



Press Release

News Media Contact:(202) 586-4940

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Energy Department Launches New Demonstration Center for Advanced Nuclear Technologies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today the launch of the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC). The new initiative will assist with the development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by harnessing the world-class capabilities of the DOE national laboratory system.

Authorized by the [Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act](#), NRIC will provide private sector technology developers the necessary support to test and demonstrate their reactor concepts and assess their performance. This will help accelerate the licensing and commercialization of these new nuclear energy systems.

“NRIC will enable the demonstration and deployment of advanced reactors that will define the future of nuclear energy,” said U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry. “By bringing industry together with our national labs and university partners, we can enhance our energy independence and position the U.S. as a global leader in advanced nuclear innovation.”

NRIC will be led by Idaho National Laboratory and builds upon the successes of DOE’s [Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear \(GAIN\) initiative](#). GAIN connects industry with the national labs to accelerate the development and commercialization of advanced nuclear technologies. NRIC will coordinate with industry, other federal institutions, the national labs, and universities on testing and demonstrating these concepts.

"There are several U.S. companies pursuing advanced reactor designs that would use fuel enriched with higher levels of uranium-235, and need a source so they can conduct the research and development needed to bring these new technologies to market," DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Technology Research and Development John Herczeg said. "Being able to provide a source of this fuel would support this research and development and aligns with the Office of Nuclear Energy's mission to advance nuclear power as a resource capable of meeting the nation's energy, environmental and national security needs."

The Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act was signed into law in 2018 by President Donald J. Trump <https://www.energy.gov/articles/president-trump-signs-bill-boost-advanced-nuclear-america> and eliminates some of the financial and technological barriers standing in the way of nuclear innovation. It directs DOE to facilitate the siting of advanced reactor research demonstration facilities through partnerships between DOE and private industry. The House Energy and Water Development committee has allocated \$5 million in the FY2020 budget for NRIC, which plans to demonstrate small modular reactor and micro-reactor concepts within the next five years.

For more information view the [National Reactor Innovation Center Fact Sheet](#).

Below are web links to some of the news coverage of the NRIC announcement:

https://www.postregister.com/news/government/reactor-innovation-center-to-come-to-inl/article_0eb27d95-18d7-5d69-a036-f90a6b16d813.html

<https://www.eastidahonews.com/2019/08/inl-to-focus-on-partnerships-with-private-companies-as-new-national-reactor-innovation-center/>

<https://www.localnews8.com/news/kifi-breaking-news/doe-launches-national-reactor-innovation-center/1109239319>