



**NEWS RELEASE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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Mountain Home AFB explores drilling to use geothermal energy

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho – The Department of the Air Force signed an agreement for a groundbreaking innovative energy prototype initiative at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

The agreement with Zanskar Geothermal & Minerals, Inc. (Zanskar) is to conduct technical and subsurface geothermal resource studies, which would lay informational groundwork with the eventual goal of providing geothermal power to the base.

When operational, a geothermal energy plant would hold the potential to furnish a seamless supply of clean, reliable baseload energy, even in the face of commercial grid outages.

"A robust Air Force demands unwavering energy security," said Col. Michael C. Alfaro, 366th Fighter Wing commander. "Geothermal energy supplies could not only provide us with that security, but also afford us the opportunity to lead in the adoption of clean energy. We hope to pioneer a greener path through these systems, ensuring our bases remain bastions of sustainable power. By maintaining a steadfast focus on infrastructure survivability and improvement, we foster a culture of adaptability and excellence."

Subsurface analysis to determine geothermal resources on Mountain Home AFB will begin this year. Full feasibility studies and testing of the prototype facilities can take up to two years, with targeted commercial operations starting in three to five years.

Geothermal energy harnesses the Earth's natural heat reservoirs and inherently provides round-the-clock power availability. The contractor Zanskar will be using artificial intelligence (AI) guided exploration tools along with novel drilling techniques such as advanced geothermal (AGS) and enhanced geothermal (EGS) to develop geothermal resources. AGS extracts energy using a closed-loop system, while EGS creates fracture pathways in areas where heat anomalies exist but where natural flow paths are limited or do not exist, thus enabling efficient extraction of heat from the subsurface. By utilizing this cutting-edge technology, Mountain Home AFB is poised to operate an energy-resilient facility with enhanced capabilities, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness that will improve operations and create a high-quality environment for the base community.

The Air Force initiative is part of the Defense Department's first foray into using artificial intelligence-guided exploration and the use of advanced and enhanced geothermal technologies to produce geothermal power for installation energy resilience.

The use of these technologies has the potential to expand beyond Air Force and Department of Defense installations to benefit communities across the United States.