

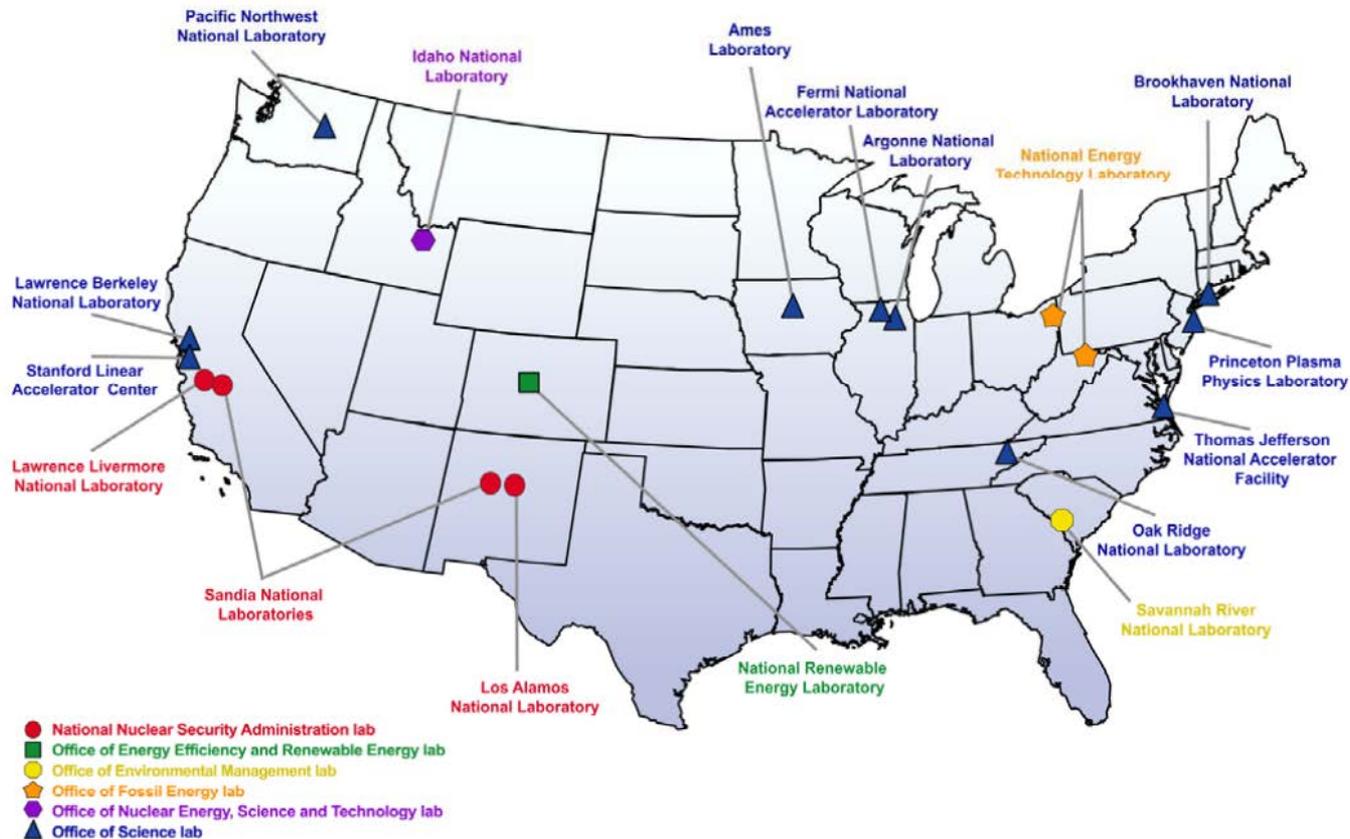
National Laboratory Directors Council (NLDC)

Presentation to CFMA

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NLDC is made up of the Lab Directors from each of the DOE National Labs



The National Laboratory Directors Council (NLDC)

- **VISION:**

- Collaborate with DOE on strategic issues and concerns of broad interest
- Provide a forum for discussing matters that impact effective and efficient mission execution

