INCITE Frequently Asked Questions

What's new about the INCITE program in 2008?
In 2008, the Innovative and Novel Computational Impact on Theory and Experiment (INCITE) program may allocate up to a quarter of a billion processor hours on the Department of Energy Office of Science's high performance computing resources at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL).

What constitutes a "computationally intensive" research project?
A computationally intensive research project will utilize a majority of the processors and multiple cores, if applicable, in the proposed research. A project that involves a large number of small independent jobs is not considered computationally intense.

Who is eligible to apply for an INCITE award?
The INCITE program will be open to all scientific researchers and research organizations, including industry. Results of the non-proprietary research must be made available to the DOE and to the public. Publication in the open literature is strongly encouraged. For information about DOE policy on proprietary work at facilities and the specific implementation of these policies at the different facilities, proposers should contact either the DOE Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property or the patent counsel at the facility of interest.

Are INCITE awards only for a period of one year?
INCITE awards can be from one to three years in length. Multi-year awards will be reviewed annually. Requests for multi-year awards will be subject to the highest standards of excellence and are expected to yield truly extraordinary scientific results.

I previously received a one year INCITE award. Am I eligible to apply again?
Yes, you may apply.

Can I submit a proposal to use a variety of resources at several different facilities?
In the proposal, you can identify a primary resource and any additional resources from the sites listed in the HPC Resources section. Normally, awardees will only receive allocations on one resource per year. If allocations are requested on multiple resources, the justification for the use of these resources must be clearly stated in the Description of Research and Computational Readiness sections of the application. Relevance to the accomplishment of the stated research goals should be the principal determining factor in any resource request.

Does the proposal have to come from a team?
No, the solicitation is open to individual researchers, a team of researchers from the same institution or multi-institutional teams.

Are teams based around a community-maintained code eligible to apply?
Yes, if the research objectives of a proposal are best satisfied by the operation of a community-maintained code or suite of codes on INCITE resources, then such use is entirely acceptable.

Must I have research funding from the Department of Energy?
No, current DOE sponsorship is not required. However, researchers are expected to have all funding and any other elements necessary to ensure the success of their research project in place at the time of their application.

Does the research that I propose have to be in line with the Department of Energy mission?
No, alignment with the DOE mission is not required.

Do the results of the research have to be published in the open literature?
Principal investigators on non-proprietary projects must be engaged in scientific research with the intent to publish results in open peer-reviewed literature.

Proprietary use of the HPC resources is subject to negotiation of the terms and conditions of the proprietary user agreement, which will include full cost recovery, between the DOE Laboratory and the proposer. For more information about DOE policy on proprietary work at its National Laboratories, proposers should contact either the DOE Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property or representatives for the facility of interest.

What kind of protections do the INCITE centers offer to protect data?
For non-proprietary users, the HPC centers involved in INCITE have implemented controls for protecting non-sensitive unclassified -fundamental research- information based on the NIST 800-53 "Low Baselines and Compensatory Controls." "Moderate Baselines" may be operating at your facility of interest; contact the facility directly for details. Risk is currently mitigated using available enterprise infrastructure and network-based tools to provide perimeter protection and vulnerability resolution. System and application-level security controls are implemented in accordance with industry and federal best practices. All non-temporary user data resides on centralized file and archival storage systems that are regularly backed up. This data is protected and segmented from other users using standard access controls.
The HPC centers cannot guarantee zero risks to the information stored on its systems; therefore, requests for processing data that is of a sufficiently sensitive nature (e.g., proprietary or export controlled) must be clearly identified in the proposal . Information-sensitivity concerns apply to the purpose and intent of the research, storing and compiling of source code, loading and execution of application software, input data for the application software, output data generated by the application software and any data resulting from analysis of output data. If, for example, the application software has an export control classification number (ECCN), prospective users should acknowledge this fact in the proposal and provide the ECCN. The prospective users should work with the facility to identify the available levels of data protection. Greater levels of protection not typically offered may be provided at a significant cost, which must be borne by the project.

Are researchers and teams from other US federal agencies eligible to apply?
Yes, as long they intend to publish their results in open peer-reviewed literature. Research applications from other agencies are expected and encouraged.

Are foreign researchers and teams eligible to apply?
Yes, foreign researchers may apply. Their proposal will be evaluated on the same scientific and technical criteria as domestic researchers.

The work that I do as an industrial scientist is proprietary, can I still apply?
Yes, proprietary use is welcome. However, proprietary use of the HPC resources is subject to negotiation of the terms and conditions of the proprietary user agreement, which will include full cost recovery, between the DOE Laboratory and the proposer. For more information about DOE policy on proprietary work at its National Laboratories, proposers should contact either the DOE Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property or representatives for the facility of interest.

If I get an INCITE award, how do I go about obtaining funding for my research labor and other items needed to carry out the INCITE work?
The INCITE award is for allocation of computer time and data storage resources only. Applicants must have all other resources required for the successful completion of the INCITE work committed to them at the time of their INCITE application. Applicants who cannot demonstrate compliance with this requirement will be deemed ineligible for an INCITE award.