

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
STATE ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (STEAB)
Resolution13-01**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to establish sustainable partnerships between National Laboratories and states in order to facilitate the deployment of near-commercial ready and development of new technologies.

BACKGROUND

The United States industrial sector continues to face challenges from foreign competition in the development, deployment, and successful commercialization of new technologies. Technology development is not cheap and not all companies can afford the specialized equipment or experienced personnel that might be required to develop an idea or find a technology solution to a current problem. Manufacturers have sought technical assistance directly from states, advance manufacturing centers, and institutions of higher learning within their geographical location, but local expertise may be limited or insufficient. Given these challenges, the STEAB has identified opportunities that exist within the purview of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) to address these issues through the National Laboratories.

ISSUES

The U.S. has invested significantly in advanced research and opened opportunities for the National Laboratories to develop solutions to real market problems. These opportunities have resulted in some very successful collaborative agreements between the Laboratories, state energy offices, industry, universities, and other stakeholders on an array of highly technical and complex manufacturing and product design problems. The expertise at the National Laboratories and their sophisticated equipment and facilities are "tools" that could be better publicized and utilized, and can be utilized to increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness. Not only would an expanded availability of the facilities at the National Laboratories benefit U.S. manufacturing but the potential additional work for the Labs themselves could help bolster their budgets and livelihood in days of ever decreasing budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

There is an opportunity to foster new partnerships between the National Laboratories and public/private entities on manufacturing and deployment of near-commercial ready technologies, develop and deploy new technologies, and increasing the number of manufacturing jobs within the U.S. The members of the State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB) are recommending the EERE adopt the following strategies:

- Create a working matrix that captures all the technology capabilities and expertise resident in the National Laboratories.
- Develop a relationship with organizations, such as the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), through which the National Laboratories can meet with regional stakeholders on a regular basis to discuss technology issues facing the regional industries.

- Create a clear pathway for state energy offices and private entities to access resources, talent, and technology that exist within the National Laboratories.
- Encourage National Laboratories to foster partnerships with state energy offices to market and demonstrate technologies that could be used to find solutions to current manufacturing/marketing issues.
- Task the Project Management Center (PMC) to coordinate information between and among the EERE Programs, the National Laboratories, the states and other entities regarding these technologies.

In addition, to ensure continuous improvement and feedback, STEAB strongly encourages EERE to engage the STEAB members and other stakeholder as these strategies are pursued.

Unanimously Adopted by the STEAB on November 15, 2012.