



# NWRTC

Northwest Regional  
Technology Center  
@PNNL



Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

## OPPORTUNITIES

Events current at time of publication. Have a virtual resource or event to share? Email us!

- February 4–5 – [Counter UAS Homeland Security USA Conference](#)
- March 10–12 – [Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience North America](#)
- April 13–16 – [Preparedness Summit](#)
- May 11–12 – [SMR & Advanced Reactor 2026](#)
- July 19–23 – [Pacific NorthWest Economic Region 2026 Annual Summit](#)
- August 10–13 – [National Homeland Security Conference](#)
- August 12–14 – [Fire-Rescue International 2026](#)
- October 24–27 – [International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition](#)

## CONTACT

Want to know more? Visit us at [pnnl.gov/projects/nwrtc](https://pnnl.gov/projects/nwrtc).  
Contact the NWRTC with questions and comments at [nwrtc@pnnl.gov](mailto:nwrtc@pnnl.gov).

## AROUND THE REGION IN HOMELAND SECURITY

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), that supports regional preparedness, resilience, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME TO 2026!

On behalf of the NWRTC, our team would like to thank you for your continued support to our center and the partnerships and opportunities we build.

This year, we remained steadfast in our outreach to connect science and technology with preparedness, resilience, response, and recovery needs in the field. Our relationships with all of you—the emergency response, public safety, industry, and R&D community nationwide—are what make us successful in this mission. We were honored to tell this story through a mix of channels, not only through this newsletter but also through publications like a special edition of the [Domestic Preparedness Journal](#), [Homeland Security Today's Pracademic Affairs](#), and [conferences nationwide](#).

This year also put the spotlight on innovative S&T addressing emerging and enduring challenges like [detecting fentanyl](#), [wildfire preparedness](#), [airport security risk modeling](#), [protecting critical infrastructure from cybersecurity attacks](#), [assessing equipment for first responders](#), as well as [AI](#), [advanced imaging](#), and [cybersecurity for myriad homeland security challenges](#).

Thank you for another year of outreach, engagement, and opportunity. Our center's power is in our partnerships, so to everyone who has contributed to our collective success: thank you for the work you do every day to keep us safe. We look forward to working with you as we usher in 2026!

*Ann Lesperance*  
NWRTC Director, PNNL

*Rachel Bartholomew*  
NWRTC Deputy Director, PNNL



Watch PNNL's Year in Review



## REPORT AIDS UTILITIES IN PREP FOR WILDFIRES



To help utilities across the nation better prepare to combat wildfire risk, researchers at PNNL published a report that describes what utilities are already doing to bolster their systems against both

igniting wildfires and also from wildfire damage itself.

The report, titled "[Current Best Practices on Wildfire Risk Reduction for Electric Transmission and Distribution Systems](#)," was funded by DOE's Grid Deployment Office as a response to Executive Order 14308, Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response. The report breaks down mitigation efforts in three stages: before, during, and after a wildfire.

To learn more, see the [PNNL article](#) or visit [pnnl.gov/projects/wildfire-risk-resilience](https://pnnl.gov/projects/wildfire-risk-resilience).

## CONFERENCE EXPLORES ONE HEALTH SECURITY

The second Global Wildlife Data Sharing Conference for Enhanced One Health Security, held in Spain, convened international experts in wildlife, government agencies, and global health security gather to explore harmonization of wildlife databases for biosurveillance and signal detection. Organized by PNNL's [AI-Driven One Health Security](#) team with the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, the two-day collaborative workshop brought together representatives from 16 countries, including international organizations of animal health, to help shape the future of wildlife disease surveillance.



The event highlighted several PNNL-led One Health efforts, such as the Threat Risk and Event Analysis, Detection, and Surveillance framework, which is being

used to develop the U.S. National Wildlife Disease Database to enable wildlife data sharing, exploration, and early warning of health threats between federal, state, local, tribal, and international entities.

To learn more, visit [pnnl.gov/projects/one-health](https://pnnl.gov/projects/one-health).

## 'GENESIS MISSION' TO TRANSFORM SCIENCE, INNOVATION THROUGH AI

PNNL is a key partner in the Genesis Mission, the Department of Energy's integrated ecosystem to accelerate discovery and strengthen U.S. leadership in AI-

powered science. Drawing on its deep expertise in the design and application of AI, novel computing paradigms, and fundamental science, PNNL is creating AI solutions to aid autonomous discovery science in chemistry, materials, and biology, speed environmental permitting, and ensure reliable, secure energy grids. Together, these efforts and more make PNNL a transformational AI engine advancing the nation's scientific, energy, and national security missions.



See the [Department of Energy announcement](#) and visit [pnnl.gov/projects/genesis-mission](https://pnnl.gov/projects/genesis-mission) for details.

## GRANTS AWARD \$250M FOR C-UAS EFFORTS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced the award of \$250 million to the 11 states hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 matches and to the National Capital Region through the new Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program. Recipients can use this money to strengthen their ability to detect, identify, track, or mitigate unmanned aircraft systems.

See the DHS [press release](#) to learn more.

For more information, contact Director Ann Lesperance ([ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov](mailto:ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov)) | (206) 528-3223 or Deputy Director Rachel Bartholomew ([rachel.bartholomew@pnnl.gov](mailto:rachel.bartholomew@pnnl.gov)) | (509) 371-6906 or visit [pnnl.gov/projects/nwrtc](https://pnnl.gov/projects/nwrtc).

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