Welcome to INL

On behalf of our outstanding staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Idaho National Laboratory.

The “Site” began as a test range for the U.S. Navy’s most powerful guns during World War II.

In 1949, the Naval Proving Ground became the National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS). In 1974, NRTS was granted national laboratory status and renamed Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

Congress designated the U.S. Department of Energy’s 890-square-mile installation on the Idaho desert as the nation’s lead nuclear energy research, development and demonstration laboratory, and in 2005, INL was born.

In fact, we are proud to say that virtually every nuclear reactor operating across the world can trace some part of its existence to R&D conducted at INL.

INL R&D helps maintain a U.S. nuclear reactor fleet that provides nearly 20 percent of the nation’s electricity and 60 percent of America’s carbon-free electricity.

Our skilled and trained workforce, facilities and capabilities make INL the ideal place to develop and test advanced reactors and create a new nuclear energy paradigm.

Today’s INL helps scale other clean energy technologies, protect critical infrastructure from man-made and natural threats, and make sure nuclear materials do not fall into the wrong hands.

The world’s premier test reactor, the Advanced Test Reactor, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017 and continues to contribute to the exceptional operational performance of the Navy’s nuclear-powered fleet while providing critical assessments of commercial and research nuclear reactor fuel from around the world.

INL is the place where nuclear-generated electricity first powered an American community. It’s where 52 original reactors were designed and constructed.
Americans can expect ATR to continue serving the U.S. Nuclear Navy, commercial nuclear power industry, and our colleges and universities for decades to come.

In 2017, INL’s Transient Test Reactor (TREAT) was restored to operational status for the first time since 1994 – months ahead of schedule and millions of dollars under budget.

Restarting one of the world’s most highly capable transient test reactors keeps our nation in a leading role to develop advanced nuclear fuels and reactor technologies.

But that’s not all.

INL scientists assembled, tested and prepared the space battery that enabled mankind’s first close-up exploration of Pluto. INL scientists assembled and tested the radioisotope power source that allowed the “Curiosity” rover to explore the surface of Mars nonstop since 2012, and are working toward a new NASA mission in 2020.

Through an isolated full-scale power grid that includes 111 miles of electrical transmission and distribution lines, INL works with industry and academia to protect the power grid while providing tools and techniques to help critical infrastructure recover from adverse events.

In partnership with state government and Idaho’s colleges and universities, INL helps educate and train the next generation cybersecurity workforce.

Laboratory scientists and engineers work to make industry more efficient, develop longer-lived electric vehicle batteries, and with the agricultural industry to convert waste into fuel.

INL develops tank armor used around the world to safeguard people, vehicles and facilities. Since 1984, INL’s Specific Manufacturing Capability (SMC) has been the lead manufacturer of armor packages for the U.S. Army’s Abrams main battle tank.

At the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES), INL and four university partners bring in millions of dollars of competitive research and development funding to solve high-impact challenges.

INL firefighters and emergency response personnel jump into action when accidents or natural disasters occur in neighboring communities.

INL’s protective force secures some of our nation’s most important research and development facilities.

With more than 4,200 employees and a total business volume exceeding $1 billion annually, INL is recognized as a critical economic driver and important asset to the state of Idaho.

In 2017, INL spent $136 million with Idaho’s small businesses, and laboratory contractor Battelle Energy Alliance contributed more than $610,000 to charitable giving in the communities our employees call home.

INL is committed to being responsive and transparent. As you examine the accompanying materials, tour our facilities and meet our people, ask questions. Our staff is proud of the work they do and eager to enhance your understanding of the many vital projects undertaken daily at this important national asset.

If you missed anything during your visit with us, please explore what else we do by visiting www.inl.gov.

Welcome to Idaho National Laboratory.

We accomplish these tasks because of our proud heritage, talented employees, unmatched capabilities, passion for collaboration, and dedication to our nation, state and communities.

For more information
866-495-7440
www.inl.gov