

Accelerate industry development of transformational energy technologies through ARPA-E

The widespread use of fossil fuels has long driven the engine of economic growth and, consequently, has significant national security implications. Looking toward the future, the nation that successfully grows its economy with more efficient energy use, a clean domestic energy supply, and a smart energy infrastructure will lead the global economy of the 21st century. The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) was created within DOE to be a catalyst for such a transformation, and to do so with fierce urgency.

ARPA-E has rapidly created a portfolio of innovative, high-risk R&D projects targeted to address the nation's technological gaps and leapfrog over current approaches in the energy sector. By using its initial American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding to selectively launch only one percent of the game-changing ideas submitted by entrepreneurs nationwide, ARPA-E is using a nontraditional approach that complements the established DOE energy programs.

Sandia can further accelerate innovation by engaging current and future ARPA-E innovators that otherwise might not benefit from our intellectual resources and relevant capabilities. Our strategy involves three simultaneous approaches:

1. build relationships with current ARPA-E investigators on projects where we can add value;
2. explore partnerships with innovators in the group of highly-ranked but unfunded ARPA-E proposals to pursue scientifically sound, high-risk R&D of keen interest to ARPA-E; and
3. contribute technical leadership to ARPA-E to shape future directions as this agency becomes established within DOE.

The suite of Sandia facilities described in the sections above, the innovative spirit ignited within the Laboratories by the initial ARPA-E solicitations, and ability to work in precompetitive or proprietary modes will enable Sandia to deliver the critically needed innovation for our nation's energy security.

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