Welcome
We’re glad you’re here.

Ames Laboratory is one of the U.S. Department of Energy’s 17 national research laboratories and is operated under contract for the DOE by Iowa State University. Established in the 1940s after successfully developing the most efficient process to produce high-purity uranium metal for atomic energy, Ames Laboratory is known for world-leading expertise and research in the theory, design, synthesis, processing, and characterization of materials.

Ames Laboratory is unique among the national laboratories – it is the only one physically located on the campus of a major public research university. Because of its location, Ames Laboratory enjoys an open-door policy. By entering any Ames Laboratory facility, visitors agree to abide by our policies and procedures to ensure the safety of everyone visiting or working at the Laboratory.
Our Campus
Ames Laboratory consists of four primary buildings and several support buildings (see map). The Technical and Administrative Service Facility (TASF) houses operations staff. Spedding Hall, Wilhelm Hall, and Metals Development house research staff. One additional building, the Sensitive Instrument Facility, houses an array of electron microscopes and is located northwest of the main campus at 1901 Scholl Road.

Parking
Visitors may park in either of the two lots designated for Ames Laboratory: Lot 26 near TASF and Lot 28A next to Metals Development (shaded in purple on the map above). Visitors must obtain a parking permit from the Guard Station in G34 TASF and display the permit on the dash of their vehicle.
Visitor Safety Basics
While visiting Ames Laboratory, we hope you will appreciate our safe, secure, and sustainable facilities. Safety is one of our core values and is everyone’s responsibility. Visitors must be accompanied by an Ames Laboratory host. Please follow their guidance and if you have any questions, simply ask your host. Be observant as you move about our facilities – take note of all signage, the location of exits, public address announcements, and if you notice anything that concerns you, please bring it to the attention of your host or any Ames Laboratory employee.

Use established walkways and crosswalks when traveling between buildings. Certain areas require the use of appropriate personal protective equipment. Please follow all instructions, signs, tags, and barriers regarding hazards, hazardous areas, and hazardous materials. Your host or the supervisor of the area where you are visiting will arrange for any required protective apparel or equipment.

If you are here to perform work in one of our facilities, conduct only approved activities in the spaces to which you’ve been granted access.
WiFi Access
Ames Laboratory provides internet access to visitors through the “AL Guest” network using a temporary visitor username and password. To initiate access, navigate to www.ameslab.gov and follow the prompts to register for a temporary account (valid for 72 hours). For broader coverage around the Iowa State campus, visitors may use the ISU wireless network via “ISUguest” (find out more at www.it.iastate.edu/services/wireless).

In Case of Emergency
Calling 911 on your cell phone will connect you with a City of Ames Emergency Dispatcher. Using a land line from anywhere on campus will connect you with ISU Police. In either case, help will be sent to your location. For non-emergency calls or general inquires, dial 515-294-2770.