Ron Townsend
Executive Vice President of Global Laboratory Operations, Battelle Memorial Institute

Ron Townsend is Executive Vice President of Global Laboratory Operations for the Battelle Memorial Institute. Battelle is the world’s largest nonprofit independent research and development organization, providing innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing needs through its four global businesses: Laboratory Management, National Security, Energy Technology, and Health and Life Sciences. It advances scientific discovery and application by conducting $4 billion in global R&D annually through contract research, laboratory management and technology commercialization.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle oversees 20,400 employees in more than 120 locations worldwide, including eight national laboratories that Battelle manages or co-manages for the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Battelle also is one of the nation’s leading charitable trusts focusing on societal and economic impact and actively supporting and promoting science and math education.

Prior to joining Battelle in January 2009, Townsend served as President of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and Director of the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. He also served as Commandant for the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Townsend holds a Ph.D. in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.S. and B.A. in mathematics from Kansas State University. He served in the Air Force for 25 years.