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A Message From Leadership

WOW! It has been a whirlwind first month for me on the job as the Director of the Artificial Intelligence & Technology Office.

The past 30 days of getting settled personally, (as I recently moved to DC from Minnesota), as well as professionally, has been challenging, but so rewarding.



I have met with many colleagues, partners and counterparts in these initial days and am looking forward to more. Learning of the amazing amount of work being done across our enterprise to advance AI research and capabilities has been astounding. DOE has been hard at work on AI for years. Thanks to that foundation, we are poised to make some huge short-term gains and deliver on the promise of this groundbreaking technology.

It's a truly awesome responsibility to work with the best and brightest minds overseeing hundreds of artificial intelligence (AI) projects at DOE and our world-leading national laboratories. Together, we are making profound differences not just in the department's core energy, cyber, and national security missions, but in everything from advancing earthquake detection to accelerating medical diagnoses and treatments for the most deadly diseases.

One of the things I am most excited about is getting out to visit our national labs and see first-hand some of the amazing things they are doing -- and hope to do -- with the power of AI. I start that journey in a few short days with a visit to Oak Ridge National Lab and am looking forward to many more in the days and weeks ahead. All of our 17 national labs are working to advance AI and I want to help highlight their successes.

But as Director, my priority will be to move DOE beyond the potential and aspirational benefits of AI, and to increasingly speak in the past tense of what we have *already* accomplished using this amazing capability.

I thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to sharing our progress with you through this monthly newsletter. But please keep in mind, there is much more going on at DOE than we can possibly catalog here. If you are interested in learning more, please follow me on [Twitter at @AiDirector](#).

Cheryl Ingstad
Director, Artificial Intelligence & Technology Office
U.S. Department of Energy

Our Top Story

White House touts ‘historic action’ on agencies building momentum with AI

A year after President Donald Trump [signed an executive order](#) making artificial intelligence a top priority for federal research, agencies on the front lines of this effort have reported significant progress.

The Trump administration released a report highlighting both the White House’s rollout of AI policy, as well as the specific measures that agencies have stood up to stay on the cutting edge of this emerging technology.

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This Month's Highlights



ORNL Project Demonstrates Viability of ‘Smart’ Traffic Cameras to Save Fuel

Simulations, AI enable GRIDSMAST cameras to time traffic lights to MPG estimates. Each year, approximately 6 billion gallons of fuel are wasted as vehicles wait at stop lights or sit in dense traffic with engines idling, according to US Department of Energy estimates

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AITO’s First International AI Dialogue

Key partnerships with our fellow freedom-loving nations will help us address our common challenges and ensure that artificial intelligence reflects our shared

values and respect for human rights and dignity. That is why I was so pleased as one of my first engagements as Director to host DOE's first AI Dialogue focused solely on artificial intelligence with several embassy science attachés last month.

The half-day agenda focused on identifying areas ripe for multilateral cooperation and domestic challenges each nation is facing on concerns about data security, privacy, bias and the threat of adversarial AI. I look forward to building on this foundation for collaboration with a second AI Dialogue in the coming months.



New twist in artificial intelligence could enhance the prediction of fusion disruptions

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) have used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create an innovative technique to improve the prediction of disruptions in fusion energy devices — a grand challenge in the effort to capture on Earth the fusion reactions that power the sun and stars.

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AITO in the News

[WSJ: U.S. Energy Department Appoints AI Leader](#)

The U.S. Energy Department earlier this month appointed former 3M Co. artificial-intelligence leader Cheryl Ingstad as the first director of its Artificial Intelligence and Technology Office, where she will oversee the DOE's AI activities.

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