



## Counterintelligence Support to Hosting Foreign Visitors

International collaboration is essential to capturing the benefits of rapid scientific and technical advances and curtail the costs of conducting advanced research. As such, Department of Energy facilities are experiencing a growing number of foreign national visitors from both sensitive and non-sensitive countries. Our stewardship responsibilities are challenged by the need to promote legitimate scientific cooperation with other nations, while simultaneously protecting our employees, technologies and information from exploitation. To maintain this critical balance, the support of each DOE contractor and employee is essential. It is important to ensure that the benefits gained from the visits outweigh the potential risks, and by following the procedures outlined below, we can help ensure that visits are successful and secure for everyone involved. This fact sheet addresses the counterintelligence part of the hosting foreign visitors authorization process. For complete information, refer to DOE Order N142.1.

### ***What is a host and who may be a host?***

A host is a DOE federal or contractor employee who is sponsoring a visitor or assignee as described in DOE Order N 142.1. A visitor or assignee cannot be a host unless he or she is an employee of DOE or a DOE contractor. A sensitive country foreign national cannot be a host of another sensitive country foreign national. Hosts are responsible for ensuring adherence to the requirements in DOE Order N 142.1.

### ***How does the Office of Counterintelligence prepare me to host?***

All hosts must participate in pre- and post-hosting briefings, conducted by a counterintelligence officer (CIO). In the pre-hosting briefing, you will receive specific information regarding the intelligence targeting methods of the visitor's country, and appropriate background information the Office of Counterintelligence (OCI) may have on previous related visits from that country. In addition, the CIO will provide information on technologies (specifically related to the visit, or present on the site) that are of interest to the intelligence services of the visitor's country. All this is to prepare you to host a successful and safe visit. The post-hosting debriefing allows the OCI to learn from your experiences as host, and use that information to enhance the effectiveness of future pre-briefings and visits by sensitive country foreign nationals.

### ***What precautions should I take if I am hosting a foreign visitor?***

The majority of foreign visitors are here to work collaboratively with U.S. scientists and have no intention of making inappropriate intelligence collection attempts. By taking certain precautions and being aware of collection techniques, you can help ensure that legitimate visits run smoothly. You will also be better prepared to identify any questionable issues that may arise or address any inappropriate behaviors you may observe, while hosting a visitor.

Precautions include:

- Determine the areas of your work that may be sensitive and/or classified and prohibit visitor access to these areas. Do not permit any cameras or note taking in "sight sensitive" facilities or areas.
- Assess whether discussion of selected unclassified information with foreign nationals could divulge proprietary details related to cooperative research or other collaborative work at your facility.
- Do not allow unannounced foreign visitors access to the facility. Inform them that they should schedule an appointment for another date. Allow no last minute substitutions or additions to a foreign delegation to have access to the facility.
- Verify personal identification against original visit requests when foreign visitors arrive to ensure they are who they say they are.



- Ensure there is a sufficient number of escorts to control a visiting delegation if it should be split into multiple groups, and that escorts are briefed as to what is critical within the facility and that they know what requires protection from foreign visitors.
- If a visitor becomes offended when confronted during a security incident, recognize the confrontation as a collection technique and ask the visitor to leave the facility if he or she cannot abide by the policy requirements. Notify your local counterintelligence officer of any such incident as a precaution.
- Make sure you are briefed prior to your visitor's arrival on access limitations, and given an overview on potential foreign collection techniques that could be used, and indicators of economic espionage.
- Ensure the foreign national you are hosting is briefed on his or her obligations and responsibilities, including limitations on access and use of computers, copiers and fax machines.

### ***What techniques are used by foreign intelligence services during collection attempts?***

- "Wandering" visitors who become offended when confronted;
- Hidden agendas that involve questions beyond the scope of what was approved for discussion;
- Fraudulent use of data exchange agreements;
- Arriving at the facility unannounced;
- Taking notes or photographs;
- Holding "commercial" discussions when the U.S. Government refuses to officially sponsor the visit;
- Last minute or unannounced additions to a visiting delegation.

These techniques are often specifically designed to produce potentially embarrassing or uncomfortable situations for the host. This may leave the host more vulnerable to disclosing information, as a result of his/her conciliatory efforts.

### ***How do the Office of CI processes for hosting foreign visitors help me and DOE?***

As foreign visitor hosts, you and all other DOE employees can help by paying attention to potential counterintelligence issues and proactively sharing information with local CIOs. By following DOE's procedures for hosting foreign visitors and taking sensible precautions, you will contribute to the continued effectiveness of DOE's foreign visitors program. As collaboration across borders is critical to scientific discovery, this program is important not only to DOE's success but also to the success of individual employees and contractors. Your efforts will help protect our national security, prevent the loss of proprietary scientific and technological information, and ensure that DOE and its people receive recognition and credit for their work.

### ***Who do I contact for more information?***

Employees and contractors are required to inform their local counterintelligence officer (CIO) of any suspicious incidents. If you have questions or concerns or would like further guidance about this issue, please contact your local CIO or the Office of Counterintelligence at (202) 586-1247.