Argonne
NATIONAL LABORATORY

COLLEGE COMPETITION **ADDRESSES SHORTFALL OF CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS AND STRENGTHENS U.S. CYBER DEFENSE**

Each year, the CyberForce Competition welcomes more than 1,000 college students, giving them hands-on experience in realistic scenarios and connecting them with potential employers.

THE CHALLENGE

As use of Internet-dependent technology continues to rapidly increase, society and governments continue to become more and more dependent on cybersecurity protection.

Whether it involves safeguarding bank accounts, personal information, or a nation's critical infrastructure, cutting-edge measures are required to combat the growing threat of cyberattacks.

Unfortunately, the number of people going into cybersecurity careers has not kept up with the increasing demand, leaving an estimated shortfall of more than 1.5 million cybersecurity professionals in the U.S. in 2018.

That shortfall not only points to a missed opportunity in the job market, it also indicates that the U.S. is more vulnerable to cyberattacks than it would be if the cybersecurity career pipeline was more robust.

THE COLLABORATION

To help close the gap, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE's Argonne National Laboratory have collaborated to create the CyberForce Competition, a collegiate energy cybersecurity defense competition that is hosted at seven national laboratories across the U.S.

The competition brings teams of students to national labs for a one-day competition. The students participate in an exercise to defend a piece of critical infrastructure from cyberattack.

At the end of the competition, laboratory-level winners and a national winner are announced.

Argonne hosted the first competition in 2016 and has served as a host and leader of the multi-site competition every year since.

The event includes an industry fair that brings together these promising students and key industry stakeholders.

THE IMPACT

☐ Each year, CyberForce welcomes more than 1,000 college students, giving them experience in cutting-edge scenarios and preparing them for careers in energy cybersecurity.

☐ Many students who have participated in CyberForce have subsequently mentored other competition teams and have gone onto internships and/or full-time cybersecurity positions at Argonne or other federal entities.

CONTACT
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue
Lemont, Illinois 60439
Phone: 630-252-2000
www.anl.gov/partners