Office of National Laboratories



Science and Technology

BACKGROUND

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate provides an Office of National Laboratories (ONL) to support DHS operational components and partners with a centralized, coordinated network of laboratories for research, development, test and evaluation (RDT &E). This laboratory network includes S&T 's in-house laboratories which align to enduring RDT &E needs of the Department, as well as auxiliary capabilities provided through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratories and other government laboratories and sites.

MISSION AND VISION

- MISSION: Enable DHS S&T's solution delivery through a coordinated network of laboratories providing technical expertise and RDT&E capabilities to deliver timely solutions and support Departmental acquisitions.
- VISION: Achieve a safer and more resilient nation through an integrated homeland security-based laboratory network.

FIVE IN-HOUSE S&T LABORATORIES

ONL ensures the safe, secure, and compliant management and operations of S&T's five in-house laboratories and capabilities which include seven sites located in five states:

- Chemical Security Analysis Center (CSAC) Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
- National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) – Fort Detrick, Maryland
- National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) – New York City (Manhattan), New York
- Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) Orient Point, New York
- Transportation Security Laboratory (TSL) Atlantic City, New Jersey
 - TSL Detection Technology Center (DTC) TIEDS Center, Huntsville, Alabama
 - TSL Tyndall Reactive Materials Group (TRMG) Tyndall Airforce Base, Panama City, Florida



S&T 's facilities provide technology, knowledge, and expertise to enhance homeland security. These laboratories and sites are major contributors to DHS operational components and partners alike, and have been instrumental in addressing a dynamic threat environment in focus areas such as:

- Chemical security analysis to stem the opioid scourge.
- Biological forensics and threat characterization on pathogens like SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), Ebola and Anthrax.
- First responder technology evaluations to ensure our operators in the field have the right tools to execute.
- Animal agriculture defense to mitigate threats of transboundary diseases like African swine fever virus.
- Detection science using machine learning, artificial intelligence, and other advanced techniques.

S&T 's laboratories require dedicated resources to maintain modern capabilities with strategic investment in their infrastructure to support the DHS mission.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH DOE LABORATORIES

ONL is proactive in identifying research programs at the DOE National Laboratories that may have potential to accelerate delivery of technological solutions. ONL facilitates access for DHS to the DOE labs through enduring partnerships and by aligning work occurring across S&T to capability offerings that exist within the DOE National Laboratories.

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