- **STRUCTURE:**

- **Executive Committee represents all Lab Directors**
 - Thom Mason (ORNL), Chair
 - Paul Alivisatos (LBNL)
 - Paul Himmert (SNL)
 - Eric Isaacs (ANL)
 - Rosio Alvarez (LBNL), Coordinator
- **Standing Working Groups – each with a structure and appropriate links to DOE:**
 - Chief Research Officers (CRO)
 - Chief Operations Officers (COO)
 - Chief Information Officers (CIO)
 - Chief Financial Officers (CFO)
 - General Counsels (GC)
 - Communication Officers (CCO)

NLDC Meetings and Activities

- **NLDC Executive Committee meets quarterly with Secretary of Energy**
 - Identify, discuss and resolve issues on behalf of the NLDC
 - At least once a year a face to face meeting with all lab directors
 - Other interactions as needed (interim NLDC meetings, Working Group tag ups, ad hoc calls with all Lab Directors, etc.)
- **Past and continuing issues (old issues never really die...)**
 - Nuclear energy – clarifying the technological roadmap
 - Branding the Labs as a national, strategic asset
 - Cost of Doing Business
 - ARRA
- **Specific issues currently warranting NLDC attention:**
 - Reform Initiative (Safety, Security, Cyber, Integrated Management System)
 - Programmatic initiatives/mission enablers (i.e., ARPA-E, Hubs)
 - Work for Others (WFO)
 - Working with Industry
 - Industry Forums (two held)
 - Tech Transfer including Agreements for Commercializing Technology (ACT)
 - Non-Federal WFO
 - Sustainability
 - Contractor Assurance (CAS)
 - OMB dislike of M&O contracts

Burdensome Policies

A successful process initiated by NLDC

- Over 100 onerous areas of opportunity identified – culled down to top 20 via NLDC community vote
 - Initially a challenge by the Secretary - strong support & visibility
- Significant outcomes:
 - Salary approvals (minimized & allow 10% contractor discretion)
 - Buy American Act threshold raised from \$100k to \$500k
 - Ability to accept vendor T&Cs up to \$100k
 - Class approval of Davis Bacon determinations
 - Capitalization threshold raised from \$50k to \$500k
 - More participative process for Acquisition Letters (AL)
 - AL guidance that reasonable error rates are an allowable cost
 - Eliminated DOE approvals on foreign travel - data reporting only
 - Launched Integrated Management System (IMS) effort

Burdensome Policies, cont.

- **Work in Progress**
 - Front loading of OMB quarterly apportionments
 - Lab participation as a partner in response to federal RFPs
 - Improvements to funds distribution (reduce 6-8 week process to a matter of days)

Topics Discussed by NLCFO Group

Mission: All things Financial

- Chair: Marty Conger (PNNL), Glenn Kizer (LANL), Chair elect
- Routine interactions with DOE CFO
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Pension and Benefit metrics (visibility of cost issue and outliers)
 - Institutional Cost Reporting replacing Functional Cost
 - Consistent funding model for Safeguards and Security
 - GPP/IGPP threshold raised to \$10M
 - Conference management order revisions (joint with CROs)
 - Resolved total time reporting not required for EVMS certification
 - Streamlined Alternative Financing guide/process (joint with COOs, GC and OECM)
- **Specific issues currently are:**
 - Pensions and Benefits
 - Developing and Implementing ACT
 - Cost of Doing Business
 - OMB Quarterly apportionment
 - Charging of LDRD Administration

So... Are we making any progress?

- **Lots of Evidence**
 - Routine Interactions with HQ
 - Reform of Safety Directives
 - Safeguards and Security Summit
 - Pension and Benefits
 - Individual Directives
- **Slow and Steady.....**
- **But don't forget, the tortoise does win!**
 - Maintain a steady presence
 - Consistent, transparent, collaborative, etc.

What's Next

- **Implement ACT**
 - Three year pilot program
- **Address OMB Concerns**
 - Develop comprehensive information to address lingering OMB and other external stakeholder concerns about the value and effectiveness of the National Labs and the M&O model
- **Alternative Financing**
 - Work with the Secretary to develop acceptable parameters and structure for lease/financing options to acquire Lab facilities
 - Facilitate OMB concurrence



Questions?