ORNL’s mission

Deliver scientific discoveries and technical breakthroughs that will accelerate the development and deployment of solutions in clean energy and global security, and in doing so create economic opportunity for the nation.

Signature strengths

Computational science and engineering

Materials science and engineering

Neutron science and technology

Nuclear science and technology
ORNL’s Secret Mission

1939
Albert Einstein writes to President Franklin Roosevelt warning of the possible development of “extremely powerful bombs of a new type”

1942
Army Corps of Engineers forms the Manhattan Engineer District. This leads to the decision to buy 59,000 acres in East Tennessee to separate uranium, and demonstrate plutonium production and separation

1943
The world’s first operational nuclear reactor, the Graphite Reactor serves as a plutonium production pilot plant during World War II. It operates until November 1963, pioneering the production of radioisotopes, studies of radiation damage in materials, and development of neutron diffraction as a research tool.

WWII Ends
The X-10 facilities served as a pilot plant for the massive plutonium production complex built at Hanford, Washington, which supplied the plutonium used in the “Fat Man” bomb.
Transition to Peacetime Laboratory

**Purpose**
- use nuclear energy to pioneer medical therapies,
- study the nature of matter, and power homes

**Activities**
- Construction of new research reactors to enable exploration of the potential of nuclear power for generating electricity
- Discoveries in materials, chemical, and nuclear sciences.
Researchers investigate the properties of 120 laboratory melts and determine the recommended composition and heat treatment of a chrome-moly steel that has better tolerance of design stresses with no loss of ductility, higher resistance to thermal stress, immunity to stress corrosion cracking in chloride-bearing water, and resistance to radiation-induced swelling. Chrome-moly steel is used in electric utility boilers and oil refinery furnaces worldwide.

From the mid-1970s to early 1980s, ORNL works with Combustion Engineering (now Alston Power Inc.) to develop the first creep-strength enhanced ferritic (CSEF) steel, Grade 91. The steel debuts in 1982. Grade 91 and subsequent CSEF steels become a worldwide standard for achieving high efficiency and safe and reliable performance.

CF8C-Plus steel, developed through a cooperative research and development agreement between ORNL and Caterpillar, is commercialized by Caterpillar in 2007 for regeneration systems for diesel particulate filters, and 550 tons is used in more than 35,000 heavy-duty highway diesel engines.
Supercomputing

Oracle
14 kiloflops (1,000 floating-point operations per second).
It has an original storage capacity of 1,024 words of 40 bits each and contains a magnetic-tape auxiliary memory.

Paragon

Jaguar
#1 in 2009, 2010

Kraken

Titan
#1 in 2012

Summit
#1 in 2018

Frontier
Debut in 2022
Performance >1.5 exaflops exceeding a quintillion, or 10^{18}, calculations per second

~1M attacks per day
One gram in 50 years

It is **really hard** to make neutrons.

Little known fact… Fermi was about a year or two away from discovering the Higgs Boson before CERN came online.
How do we make neutrons
High Flux Isotope Reactor

Constructed in the mid-1960s to fulfill a need for the production of transuranic isotopes—heavy elements such as plutonium and curium

World’s highest producer of steady-state neutrons

Cold Source is designed to cool neutron beams to 20 K (-425ºF)

One of its original primary purposes was to produce californium-252 and other transuranic isotopes for research, industrial, and medical applications. HFIR is the western world’s sole supplier of californium-252, an isotope used for cancer therapy and detection of pollutants in the environment and explosives in luggage.

Mission now includes materials irradiation, neutron activation, and, most recently, neutron scattering.

capabilities enable the exploration of the molecular and magnetic structures and behaviors of materials including high temperature superconductors, polymers, metals, and biological samples.

Average core lifetime is ~23 days at 85 MW
The target provides neutrons to 24 beam lines.
A Stick of Dynamite 5 Million Times/Day!

- 1 gigaelectronvolt (GeV) 60 Hz proton beam aimed at nose of SNS target assembly
- Neutrons produced via spallation reaction with mercury
- Mercury flow approx. 23 L/s
- Local pressure from proton beam pulse can reach almost 6,000 psi
- Temperature rise from a 1.4 MW beam causes $10^7$ K/s temperature rise
- Cryogenic Test Facility produces useable liquid helium bath at 2.1 K (-456°F)
- Niobium has a superconducting transition critical temperature of 9.2 K

SNS makes the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s most powerful pulsed neutron source, producing $4.8 \times 10^{16}$ neutrons per second.

