



Welcome to **INL**

By
Mark Peters
Director, Idaho National Laboratory

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

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

At INL every day, some of the nation's finest minds conduct vital research that allows us to sustain and develop nuclear energy technologies, scale other clean energy technologies, protect critical infrastructure, support national defense and homeland security, bolster cyber security, and make sure nuclear materials do not fall into the wrong hands.

INL was selected by President Barack Obama in 2015 to lead the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative. This initiative is a collaborative effort among INL, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Argonne National Laboratory.

This private-public partnership provides the nuclear energy community with needed expertise and capabilities to develop and license new advanced reactors and maintain our current fleet that provides approximately 20 percent of the nation's electrical energy and 63 percent of the nation's carbon-free electricity.

That's appropriate because INL is the place where nuclear-generated electricity first powered an American community. It is where 52 original nuclear reactors were designed and constructed.

The world's premier test reactor, the Advanced Test Reactor, 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.

Research at INL's Materials and Fuels Complex helped establish what the world knows about nuclear energy and reactors and continues to empower the next generation of reactors.

But that's not all.

INL scientists assembled, tested and prepared the space battery that enabled mankind's first close-up exploration of Pluto in July 2015. INL scientists also assembled and tested the radioisotope power source that allowed the "Curiosity" rover to explore the surface of Mars nonstop since 2012.

INL's talented and dedicated workforce solves problems associated with energy production, storage and delivery, and ensures advances in transportation, manufacturing, clean energy and water utilization.

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

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

Our protective force secures some of our nation's most important research and development facilities.

And INL accomplishes all this – and much, much more – while retaining a commitment to collaboration with regional, national and international leaders in academia, industry and government. An example is the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). A consortium that includes state government, INL and four university partners, CAES brings in millions of dollars of competitive research and development funding to solve high-impact challenges.

Our work at INL is recognized as a critical economic driver and important asset to the state of Idaho. INL is the fifth-largest employer in Idaho with 3,900 employees and more than 350 interns. In 2015, INL had a total business volume of \$917.1 million and spent \$130 million with Idaho's small businesses.

And, to ensure the energy workforce of the future, INL is committed to promoting STEM education in public schools and offering hands-on laboratory experience through internships and post-doctoral opportunities to students from around the world.

Finally, let me end with this: 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.

We accomplish these tasks because of our proud heritage, dedicated employees, unmatched capabilities, and passion for collaboration. 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Hite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "H".