

ORNL's mission is to provide solutions to America's grand scientific challenges.

A History of Great Science

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is the Department of Energy's largest science and energy laboratory. Managed since April 2000 by a partnership of the University of Tennessee and Battelle, ORNL was established in 1943 as a part of the secret Manhattan Project to pioneer a method for producing and separating plutonium. During the 1950s and 1960s, ORNL became an international center for the study of nuclear energy and related research in the physical and life sciences. With the creation of DOE in the 1970s, ORNL's mission broadened to include a variety of energy technologies and strategies. Today the laboratory supports the nation with a peacetime science and technology mission that is just as important as, but very different from, its role during the Manhattan Project.



ORNL is located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Laboratory Director



Dr. Thomas E. Mason is an international leader in the application of neutron scattering techniques to the study of the structure and dynamics of materials. He led the construction of one of the nation's largest science facilities, the \$1.4 billion Spallation Neutron Source, at ORNL. Dr. Mason served as an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, a Senior Scientist at Risø National Laboratory in Denmark, and a Postdoctoral Fellow with Bell Laboratories. He received degrees from Dalhousie University and McMaster University in Canada. Dr. Mason was most recently Associate Laboratory Director for Neutron Sciences at ORNL and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Lab at a Glance

ORNL has a staff of more than 4,200 and annually hosts approximately 3,000 guest researchers who spend two weeks or longer in Oak Ridge. Annual funding exceeds \$1.2 billion. As an international leader in a range of scientific areas that support the Department of Energy's mission, ORNL has six major mission roles: neutron science, energy, high-performance computing, systems biology, materials science at the nanoscale, and national security. ORNL's leadership role in the nation's energy future includes hosting the U.S. project office for the ITER international fusion experiment and the Office of Science-sponsored Bioenergy Science Center.

World's Largest Facility for Materials Research

Completed on budget and on schedule, the \$1.4 billion Spallation Neutron Source, combined with the upgraded High Flux Isotope Reactor, makes Oak Ridge the world's foremost center for neutron science research.

A Campus for the Next Generation of Research

ORNL is completing a \$350 million project to provide a modern campus for the next generation of great science. A unique combination of federal, state, and private funds is supporting the construction of 13 new facilities, including the Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics, the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences, the Advanced Microscopy Laboratory, the Office of Science's Leadership Computing Facility for unclassified high-performance computing, and the state-funded joint institutes for computational sciences, biological sciences, and neutron sciences.

Community Service

UT-Battelle has provided \$8 million in support of math and science education, economic development, and other projects in the greater Oak Ridge region, including a leadership role in the \$55 million renovation of Oak Ridge High School.

Point of Contact:

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