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Alex King is the Director of the US Department of Energy's Critical Materials Institute – one of DOE's four Energy Innovation Hubs; he concurrently holds the Bergdahl Professorship of Materials Science & Engineering at Iowa State University, and is also the former Director of the Ames Laboratory, in Ames, Iowa.

Dr. King holds degrees from Sheffield University and Oxford University, worked as a post-doc at MIT and has held leadership positions at Stony Brook and Purdue Universities.

He has been a Visiting Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; and a US Department of State Jefferson Science Fellow. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining; ASM International; and the Materials Research Society.

Dr. King has also been the President of the Materials Research Society; Chair of the University Materials Council; and Chair of the American Physical Society's Group on Energy Research and Applications.