

Department of Energy

Fiscal Year 2019 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) 2019, 11 Program Offices within the Department hosted a total of 16 Agency-Sponsored conferences, essentially mirroring the conference activity from FY 2018.

Department of Energy
Fiscal Year 2019 Conference Activity

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Basic Research Needs Workshop on Dark Matter Particles	<p>The Basic Research Needs (BRN) workshop was conducted to assess the science landscape and identify new opportunities for dark matter particle searches. The assessment provided priority science directions, including promising areas in which to search, and described which of these would be suitable to be pursued with focused small projects and research and development in the High Energy Physics (HEP) program. This workshop supports the recommendations from the 2014 High Energy Physics Advisory Panel strategic plan for U.S. investments in particle physics research over the next ten years.</p> <p>One of these recommendations is that the search for dark matter particles is high priority science for HEP, and further, that support for a portfolio of small-scale projects should be maintained along with identified mid- to large-scale projects.</p>	15 - 18 October, 2018	Bethesda	MD, US	49	\$144,563
Basic Research Needs for Microelectronics Workshop	<p>The purpose of this workshop was to identify high priority basic research that will be needed over the next decade to enable future generations of microelectronics. The subsequent report will identify basic research needs and opportunities for understanding and improving the performance of materials and chemistry, as the foundation for the development of advanced microelectronic devices and fabrication processes. The associated opportunities for discovery and characterization of new materials, phenomena, and chemical processes could be transformative both scientifically and technically, and should have impact in the fields of computing, communications, and sensing. From a technology perspective, while continual innovation has maintained the decades-long Moore's Law trajectory, in recent years significant scientific challenges have emerged as new materials, systems, and processes are imagined and implemented.</p>	23 -25 October, 2018	Bethesda	MD, US	147	\$353,572

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
39th International Conference on Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR 2018)	<p>The objective was to present and review progress toward core conversion of research reactors from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuels with international collaborators of the Material Management and Minimization Program's (M3) HEU minimization programs. RERTR 2018 consisted of nearly 100 technical presentations in approximately 17 sessions. The Department of Energy, through Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), has been hosting RERTR since 1978 to promote the U.S. policy to reduce risks posed by use of HEU fuel.</p> <p>RERTR is the primary venue for stakeholders in M3's HEU minimization programs to present work and hold meetings to advance ongoing projects worldwide. Stakeholders include 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 conversions.</p>	4 – 7 November, 2018	Edinburgh	United Kingdom	56	\$302,336
Grid X Lab	<p>This event brought together investors, corporate and university researchers, and national lab scientists to explore opportunities to leverage national lab technology, facilities and people to support the development and commercialization of new technology. The discussions and interchanges between the labs, government, and industry led to new lab-industry engagements.</p>	24 – 25 January, 2019	Seattle	WA, US	129	\$194,089

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Workshop on In Situ Data Management	<p>This workshop sought community input on the development of in situ capabilities for managing the execution and data flow among a wide variety of coordinated tasks for scientific computing. In the future, scientific computing will increasingly incorporate an even greater number of different tasks that need to be managed. In situ data management (ISDM) is therefore a critical capability for enabling the complex scientific computing workflows needed to address DOE mission needs.</p> <p>The goal of this workshop was to focus the community on the development of ISDM in service of the DOE mission, by identifying future opportunities and capabilities needed for in situ data management and the associated research challenges.</p>	28 – 30 January, 2019	Bethesda	MD, US	54	\$115,481
Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC) Ministerial	<p>The 1st Meeting of the Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC) Ministerial was designed to attract high-level public and private sector participation from across the transatlantic community and promote open discussions on issues of critical importance to all participating nations. Topics were framed within the context of energy, economic and national security.</p>	13 – 14 March, 2019	Houston	TX, US	9	\$122,857

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
18th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo	<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 was in support of the current Administration’s commitment in assisting America’s small businesses with growing and prospering.</p> <p>This event was held in direct support of this mission. The event featured educational workshops, an exhibit hall with over 100 exhibitors and supporters, as well as business matchmaking sessions. Over 1,000 attendees represented all levels of Federal, state, and local government agencies. The 18th Annual DOE Small Business Forum & Expo was a great opportunity for small business owners and large companies alike to network, partner, and learn how to do business with the Department.</p>	15 – 18 April, 2019	Pittsburgh	PA, US	142	\$316,385
2019 Project Management Workshop	<p>The workshop provided an opportunity for the Department's 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.</p>	23 – 25 April, 2019	Washington	DC, US	189	\$324,344

