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The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has selected Wu Zhang as a general engineer working in the deep drilling area. The research will study the interactions among drill bit, rock, and drilling fluids under extreme pressure and temperature conditions in order to develop economically viable drilling technologies for gas and oil production. Previously, he worked with gas hydrates and materials for the Department of Chemical Engineering at West Virginia University (WVU). He has been supporting NETL's research since November 1999.

Zhang grew up in China. He earned a PhD in mechanics from Northwestern Polytechnic University, China and a PhD in physical chemistry from King's College, University of London, United Kingdom. He also worked as a post-doctoral staff member in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before joining WVU. Zhang lives in Morgantown, West Virginia.

NETL is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories. NETL – “the ENERGY lab” – focuses on America's economic prosperity, which requires secure, reliable energy supplies at sustainable prices. Three overarching issues characterize the energy situation in the United States. They are energy affordability, supply security, and environmental quality. The Department of Energy's only government-owned, government-operated national lab, NETL is a research and technology center where these energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge. NETL implements a broad spectrum of energy and environmental research and development programs through its own research staff and through funded research at other labs, universities, and industry that will return benefits for generations to come.