

Dr. Steven D. Howe

Director, Center for Space Nuclear Research



Dr. Steven Howe is currently the Director of the Center for Space Nuclear Research (CSNR) in Idaho Falls, ID. The CSNR is engaged in facilitating research and education of nuclear technologies for space exploration. Prior to this position, Howe was a staff member in the Thermonuclear Applications group of the Applied Physics Division (X Division) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). In this position, Howe was investigating the importance of energetic nuclear reactions in modeling the weapons physics of a nuclear device.

Prior to the position in X-Division, Dr. Howe was the Program Element manager of the Reactivity and Compression element in the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Stewardship Program at the LANL. As such, Howe managed research funding in nuclear science to support the nuclear weapons effort in the Lab. Dr. Howe was also a senior advisor to the Division Leader of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE). LANSCE has been a major research facility at LANL that comprises a high-intensity, 800 MeV proton beam for a variety of applications.

While working at LANL for almost twenty-three years, Dr. Howe developed new programs for the Laboratory in the areas of advanced space propulsion, space exploration technologies, bio-medical instrumentation, defense programs, nuclear systems, and hypersonic flight. Howe was the Laboratory's project coordinator of the nuclear propulsion effort, team leader of the gas core nuclear rocket project, project manager for the Zero-g Float Zone Furnace, and Design Physicist for the Villita nuclear test. The program development activity required both an understanding of new front-edge technologies and the ability to communicate the potential of these technologies to potential sponsors.