Making plutonium-238 to power NASA missions

1. Neptunium-237 (Np-237) sent from INL to ORNL
2. ORNL fabricates Np-237 into target pellets
3. Pellets irradiated in ORNL’s High Flux Isotope Reactor or INL’s Advanced Test Reactor to convert Np-237 to plutonium-238 (Pu-238)
4. Targets processed at ORNL
5. Pu-238 shipped to LANL and fabricated into pellets clad in iridium
6. Pu-238 clads shipped to INL to fuel the radioisotope thermoelectric generator, which is then subjected to acceptance testing
7. RTG shipped to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center