

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 mission to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

■ INL Stages Water Workshop

INL hosted the inaugural workshop of the Mountain West Water Institute in Salt Lake City earlier this month. Lab representatives were joined by more than 50 other participants from 17 regional water agencies and institutions. At a news briefing during the workshop, INL announced the selection of eight teams that will compete for \$1 million in research grants related to Western water issues. The MWI will be a regional science and technology research enterprise dedicated to delivering science-based solutions to ensure sufficient clean water to meet current and future needs in the face of population growth, energy production, economic development and climate variability. The institute aims to provide local, state and federal water stewards with consistent science, technology, information and tools to adapt to the dynamic nature of water availability and quality.

■ Major Regional Energy Report Issued

With input from multiple states and provinces, INL has issued the "Western Energy Corridor" report to governors and premiers in the Western U.S. and Canada to stimulate transnational dialogue on the current and future use of regional energy resources. The document examines energy resource information, available methods for conversion of raw energy assets into marketable forms, and infrastructure required to deliver energy to users. It also highlights opportunities that can lead to a more prosperous and sustainable future. Collectively, the energy resources evaluated provide a foundation for economic development, including a platform for moving the region's energy products up the value chain.

■ Teacher Workshops Held Across Idaho

Dozens of Idaho teachers panned for gold, launched rockets and built robots this month during three workshops designed to help them incorporate hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities into their classrooms. The sessions, held in Coeur d'Alene, Twin Falls and Boise, are part of the Idaho STEM initiative, a partnership of educators, government and businesses working together to improve science, technology, engineering and math education in the state. Members include INL, the state universities, community colleges and technical schools, K-12 school districts, the Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Professional Technical Education, Hewlett Packard, Idaho Community Foundation, Micron, Idaho Power, JPMorgan Chase, Partners for Prosperity and others.

■ Lab Security Team Receives Recognition

A six-member team of INL security police officers recently won the 2011 Security Protection Officer Team Competition in Texas. Hosted annually at nuclear facilities across the nation, the competition evaluates the performance of security teams charged with protecting government and commercial nuclear facilities. A total of 20 teams, representing local and regional law enforcement and the U.S. military, competed in this year's event. 2011 marks the fifth time INL protective force teams have won this competition.

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