

INL Intelligence

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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.

■ INL Technologies Cited as Among World's Most Significant

R&D Magazine this month announced its 2009 list of the 100 most globally significant market-ready technologies that meet societal, scientific or business needs. INL research teams and their respective licensed partners earned three of these R&D 100 Awards for technologies "that exhibit the spirit of innovation born of creativity and diligent scientific research." The award-winning developments include the Water Sample Concentrator, an automated portable device that helps safeguard against pathogen contamination or chemical and biological attacks on water supplies; RFinity - Mobile Open-Encryption Platform, a low-cost, plug-and-play system that enables any wireless telecommunications device to safely store sensitive personal information and perform secure transactions; and Precision Nanoparticles, a revolutionary technology jointly developed with Idaho State University that proficiently produces nanoparticles that could, for example, enable development of new, more efficient solar cells.

■ Summer School Draws International Experts to Idaho

Over 50 students and researchers from across the nation and world participated in this year's Modeling, Experimentation and Validation (MeV) summer school July 21-30 in Idaho Falls. The school brought together experts in the fields of thermal hydraulics, reactor physics and safety analysis. "The curriculum intends to bridge three areas of modeling, experimentation and validation," said Nam Truc Dinh, Ph.D., a Fellow at INL and one of the academic deans of the MeV School. The school was sponsored by INL, in cooperation with Argonne National Laboratory and Idaho State University.

■ Lab Project Achieves Safety Milestone

The Specific Manufacturing Capability (SMC) project at INL recently achieved a truly remarkable milestone – 4 million hours worked without a day-away-from-work case. The SMC project manufactures armor for the U.S. Army's M1A2 Abrams main battle tank. The facility's 248 employees handle and process more than two million pounds of metal material each month during normal operations. It's the only major industrial manufacturing project at INL. SMC has operated without an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) day-away-from-work case since October 2000. An OSHA day-away-from-work case is when an employee suffers an injury or illness at work that causes the person to be away from the work site one or more days.

■ INL Supports International Summit Held in Boise

As the gold sponsor of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region's 19th annual summit held in Boise July 12-16, INL supported working sessions on energy and the environment and national and homeland security. Lab Director John Grossenbacher facilitated a series of panel discussions on emerging regional interests in nuclear energy, opportunities in the Western Inland Energy Corridor and advanced vehicle demonstrations. The event brought more than 500 participants from neighboring states and Canadian provinces to the capital city.

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