Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology (VCAT)
Tour Agenda | Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Note: Please wear long pants & flat, closed toe shoes

9:30 a.m. | Meet in Portrait Room, Building 101

9:30 – 9:35 a.m. | Take VCAT member group photo

9:35 – 9:45 a.m. | Travel to NIST Central Utility Plant Complex (CUP)

9:45 – 10:35 a.m. | Tour of the NIST Central Utility Plant Complex
Tour Lead: Andrew Wright, Acting Chief Facilities Management Officer (CFMO) & Director, Office of Facilities and Property Management

Following Day 1's facilities presentation, you will tour the Central Utility Plant Complex (CUP), the origin point for the distribution of chilled water, steam, and electricity to all buildings on the Gaithersburg Campus.

10:35 – 10:45 a.m. | Travel to the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR), Building 235

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. | Tour of the NIST Center for Neutron Research
Tour Lead: Ronald Jones, Leader, Neutron Condensed Matter Science Group, NCNR

Following Day 1's NCNR presentation, you will tour the NCNR, a national user facility that advances economic and technical excellence in the United States by providing world-class neutron measurement capabilities to meet the needs of researchers from industry, academia, and government. This tour will include an overview of the research conducted at the NCNR, and a facility tour, including the NCNR Instrument Guide Hall and examples of impactful NIST neutron science.

11:45 – 11:55 a.m. | Travel to Building 227, Room A338

11:55 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Tour of the NIST Living Measurement Systems Foundry
Tour Lead: Elizabeth Strychalski, Leader, Cellular Engineering Group, Material Measurement Laboratory

The goal of the NIST Living Measurement Systems Foundry is to enable the engineering of cells for reliable and safe use in dynamic and unpredictable environments for applications such as living therapeutics, environmental sensing, and structured materials fabrication. The core of the facility includes a fully integrated, high-throughput system to automate common tasks in the synthetic biology workflow, such as liquid handling, incubation, multi-well plate measurements, electro-transformation, centrifugation, and colony picking. Additional measurement capabilities include high-throughput flow cytometry, quantitative fluorescence microscopy, and nucleic acid analysis and sequencing.

12:30 p.m. | Travel to Portrait Room, Building 101

12:45 p.m. | Adjourn