austin Hotel
June 4-7, 2018

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) will host the 2018 DOE Cyber Conference. The DOE cyber conference plays a critical role in implementing the Department's cyber efforts, as it will bring together DOE leadership and DOE enterprise stakeholders, spanning across a geographically dispersed Department. DOE enterprise includes Program Offices, Power Marketing Administrations, Plants, Site Offices and National Laboratories of approximately 110,000 people, and 85 facilities spread across 27 states.

Additionally the conference will include our interagency and international partners, academia, and private sector. This will create an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative environment that will prompt dialogue to further the Department's cyber mission, and foster enduring relationships.

The conference will create a forum for the DOE cyber workforce to engage in strategic discussions to support the recruitment, development, and retention of our most important resource, our people.

The conference will enhance the Department's cyber efforts by integrating cybersecurity coordination, harnessing the breadth and depth of cyber technical expertise across DOE, removing redundancy, and leveraging cyber resources enterprise-wide. Additionally, we are investing in the DOE cyber workforce, the most critical elements in effectively addressing threats and developing technology solutions to meet national challenges.

The conference agenda will consist of plenary sessions and breakout sessions that include the DOE enterprise; interagency, academic and international partners; and commercial industry. This inclusive forum will provide the opportunity to engage in crucial conversations about cyber efforts to build trust and share knowledge. The DOE cyber conference will provide training and practical exercises to enhance the capabilities of the cyber workforce and equip DOE enterprise employees with best practices and lessons learned which they will 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 this conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.



Dan Brouillette
Deputy Secretary

NOV 27 2017

Date