



TTS IMPACT

Protecting nuclear materials through data strategy

The Department of Energy partnered with GSA's Federal Acquisition Service Technology Transformation Services' [18F](#) to develop a data strategy and make data more actionable.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S STORY [The Department of Energy's \(DOE's\) National Nuclear Security Administration's](#)

Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NNSA/NSDD) works with international partners to strengthen capabilities to deter, detect, and investigate the smuggling of nuclear and radiological materials by providing the expertise and tools needed to respond to smuggling events. Part of the DOE's Information Resources Management Strategy focuses on developing data-driven and collaborative processes that maximize efficiency, flexibility, and security. This project supports NSDD's efforts to streamline and modernize their data infrastructure, as it sought to make their data more actionable. 18F's experience in user research can enable other agencies facing similar challenges to make better use of their data.



THE CHALLENGE

NSDD uses, produces, and stewards a host of important data that helps it accomplish its mission. However, integrating data from across different elements is challenging. Data is spread across IT systems housed within DOE headquarters and seven national laboratories. The data previously lacked common formats and was challenging to integrate across environments.



THE SOLUTION

NNSA joined with 18F to develop a data strategy for NSDD and make their data more actionable. Through a path analysis, 18F visited DOE headquarters and several of the national laboratories maintained by DOE across the country to talk to data users and understand what they are trying to achieve by using various data sources. Then, 18F and NSDD staff worked to "journeymap" data across the enterprise—to depict how data travels from points of production to those who eventually make use of it and to better understand barriers and opportunities for making better use of data.



THE IMPACT

Creating a data strategy for NSDD data users helped produce more available, actionable, and strategic data to better accomplish its mission. It helped identify relevant data that might be critical in supporting active projects. Also, the strategy made it easier for decision-makers to access the data and spend less time combining disparate data sources.

The partnership also resulted in a strategic data roadmap and an identity management and authentication approach to manage information in service of national nuclear security. 18F is currently kicking off phase two of this work with NSDD by implementing the strategic roadmap that was produced during the path analysis.

WORK WITH US | Contact Rebecca McBride at tts-info@gsa.gov