# AT A GLANCE: IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY



Idaho National Laboratory (INL) serves as the U.S. leader for advanced nuclear energy R&D and is home to an unparalleled combination of nuclear energy test-bed facilities, including those that focus on fuel development and fabrication, steady-state and transient irradiation, and macroand microscale post-irradiation examination. INL's applied science and engineering discipline and problem-solving approach helps the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, as well as industry, solve significant national security challenges in critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and nuclear nonproliferation. INL's strategic initiatives include research related to resilient cyber-physical security, integrated energy systems (including clean energy technologies) and advanced manufacturing.

Under the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE)'s direction, INL leads multipe initiatives to provide the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial expertise necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies (e.g., microreactors) toward commercialization while ensuring the continued safe, economical operation of the existing nuclear fleet.

### **FUNDING BY SOURCE**

FY 2019 Costs (in \$M)
Total Laboratory Operating
Costs: \$1,349
DOE/NNSA Costs: \$980
SPP (Non-DOE/Non-DHS)
Costs: \$300
SPP as % of Total Laboratory

CRADA: \$9 DHS Costs: \$61

Operating Costs: 22%



#### **FACTS**

Location: Idaho Falls, Idaho Type: Multiprogram Laboratory Contractor: Battelle Energy Alliance

Site Office: Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID)

Website: inl.gov

#### **PHYSICAL ASSETS**

569,180 acres

540 buildings or real property assets (DOE-owned assets operating or on standby)

\$5.6 billion replacement plant value

2.3 million GSF in owned operating buildings; 9,609 GSF in operational standby buildings

1 million GSF in leased facilities

20,363 GSF in three excess facilities

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### **HUMAN CAPITAL**

4,888 FTE employees36 joint faculty68 postdoctoral researchers20 high school student interns

265 undergraduate students 200 graduate students 691 facility users 12 visiting scientists

#### **CORE CAPABILITIES**

Advanced Computer Science, Visualization, and Data Applied Materials Science and Engineering Biological and Bioprocess Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Chemical and Molecular Science\*

Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science\*

Cyber and Information Sciences

**Decision Science** 

Environmental Subsurface Science and Analysis

Large-Scale User Facilities and Advanced Instrumentation

Mechanical Design and Engineering

**Nuclear Engineering** 

Nuclear and Radiochemistry Power Systems and Electrical

Engineering

Systems Engineering and Integration Physics \*Emerging Capabilities

### **MISSION UNIQUE FACILITIES**

Transient Reactor Test Facility

Irradiated Materials Characterization Laboratory

Fuel Manufacturing Facility

Experimental Fuels Facility

Space and Security Power Systems Facility

Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex

Biomass Feedstock National User Facility

Wireless Security Institute

Cybercore Integration Center

Advanced Test Reactor

Specific Manufacturing Capability

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#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



**Unique Facilities: Nuclear Energy R&D -** No other place in the nation hosts as many capabilities for assessing the technical and operational feasibility of new types of nuclear fuels and materials as INL. The Advanced Test Reactor is the only research reactor in the country capable of providing large-volume, high-flux neutron irradiation in a prototype environment. Its unique serpentine core allows its corner lobes to be operated at different power levels, meaning it can conduct multiple simultaneous experiments under different testing conditions. The Transient Reactor Test (TREAT) facility is helping to re-establish U.S. leadership in an essential nuclear research field, as TREAT's unique design monitors in real time a fuel or other material's behavior under postulated reactor accident conditions. Resources such as the Hot Fuel Examination Facility and the Irradiated Materials Characterization Laboratory provide state-of-the-art tools for microstructural and thermal characterization of irradiated materials. The results of these examinations are then used to advance fuel or material design and qualification.



**Tech-to-Market Highlight: Advanced Electrolyte Model Computer Simulation Program -** INL is well-known for its Battery Testing Center and research capabilities, which have yielded numerous innovations in battery testing and development. One such technology is INL's R&D 100 Award winning Advanced Electrolyte Model (AEM). This computer simulation program is designed to give fast information on the properties of complex electrolyte formulations and how they can influence battery performance. AEM accelerates the speed at which new cell designs with new electrolytes can be developed. Since its debut in 2010, AEM has been licensed broadly to universities, major consumer product companies and industrial users—including chemical and automotive companies as well as a major lithium-ion cell manufacturer.



Research Highlight: Digital Engineering - As a result of proven benefits in other industries, INL launched a digital engineering program to support new projects such as the Versatile Test Reactor (VTR). Digital engineering (DE) strategies can predict reactor performance and design issues early in the process, minimizing cascading risk. Numerous advances in the VTR design and engineering processes have already been achieved using DE. For example, a 3D model was developed in the first three months of the project—10 times faster than similar past efforts. The VTR is the first DOE nuclear program using cloud computing to reduce technical barriers such as computer performance—reducing latency by a factor of 100 during peak use.

