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An Overview of ARPA-E

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In less than six years, the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) has developed and implemented a unique model for the support of energy research and development. ARPA-E funds R&D on high-potential, high-impact energy technologies that are too early for private-sector investment. The agency focuses on technologies that can be meaningfully advanced with a modest investment over a defined period of time in order to catalyze the translation from scientific discovery to early-stage technology. The fundamental question asked of every ARPA-E program and project is: “If it works, will it matter?” This talk will discuss the ARPA-E model, including the development of focused technology programs and the active management of projects for technical and market success. Highlights of programs and projects of particular interest to the physics community will be given.