

INL Intelligence

Volume 10, Issue 4 – April 29, 2010

A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory
Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic priorities of energy security,
nuclear security, scientific discovery and environmental responsibility.

■ Shining a New Light on Post-attack Cleanup

While the first priority in the aftermath of a chemical or “dirty bomb” attack anywhere in the U.S. would be treating and tending to any human casualties, quickly and efficiently cleaning up the contamination from such a strike would also be vital. The longer buildings, bridges and roads are closed, the greater the disruption to lives and the economy. According to chemists at INL, lasers could play a big role in minimizing such disruptions. They're showing that lasers could help scrub chemical- and radiation-contaminated surfaces clean, returning life to normal as safely and smoothly as possible. Laser decontamination is still in the proof-of-principle stage, but the technique shows great promise in the fight against terrorism.

■ National Robotics Week Celebrated for First Time in Idaho

INL's Robotics and Intelligent Systems department collaborated with other area programs and organizations for an inaugural National Robotics Week observance April 10-18. In addition to INL's robotics program, event-staging partners included the lab's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics educational outreach program, the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, University of Idaho's Computer Science Modern Heuristics Research Group (Idaho Falls location), Dora Erickson Elementary and Hillcrest High School. Half of the more than 400 participants in the week's activities were students, including those who participate in school-sponsored robotics club competitions throughout the year.

■ Lab Joins in Recognizing Idaho's Top Science Teachers

Six Idaho science teachers were honored April 19 with 2010 Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science (GIANTS) awards. In a ceremony in the Governor's office, Lt. Gov. Brad Little and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna presented cash awards of \$2,000 each to Kuna High School teacher Angela Hemingway; Edward Katz of Bonners Ferry High School; Jennifer Martin of Homedale Middle School; and Karlicia Berry of Ponderosa Elementary School (Post Falls). Honorable Mention awards of \$500 each were presented to Dennis Kimberling of Lakeland Junior High School (Rathdrum) and Liberty Elementary School (Boise) teacher Chris Taylor. The GIANTS program was initiated by the Office of the Governor and is sponsored by the Science and Technology Roundtable, a group of industry leaders including the Micron Foundation, Idaho National Laboratory, URS, Hewlett-Packard, LCF Enterprises and Idaho Power Company.

■ INL Engineer Receives University Award

Curtis Smith, distinguished staff engineer within INL's Risk, Reliability and NRC Programs department, is in line for a significant honor from Idaho State University. ISU President Arthur Vailas notified Smith that he has been selected as the recipient of ISU's Professional Achievement Award from the College of Engineering. Smith will be recognized with the award during a two-day celebration May 7-8 in Pocatello. He will then lead the procession of graduates from the College of Engineering class of 2010 at commencement.

For more information, contact Lou Riepl at (208) 334-9574.

