GAIN announces fourth-round FY 2020 Nuclear Energy Voucher recipients

September 16, 2020

The Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) announced today that three nuclear companies will be provided GAIN Nuclear Energy (NE) Vouchers to accelerate the innovation and application of advanced nuclear technologies. NE vouchers provide advanced nuclear technology innovators with access to the extensive nuclear research capabilities and expertise available across the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratory complex. This is the fourth set of awards in FY 2020.

The businesses selected to receive GAIN nuclear energy vouchers for Round 4 FY 2020 are:

GAIN 2020 4th Round NE Voucher Recipient	Awarded Proposal	Partner Facility
Kairos Power Alameda, CA	Pebble Bed Large Eddy Simulations for Lower Order Methods Benchmarking and Uncertainty Quantification Development	Argonne National Laboratory
Natura Resources, LLC Abilene, TX	RELAP5-3D Development and Assessment for Liquid-fuels Molten Salt Reactor Licensure	Idaho National Laboratory
TerraPower, LLC Bellevue, WA	Thermophysical Properties Measurements of NaCl-PuCl3	Argonne National Laboratory

GAIN NE voucher recipients do not receive direct financial awards. The GAIN nuclear energy vouchers provide access to national laboratory capabilities at no cost to the voucher recipients. All awardees are responsible for a minimum 20 percent cost share, which could be an in-kind contribution.

The GAIN NE Voucher Program accepts applications on innovation that supports production and utilization of nuclear energy (e.g., for generation of electricity, supply of process heat, etc.) in the following general topic areas:

- Analysis and evaluation of, and for, advanced reactor concepts and associated designs, including development of licensing information or strategies
- Structural material and component development, testing and qualification
- Advanced nuclear fuel development, fabrication and testing (includes fuel materials and cladding)
- Development, testing, and qualification of instrumentation, controls, and sensor technologies that are hardened for harsh environments and secured against cyber intrusion
- Modeling and simulation, high-performance computing, codes and methods
- Technical assistance from subject matter experts and/or data/information to support technology development and/or confirm key technical or licensing issues

Further information on the GAIN nuclear energy voucher program as well as current and all past awards may be found **here**.

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) established GAIN to provide the nuclear community with the technical, regulatory and financial support necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercialization while ensuring the continued safe, reliable and economic operation of the existing nuclear fleet. Through GAIN, DOE is making its state-of-the-art and continuously improving RD&D infrastructure available to stakeholders to achieve faster and cost-effective development of innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercial readiness.

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A Past, Present, and Future Glance at GAIN

September 10, 2020

Kemal Pasamehmetoglu is known for being both innovative and candid. So, looking back to when the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) was founded in December 2015, he readily acknowledges that "in the first seven to eight months, we tried to define what GAIN really meant."

There were numerous meetings with Department of Energy (DOE) program managers, a roadshow to national laboratories, emphasizing how they could be part of the program, and discussions with private industry about GAIN's potential benefits.

"We needed to determine how to best line up the existing programs and be helpful," Pasamehmetoglu, GAIN's first director, said. There was a focus to ensure the "being helpful" metric applied to every corner of the nuclear community, especially private reactor developers.

GAIN has been highly successful at being helpful. In being broadly understood, not so much.

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