

The United States has long been a leader in the development of nuclear technologies. However, as there is currently no fast neutron testing capability in the U.S. to support advanced reactor research and development, U.S. industry has gone overseas for this capability. The Versatile Test Reactor (VTR) is intended to fill this long-standing gap, leveraging previous and existing U.S. government and industry investments in nuclear reactors to accelerate the design and construction process, using proven nuclear reactor technology to create a world-class test facility.

HOW WILL RESEARCHERS BE ABLE TO ACCESS VTR CAPABILITIES?

In general, the VTR will operate as a national user facility. Users will be provided access to the VTR, technical expertise from experienced scientists and engineers, and assistance with experiment design, assembly, safety analysis and examination. Access to user facilities is typically provided through open and competitive review processes. The Nuclear Science User Facility (NSUF) will be used as the model for scientific experiments. However, not all proposed experiments will be subject to a peer reviewed competitive process.

Experiments important to national programs and important to addressing emerging needs in the nuclear industry will receive a higher priority. International experiments covered under international collaboration agreements will also be a priority.

Other users will be accommodated with full cost-recovery based on availability of experimental positions.

University Partners

Abilene Christian University
 Colorado School of Mines
 Fort Lewis College
 Georgia Tech
 Idaho State University
 Illinois Institute of Technology
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 North Carolina State University
 Oregon State University
 Purdue University
 Texas A&M University
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of Idaho
 University of Michigan
 University of New Mexico
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Utah
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Yale University

National Laboratory Partners

Argonne National Laboratory
 Idaho National Laboratory
 Los Alamos National Laboratory
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
 Savannah River National Laboratory

Industry Partners

The Cameron Group
 Columbia Basin Consulting Group
 EPRI
 Framatome
 GE-Hitachi/Bechtel
 General Atomics
 HDF Group
 Orano
 TerraPower
 Westinghouse

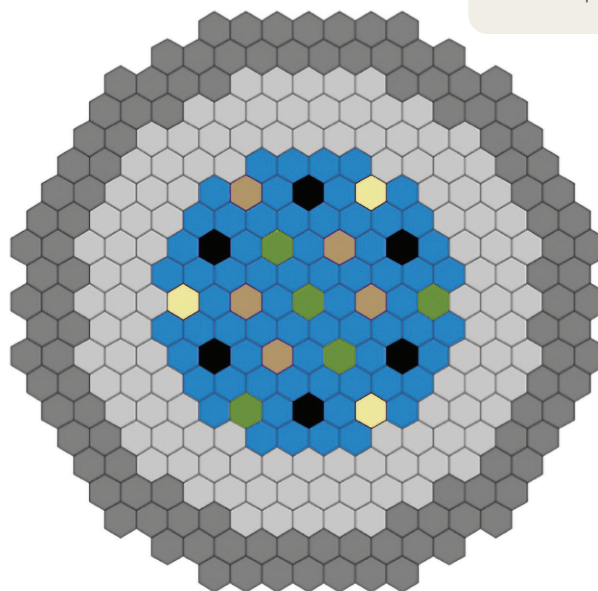
U.S. Department of Energy

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VTR Core Map

- Driver fuel rods (66)
- Control rod (6)
- Safety rod (3)
- Instrumented/cartridge loop/
rabbit test location
- Un-instrumented test location
- Reflector
- Shield

