

## **What is Work For Others (WFO)?**

- The Department of Energy (DOE) offers the WFO mechanism to provide research and technical assistance to solve problems and provide working models or prototypes. This scientific help is done for federal agencies, commercial companies, local and state governments, and foreign entities.
- Succinctly, WFO is research or technical assistance done by a DOE Laboratory or a DOE Technology Center for a non-DOE entity, either private or federal. Work is fully funded on a reimbursable basis by the non-DOE entity.
- The DOE uses the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to conduct the research and development or specialized technical assistance for a WFO sponsor.
- WFO objectives are to:
  1. furnish research assistance and aggregate technical resources in accomplishing goals of a national concern that may otherwise be unattainable,
  2. make available access to highly specialized or unique facilities, services, or technical expertise, and
  3. increase research and development (R&D) interactions between ORNL and the U.S. domestic sector to facilitate technology transfer.

## **What are the WFO Work Parameters?**

- WFO projects may be either R&D or non-R&D services to the requesting organization.
- Work must be consistent with the mission and/or special expertise of the DOE and ORNL.
- Work must not affect the achievement of DOE work requirements.
- Work must not directly compete with the domestic U.S. private sector.
- Title to invention of WFO sponsor's requirement goes to sponsor under class patent waiver.
- Sponsor's proprietary data will be protected.
- The US government retains a nonexclusive royalty free license to any WFO invention.
- Safeguards are in place to preclude organizational conflicts of interest (e.g., disclosure to WFO sponsor regarding background intellectual property).