

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.

■ Major Multiyear Material Testing Program Begins

Because graphite will be so important in the operation of advanced high-temperature gas nuclear reactors, researchers at INL have begun important new studies designed to evaluate performance of the material during multiyear Advanced Graphite Capsule tests. The experiments will allow researchers to measure the effects of irradiation, temperature and compression simultaneously on a very large number of graphite samples in real time, while they are still inside the reactor. Graphite must be exhaustively tested before the American Society for Testing and Materials and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers can certify it for use in the design and construction of advanced nuclear energy systems. The six-part graphite capsule tests will continue at INL's Advanced Test Reactor until 2020.

■ INL Prepares for Wildland Fire Season

INL firefighters are preparing for the 2009 wildland fire season. Each spring, the INL Fire Department reviews its operating procedures and lessons learned from previous blazes to ensure updated plans and resources are in place to protect workers, the public and property in the event of a wildland fire. Fire danger on the U.S. Department of Energy's 890 square miles of high desert land west of Idaho Falls is expected to become extreme as grasses and sagebrush dry during the summer. "A normal fire potential is predicted for INL this summer and, as usual, much of our fire activity will be dependent on summer weather patterns, most notably our lightning experience," said INL Fire Chief Eric Gosswiller. "Regardless of the conditions, we'll be prepared to respond to fires."

■ Lab's Internship Program Hailed as Among the Best

INL's internship program has been named one of the best in the nation and will be included in the 2010 edition of the *Vault Guide to Top Internships*. Vault publishes the U.S. internship guide each year. Companies are rated on the opportunities they provide interns, the salaries and perks they offer and the potential for impressing future employers with a "big name" on interns' resumes. This is the first time INL's program will be listed in the annual guide. More than 200 interns are working at INL this summer, making it the largest science and engineering internship program in the state. INL interns hail from universities across Idaho and the nation and study and work alongside some of the most eminent researchers in their fields.

■ American Nuclear Society Selects Two INL Leaders for Board

Two INL nuclear leaders have been elected to the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Board of Directors. John Sackett, Ph.D., and Joy Rempe, Ph.D., were among only five individuals elected by ANS membership for 2009. Sackett is a senior adviser at INL with 37 years of experience in nuclear technology development. With over 20 years of experience in reactor safety analysis and high-temperature testing, Rempe is currently a group leader within High Temperature Testing and Instrumentation Development at INL. Established in 1954, the core purpose of ANS is to promote the awareness and understanding of the application of nuclear science and technology.

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