

# 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.

## ■ INL Team Helps Boost Global Nuclear Security

For the last six years, three engineers from INL have assisted the National Nuclear Security Administration in recovering and transporting thousands of pounds of fresh and used highly enriched uranium (HEU) nuclear fuel from locations across central Europe. In September, the trio coordinated the shipment of 340 pounds of HEU fuel from a reactor in Budapest, Hungary, to a reprocessing center in Russia. After nearly a month traveling by rail car and cargo ship, the fuel arrived at Russia's Mayak reprocessing center on Oct. 23. The fuel was originally provided by either the U.S. or the Soviet Union as part of a program begun in the 1950s to encourage the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Moving the fuel to a secure location for reprocessing ensures it cannot be stolen and used illicitly by terrorist organizations.

## ■ NASA Recognizes Efforts of INL Employees

Over 70 current and former Idaho National Laboratory employees have received a Group Achievement Award from NASA for their efforts in support of the New Horizons mission launch in 2006. The citation recognizes the group for "outstanding efforts to build and deliver the F-8 Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (RTG) for the New Horizons mission to Pluto and beyond." The team implemented the fueling, testing and delivery of the RTG for the Pluto New Horizons mission. The unprecedented effort involved building and commissioning a new Space and Security Power Systems Facility at the Materials and Fuels Complex, installing legacy equipment from a decommissioned facility at Ohio's Mound Plant, staffing and training a new crew and getting the job done under the stringent quality standards expected by the Department of Energy and NASA.

## ■ Lab Helps Bring High-speed Network to Idaho

With a flick of a switch, Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter launched the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) GigaPoP connection Oct. 9. This GigaPoP is Idaho's connection to the nation's ultra high-speed research computer network – the National Lambda Rail. IRON connects state government, research institutions, education and health care facilities across Idaho and provides the foundation to link them to high-speed national computer network infrastructures that run over fiber-optic lines connecting the United States from coast to coast and internationally. IRON was initiated by Idaho National Laboratory and the state universities and incorporated in late 2007.

## ■ INL Contractor Gains Vote of Confidence

After completing a comprehensive review of the lab's research and operations performance over the past three years, the U.S. Department of Energy this month announced its intentions to retain Battelle Energy Alliance as the managing contractor of Idaho National Laboratory through 2014, with the potential for an extension through 2019. "The department takes this evaluation seriously and a lot of work went into evaluating the lab performance over the past three years," said Beth Sellers, manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office. "It pleases me very much to report that the contract will run its full term."

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