

# 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.

## ■ Lab Research Team Gains Global Recognition

A group of nine INL researchers has won an award in the latest R&D Magazine worldwide competition for the top 100 technologies of 2008. The Idaho team developed Antibody Profiling Identification (AbP ID), a rapid, inexpensive method of identifying forensic evidence based on unique individual auto-antibody patterns. AbP ID incorporates a testing system and innovative pattern recognition software to speed up the identification process. Industry experts see AbP ID as an important complementary tool to DNA processing. INL has won 38 international R&D 100 awards since 1986. The winners of this coveted award will be honored at a special dinner held on Navy Pier in Chicago this October.

## ■ INL Awarded Funds to Advance Key Nuclear Fuels Research

Through a competitive process, INL scientists this month were awarded \$6.3 million to lead efforts to advance the technology of nuclear fuel "Deep-Burn," in which plutonium and higher transuranics recycled from used nuclear fuel are destroyed, while generating energy. This approach not only enhances the efficiency of nuclear power production, it also reduces the amount of radioactive waste produced in the end. "Deep-Burn R&D is valuable," said DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon. "This technology could greatly increase the amount of safe, economical, carbon-free electricity generated from advanced nuclear fuel."

## ■ Major Report on Regional Electrical Transmission Projects Released

If the top five planned transmission projects in the Pacific Northwest are not built, the region will lose out on \$55 billion to \$85 billion in economic activity and up to 60,000 jobs annually over the next 25 years, according to a report released in late July. The study, "The Cost of NOT Building Transmission," authored by INL researchers, points to a number of consequences of not moving forward with needed transmission infrastructure, including inadequate competition to keep regional power costs down and a stronger likelihood of rolling brown/blackouts due to congestion of the existing grid. "This report gives us, as policymakers, a better understanding of the cost of not meeting our energy needs as a region," said Rep. George Eskridge of Dover. "In addition to considering our energy resources, we also need to have the transmission infrastructure to get those resources to consumers. This report really underscores how transmission is vital to our collective future as a region."

## ■ Key U.S. Senator Tours INL

On July 2, Sen. Bob Bennett of Utah visited Idaho Falls to learn more about INL's roles, responsibilities and capabilities. Bennett, who was accompanied by his chief of staff, Mary Jane Collipriest, made the trip at the request of Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo who hosted the daylong visit along with aides Leslie Huddleston and Lindsay Nothern. With the upcoming retirement of Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico, Bennett will be taking over the top Republican spot on the subcommittee that allocates funding for the Department of Energy. He has begun to visit DOE labs in preparation for his new responsibility.

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