

Implications for National Laboratories

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International collaborations are an important component of research at national laboratories, especially in fundamental and energy research. The beneficial aspects of these partnerships, both on an informal and formal level, in raising the level of research and development cannot be undervalued. In global energy R&D, in particular, the challenges are broad and the solutions often will be tailored to regional needs, providing ample opportunities for complementary research activities. Likewise, in frontier areas such as nanoscience and in the development of major user facilities, international cooperation has become increasingly important in the development of new instrumentation and techniques. However, any partnership must be in the interest of the nation, the funding agency, the laboratory and the partner. Issues of national security and economic competitiveness, even with the globalization of many industries, remain areas of ongoing attention.