

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.

■ New Research Tool Unveiled

A new 3-D computer-assisted virtual environment (CAVE) is now in operation at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies in Idaho Falls. The tool allows researchers to literally walk into their data and examine it. The four-panel system uses rear projection to display computer graphics on three walls and the floor. By wearing stereo glasses to create depth perception and holding a "wand" to manipulate and control data, users can tour a building still under design, plot a new transmission route, open a valve or delve into the core of a nuclear reactor. "This tool allows our researchers to see information from new angles and in a way that isn't possible with a traditional computer," said Patrick O'Leary, director of INL's Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

■ Lab Receives Presidential Recognition

INL in early October received a 2010 GreenGov Presidential Award for outstanding achievement in fuel efficiency in its bus and automotive fleets. The award was presented in Washington, D.C., as part of a three-day symposium on improving sustainability and energy efficiency across the federal government. The lab won the Lean, Clean and Green Award for its work over the past few years in modernizing its fleet, improving fuel efficiency, increasing the use of bio-based alternative fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "We take sustainability very seriously," said INL Director John Grossenbacher. "This award is an honor both for INL and for the U.S. Department of Energy. We are committed to greening the laboratory today while preserving energy resources for future generations to use."

■ INL Leads New Regional Energy Partnership

Eastern Utah recently celebrated the opening of the Bingham Entrepreneurship and Energy Research Center – a new \$30 million regional resource that combines education, entrepreneurship and energy research in Vernal, Utah. Through a joint appointment with Utah State University's Energy Dynamics Laboratory, INL's Michael Hagood is serving as the founding executive director for the Eastern Utah Secure Energy Partnership and Program based at the center. The program will focus on smart and responsible development of energy resources in the region by addressing energy policy, research, environmental monitoring, economic development and education.

■ Nuclear Energy Research Leadership Augmented

INL, the national nuclear laboratory, continues to expand its international prominence with the recent selection of a new Nuclear Science and Technology division director and deputy division director. Dr. Alexander Stanculescu, currently with the International Atomic Energy Agency, has been named director of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Division. He is widely respected in Europe and in the U.S. for his important contributions in reactor physics. Dr. Stephen Herring has been selected as deputy division director. Herring is a Laboratory Fellow at INL whose work has led to significant advancements in the fields of hydrogen technologies, fuels and reactor physics.

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