

Multiprogram Research Facility

Increasing ORNL's capability to execute National Security S&T Projects

Responding to new international realities at a time when the Nation is at war, the national laboratories of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are being harnessed in the effort to deliver the science and technology (S&T) required to protect the homeland and national security interests worldwide. The challenge is to maximize the potential of DOE's S&T base by leveraging and exploiting its intellectual capital in critical national security, non-proliferation, and homeland security projects and programs – all assigned DOE missions.

The DOE complex at Oak Ridge requires the creation of a state of the art, large-scale, secure S&T facility that would provide the appropriate infrastructure and environment to both integrate and consolidate multi-disciplinary scientific capabilities for defense and homeland security activities. Two facts bear on the issue; 1) many of DOE's facilities are not optimized to conduct critical research and training activities, and 2) the government cannot fully exploit its assets without urgently required upgrades in a secure infrastructure. Accordingly, DOE approved construction of the Multiprogram



Research Facility (MRF), work on which began in February 2005.

The MRF will provide facilities for research and development activities in non-proliferation research, training, and operations; cyber security research and development; geospatial analysis; inorganic membrane research and prototyping; and myriad other activities for which appropriate infrastructure is either lacking or inadequate. This effort also supports projects of the Department of Energy 'Work For Others' program. The MRF will have approximately 214,000 square ft. to house chemical, material, and electronics laboratories, fabrication and training spaces, offices, and necessary support infrastructure. The training capabilities of the facility will include a 300-400 seat reconfigurable auditorium, 'tailorable' to multiple needs, with all compartments networked to permit interactive, real time control of outstations in a command post exercise, for example.



With an initial operational capability of Fall 2006 and full capability in Spring 2007, the MRF will be a resource for the Nation as Oak Ridge explores advanced concepts and technologies for application and employment against the challenges that threaten our people and interests.

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