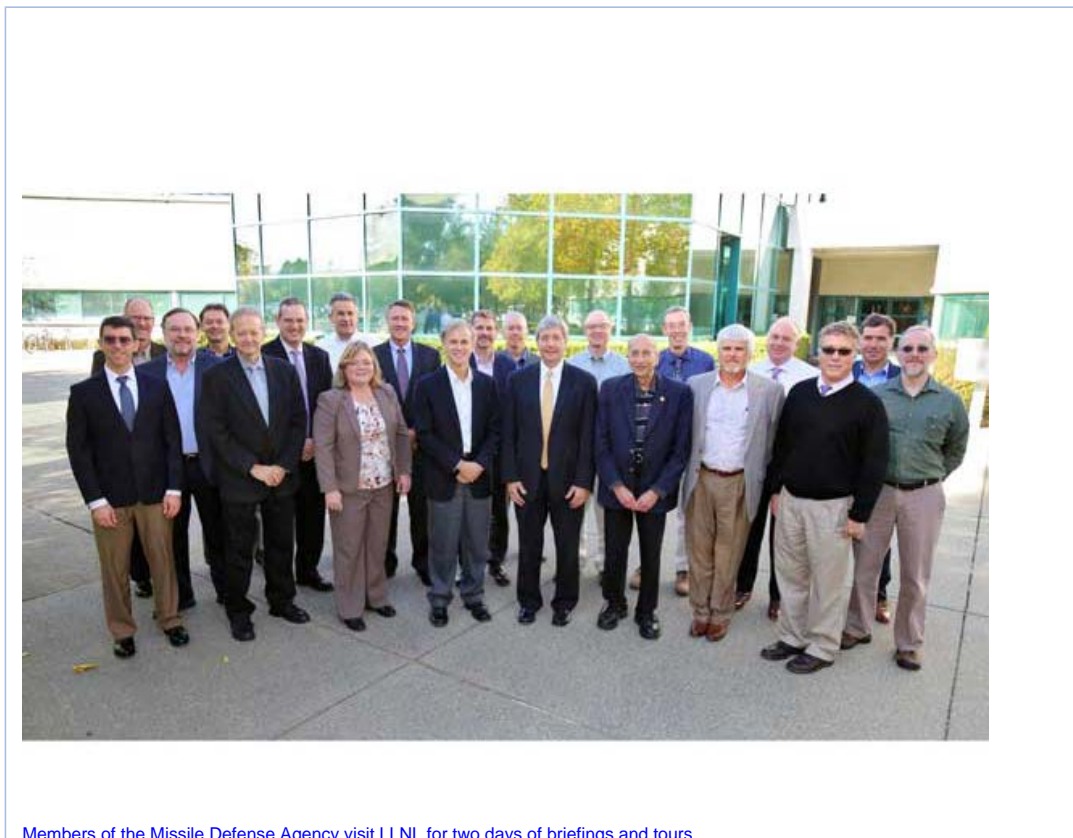


LLNL hosts missile defense technical review

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Members of the Missile Defense Agency visit LLNL for two days of briefings and tours.

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) visited LLNL last week for two days of briefings and tours as part of its annual review of LLNL missile defense research and exploration of emerging technologies.

The MDA is tasked with defending the U.S. and its allies from missile attack, including emerging threats from hypersonic maneuverable vehicles. While the MDA does not operate its own set of national laboratories, it has effectively developed a research community to address daunting missile defense challenges by commissioning work from a group of federally-funded research and development centers, like LLNL, and universities capable of conducting classified research.

"MDA has an extraordinarily challenging job," said Randy Simpson, interim director of the Office of Defense Coordination. "They rely on LLNL to help protect the nation and our allies. Technical contributions come from each of our PADs - WCI, Global Security, NIF, Comp, Engineering and PLS - they all play important roles in delivering on this mission."

To rally the greater missile defense research community around technical challenges, the MDA conducts technical reviews at each of the "MDA labs" every year, also inviting the other missile defense labs to participate in the discussions. Among the attendees in last week's MDA meetings at LLNL were Sandia, Los Alamos and Oak Ridge national labs, as well as MIT-Lincoln Lab and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

A notable member of the LLNL delegation for the meeting was Chris Cross, who has accepted an offsite assignment with MDA as the Livermore technical liaison. Cross will bring technical expertise as an LLNL physicist, as well as experience as the Tri-Laboratory leader of the Joint DoD/Department of Energy Munitions Technology Development Program.

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