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
Advancing Fusion with Machine Learning Workshop	<p>This workshop sought community engagement on machine learning applications in the fields of fusion energy and plasma science. The main goal of this workshop was to review recent progress, and identify gaps and challenges associated with the application of machine learning to the grand scientific challenges being pursued by the Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) and Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) programs. Advanced computing is both an important component of the FES strategy toward the development of the predictive capability needed for a sustainable fusion energy source, and an essential tool that enables machine learning algorithms to be deployed.</p> <p>A key aim of this workshop was to bring together subject matter experts from the FES and ASCR communities in order to identify and discuss research aimed at addressing the fusion and plasma specific challenges associated with applying machine learning tools and methods.</p>	30 April – 02 May, 2019	Gaithersburg	MD, US	47	\$100,798
Basic Research Needs Workshop on Compact Accelerators for Security and Medicine	<p>This Basic Research Needs Workshop developed R&D requirements for security and medical applications of accelerator-based radiation generating devices. To identify the grand challenges, priority research directions, technical gaps, and a research roadmap for accelerator-driven radiation technologies used for security and medical purposes. This workshop follows up on findings and recommendations from the previous Accelerators for America’s Future workshop.</p> <p>The workshop activities included planning meetings and information collection by a core group of invited distinguished researchers, as well as follow-on phone meetings to help produce the final reports.</p>	6 – 8 May, 2019	McLean	VA, US	72	\$240,985

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
DOE Innovation XLab Advanced Manufacturing Summit	The Innovation XLab Initiative is a vision of DOE's executive leadership that convened key industry representatives energy related technologies to showcase the strong 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.	6 – 8 May, 2019	Oak Ridge	TN, US	116	\$140,692
2019 DOE Cyber Conference	The Department of Energy's (DOE) Cyber Conference was designed to bring together the DOE enterprise, the Federal interagency, academia, international partners, and private industry to advance cyber and IT modernization efforts across DOE's diverse and shared missions. Attendees included DOE employees and contractors from Headquarters, the National Laboratories, plants, sites, and the Power Marketing Administrations, as well as other agency Federal employees, academic partners, international representatives, and private industry.	13 – 16 May, 2019	Denver	CO, US	417	\$675,795
2019 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit	The 2019 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit is 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 DOE 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 was in direct alignment with the interests, goals, and mission of DOE and ARPA-E.	8 – 11 July, 2019	Denver	CO, US	240	\$466,894

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
2019 Energy Exchange Conference	<p>The Energy Exchange promoted key elements of the Department’s mission to strengthen and secure America’s resilience through the enhanced redevelopment of the country’s energy infrastructure and the integration of energy efficiency best practices, leveraging of public-private partnerships, and ensuring Federal accountability and transparency through progress updates by Office of Management and Budget and Council on Environmental Quality. This training fulfilled statutory requirements to provide training and requirements for agencies to ensure their employees are comprehensively trained.</p> <p>Agency current critical needs determined training topics which focused on resilient portfolio planning, facility design and operations including commissioning, energy modeling, Measurement & Verification, water efficiency, emerging technologies, and optimized fleet management. The training event included an extensive trade show allowing agencies to engage directly with energy-related technology vendors, provided more transparency in cost effective levels of service.</p>	13 – 15 August, 2019	Denver	CO, US	235	\$341,865
2019 EMI SIG Annual Meeting	<p>The Emergency Management Issues (EMI) Special Interest Group (SIG) was established in 1986. This year was the 33rd Annual Meeting where 250-300 emergency management and response subject matter experts assembled to share lessons learned and best practices in implementing emergency management programs across the Department.</p> <p>The theme of the 2019 EMI-SIG meeting was Emergency Management Integration: All Hazards, All Responders, All Facilities. The overall objective was to bring professionals together for all-hazards response planning with a focus on life safety, protection of assets, and recovery of facilities and operations in support of the DOE/NNSA mission and Emergency Management Enterprise goals.</p>	16 – 20 September, 2019	Knoxville	TN, US	155	\$319,535

Conference Title	Purpose of Conference	Date of Conference	Location	State, Country	DOE Attendees	Total Net Costs
National Tribal Energy Summit (NTES) 2019	<p>The National Tribal Energy Summit (NTES), Tribal Energy: Powering Self-Determination included Tribal leaders, members of the Administration, representatives from federal agencies, state governments, private industry, utilities, and academia, providing for an opportunity to build networks, exchange ideas, and explore cross-cutting and cost-effective solutions to national energy interests.</p> <p>The meeting was structured on learning modules centered around the key drivers for tribal energy development, Tribal leader round table discussions to address energy policy, and a Women in Energy Leadership Breakfast focusing on tribal perspectives.</p>	24 – 26 September, 2019	Washington	DC, US	18	\$405,594

DOE Cyber Conference
Denver, CO
Hyatt Regency Denver
May 13-16, 2019

Compelling and unique circumstances that warrant a waiver:

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) will host the 2019 DOE Cyber Conference, which is designed to bring together the DOE enterprise, the federal interagency, academia, international partners, and private industry to advance cyber and IT modernization efforts across DOE's diverse and shared missions. Attendees will include DOE employees and contractors from Headquarters, the National Laboratories, plants, sites, and the Power Marketing Administrations, as well as federal employees from across the interagency, academic partners, international representatives, and private industry – anyone who is working at the forefront of IM and cyber. To enhance this conference we will also be inviting featured speakers to discuss government-wide relevant issues that will add to the value of the overall program, these speakers are captured in the “Other” category in the conference tool estimate.

The Conference 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 also 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.

Furthermore, 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.

The Conference will also be a venue for 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

OCT 31 2018

Date