

Titans of Nuclear podcast featuring Rita Baranwal, Director, GAIN Program

Titans of Nuclear is a podcast featuring interviews with experts throughout the field of nuclear energy. Host Bret Kugelmass is a climate change thought leader & champion of nuclear energy. This episode features INL's Rita Baranwal.

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Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Announces \$60 Million for U.S. Industry Awards in Support of Advanced Nuclear Technology Development

April 27, 2018

DOE has selected five U.S. companies to receive GAIN technology development vouchers in this first review cycle. The companies selected and the DOE contribution to the cost-shared vouchers are Terrestrial Energy, USA in New York, NY (\$500,000); Vega Wave Systems, Inc. in West Chicago, IL (\$130,000); Oklo, Inc. in Sunnyvale, CA (\$417,000); Urbix Resources, LLC in Mesa, AZ (\$320,000); and ThorCon US, Inc. in Stevenson, WA (\$400,000).

More information on the GAIN initiative awards can be found [here](#). More information on the Office of Nuclear Energy and its programs can be found [here](#).

 [DOE News Release](#)

Versatile Test Reactor Expressions of Interest

Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (BEA), the managing and operating contractor for the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in Idaho Falls, Idaho, is seeking two separate Expressions of Interest (EOI) from industry stakeholders. The response date is May 14, 2018. A short description of both is below along with the links to FedBusOpps.Gov.

INL-18-007 - Versatile Test Reactor Experiment Vehicles: Work with national laboratories and universities to develop experiment device concepts and associated enabling technologies that will enable fuels and materials irradiation testing in a new fast spectrum neutron irradiation capability. The focus of this effort is to sufficiently mature the reactor and experiment concepts and associated cost estimate to inform a DOE decision on whether to build this capability. The concept irradiation test devices are envisioned for use in a nominal 300 MWth sodium-cooled fast reactor with a fast neutron flux of $> 4 \times 10^{15}$ n/cm²-sec. The concepts would be used to test advanced reactor fuels and materials as required for advanced reactor technologies that may use alternate coolants including molten salt, lead/lead-bismuth, gas, and sodium.

INL-18-008 - Versatile Test Reactor: Development or maturation of a concept and associated cost estimate for a new fast spectrum neutron irradiation capability. The focus of this effort is to sufficiently mature the reactor concept and cost estimate to inform a DOE decision on whether to build this capability. Pending approval for final design and construction, the capability is envisioned to consist of a nominal 300 MWth sodium-cooled fast test reactor for the intended purpose to irradiate materials and fuels. The capability does not include any power producing equipment.

The Primary Point of Contact is Steve Girhing, steven.girhing@inl.gov.

Industry-Led Licensing Modernization Project (LMP) Status

April 19, 2018

The DOE is working with interested stakeholders to support activities related to the advanced reactor Licensing Modernization Project (LMP). This project is being led by Southern Company (on behalf of industry), coordinated with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and cost-shared by DOE. The project is developing technical non-LWR licensing methods that are technology-inclusive, risk-informed, and performance-based. A key LMP objective is to generate a document for NRC review and endorsement that can be subsequently used by advanced reactor license applicants as regulatory guidance.

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If you have a regulatory question for NRC, please see the [GAIN Regulatory Tab](#) to submit your question.