Every time the SNS ramps up, it will set a new neutron production standard.
Transportation & Grid Research

Wireless charging
Neutrons
Vehicle Systems Integration
Additive Manufacturing
Additive Manufacturing
There are a lot of different technologies

Research in a Wide Range of AM Technologies

- Electron Beam Melting
  - Developing in-situ characterization, feedback, and control
  - Heated powder bed
  - Expanding range of materials (Ti64, CoCr, 625, 718)
  - Precision melting of powder materials
- Ultrasonic Additive Manufacturing
  - Simultaneous additive and subtractive process for manufacturing complex geometries
  - Solid-state process allows embedding of optical fibers and sensors
- Laser Metal Deposition
  - Site-specific material addition
  - Application of advanced coating materials for corrosion and wear-resistance
  - Repair of dies, turbines, etc.
- Selective Laser Melting
  - Unheated powder bed
  - Wide range of material choices (316L, 17-4PH, H13, Al, Ti, 718, 625)
  - Precision melting of metal powders
  - Up to 630 x 400 x 500mm build volume
- Metal Binder Jetting
  - Metal matrix composites and sintered materials including:
    - Stainless steel + bronze
    - Tungsten + titanium
    - Ceramics + sand
    - Large build volumes (10 x 10 x 16in)
    - Fast build times (30 sec/layer)
- Large-Scale Welding
  - Open-air environment
  - MIG welding arm with 6 DOF and 2 rotational degrees
  - Print size not restricted
  - Uses low-cost welding torches and wire
  - CAD-to-path functionality

- Hybrid Manufacturing
  - Net shape manufacturing
  - 5-Axis and more
  - Laser wire, laser powder direct manufacturing and repair

- Hot Isostatic Press
  - First rapid-quench HIP in America
  - 180mm diameter
  - Can reach pressures of 25,000psi
  - Cooling rates of 3000C/min when cooled from 3000C
  - Can HIP and heat treatment in same cycle

- Large-Scale Polymer Deposition
  - Deposits up to 1000lbs. of pellet feedstock material per hour
  - Build volume up to 20" long x 6" wide x 8" tall
  - Printed x37 different polymers and composites
  - Dual material capabilities

- Characterization
  - Unheated powder bed
  - Wide range of material choices (316L, 17-4PH, H13, Al, Ti, 718, 625)
  - Precision melting of metal powders
  - Up to 630 x 400 x 500mm build volume

- Thermoset Dual Material Extrusion
  - Capable of depositing 300mL/minute
  - Can control material properties and speed on the fly
  - Cross-linking between layers
  - 2-part resin

- Ingersoll Large-Scale Polymer Deposition
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- Under development
  - Will have 46’ x 23’ x 10’ build volume
  - Target deposition rate of 1000 lbs/hr.
  - Will be 10x larger and faster than previous commercial systems

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- Full suite of characterization from powder to part

- X-Ray, CT, FIB

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3-D Printed Shelby Cobra
Hydraulic hand

- Additive processes enable integrated pump, fluid passages and pistons into a structure with mesh for weight reduction
- Titanium hand made using E-beam fusion (operating pressure 3000 psi)

Solid palm weighing 857 grams.
Meshed palm weighing 178 grams

Pistons integrated into structure
Curved fluid passages
Integrated motor and pump
World-Class Science

WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE TAKES ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
DOE investments at ORNL enable solutions to the most compelling challenges of our time

**DOE Ideation sessions (April/May)**

- Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks
- Floating Offshore Wind
- Industrial Decarbonization
- Net Zero Carbon Buildings
- Power Electronics for the Grid
- Recycling/Reuse
- Fusion

**Energy Earthshot**
- Hydrogen
- Carbon Negative
- Storage
- Preventing Pandemics
- Microelectronics

**Security Earthshot**
- Net Zero World

**Science Earthshot**
- Net Zero Carbon Buildings
- Power Electronics for the Grid

**ORNL budget:** $2.4B

**U.S. Department of Energy**
Questions??