

The Environmental Technology Leveraging Initiative

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Abstract

The Environmental Technology Leveraging Initiative was awarded in October of 1994 by the Morgantown Energy Technology Center (METC) to the Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF). The initiative has been a cooperative venture aimed at making U.S. environmental technology developed within the National Laboratory system more readily available to the private sector and to advance U.S. commercial business, academic, and other government agencies interests. This public/private effort was to also accelerate commercial applications of DOE technologies, increase private sector participation within the DOE Complex, enhance their competition in the international market, and create an ongoing business strategy that would build the capacity to implement U.S. technology objectives.

The Global Environmental & Technology Enterprise (GETE) program is the product of the 3 year cooperative agreement between METC and GETF. The mission of GETE is to increase the commercial availability and deployment of EM-relevant, DOE-supported technologies by providing assistance to the Focus Areas, the private sector and the Site Technology Coordination Groups. In addition, the development of value-added services which would lead to sustainability coupled with the creation of an entity that would serve both the private and federal sectors is the ultimate goal.

The GETE approach to meeting its three year mission was to establish effective methods in the areas of information collection and dissemination, facilitation of activities associated with the commercialization and deployment of technologies, and the enhancement of communications between all the stakeholders involved with each technology.

The GETE program has made significant progress during the past two years. A state-of-the-art communications system, the Global Network for Environmental Technology (GNET), has been established. GNET is an internet-accessible system for sharing and disseminating environmental technology information via the World Wide Web. GNET provides timely, internet-accessible information on technologies, program and funding details, advanced search capabilities, "Environmental Technologist" an on-line magazine, and links to related and relevant WWW home pages. Due to the success of GNET, the Global Exchange Initiatives (GXI) was created. GXI is the first spin-off company created by METC/GETF partnership.

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The GETE program has established a formal business assistance program. The program divides technologies into two classes; those where the intellectual properties still reside within the National Laboratories and those where the private sector own the rights. This division assists in identification of the specific activities that will be required to ultimately deploy the technology. After the technology has been identified, classified, and screened, those that are potentially commercially viable and deployable are selected. Those selected have a customized assistance package developed which focuses on the critical areas of licensing, financial brokering, business and strategic planning, performance-based marketing, privatization, and brokering public/private partnerships. These customized assistance packages define the critical activities that must be performed in order for the technology to be used within the DOE complex. In addition, if appropriate, use within the domestic and/or international markets are targeted.

The GETE program has also established the Affiliates Program. This program promotes and provides the unique DOE-developed technologies AND the individual technologist to the private sector. The pilot program was initiated at the Oak Ridge Complex involving the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Y-12 Plant (Advanced Manufacturing) and the K-25 Site (Environmental & Waste Management) in February of this year. The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory recently started their Affiliates Program. The program has been reviewed at all the major laboratories and implementation at many is planned this coming year.

GETE has facilitated the development of an ASTM standard for Expedited Site Characterization by establishing a forum for partnerships with EM-40, EM-50, EPA, ITRC and participating states. The expertise of LANL, Ames, and ANL were united and coupled to an ASTM ongoing effort. A provisional standard is expected by the end of 1996 with balloting by the ASTM early in 1997.

GETE is working closely with the Focus and Cross Cutting Areas with dedicated individuals participating in the assessment of technologies, preparation of assistance packages, and offering assistance in implementation. Assistance is also offered to the private sector and is based on need.

The coming year offers many challenges to the Focus and Cross Cutting Areas and the GETE team is prepared to assist in the development of cost effective solutions leading to timely implementation of innovative technologies.

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