



Nuclear Basics

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WRIGHT

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) AND THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEM

The U.S. DOE is responsible for the American National Laboratory System, administering energy policy, and managing nuclear infrastructure.

17 DOE National Laboratories in the United States

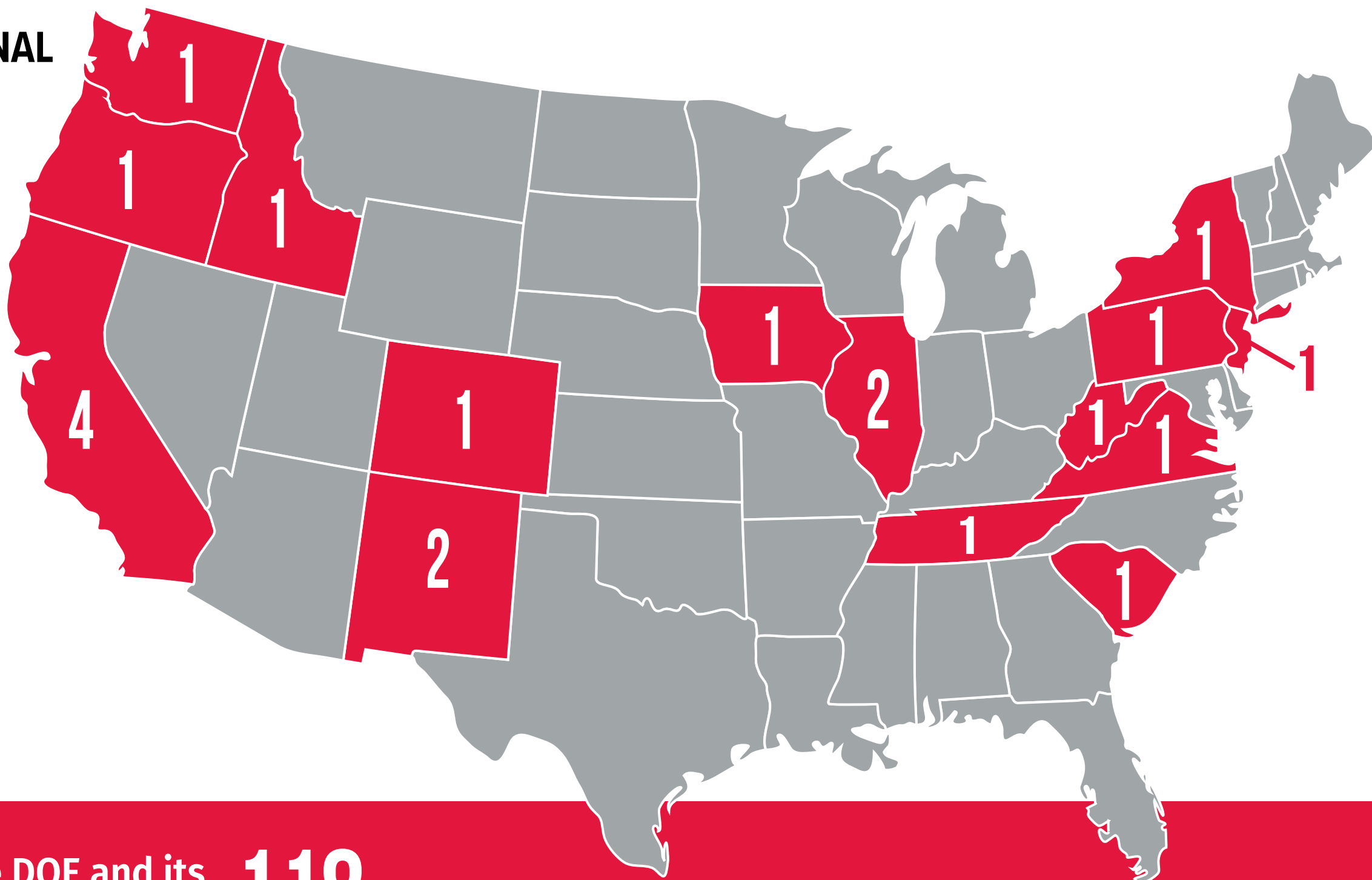
20 DOE National Laboratory Facilities Across the United States

TYPES OF NATIONAL LABORATORIES IN THE U.S.

3 National Nuclear Security Administration Labs

10 Office of Science National Labs

4 Other DOE National Labs



As of 2020, the DOE and its predecessors have received **118** Nobel Prizes, a testament to the impact of their research.



NUCLEAR BASICS:

The Department of Energy and the American National Lab System

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for [administering the energy policies and managing the nuclear infrastructure](#) of the United States, but that is not all it does. Scientific research falls under the DOE's responsibilities, putting them in charge of [the 17 national laboratories that drive scientific innovation](#). The labs that make up the American National Laboratory System are scattered across the United States, and seek to address unique scientific challenges [through individual or collective effort](#). Using technology like [supercomputers](#) at Argonne and Oak Ridge National Labs and the [advanced test reactor](#) at Idaho National Labs, these labs are responsible for a wide range of scientific and technological advancements ranging from the [discovery of DNA to the development of the worldwide web](#).

In total, the DOE and its predecessors have received [118 Nobel prizes as of 2020](#), a testament to the depth and impact of their research. But the DOE and national labs do not do all of this alone; a key element in their efforts is collaborating [with educational facilities and industry leaders](#) to provide the support they need to advance science. Directives like the [Cooperative Research and Development Agreement \(CRADA\)](#), [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#), and [others](#) allow information and technology to cross-pollinate between these facilities and the industry at large. Some even create entirely new offices, such as the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN), which aims to [provide the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial support needed to advance the nuclear industry](#). This type of collaboration and research is vital to maintaining and advancing America's energy market, providing a brighter future for many generations to come.