HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The land on which INL now sits began service to the nation in 1943 as the Naval Proving Ground – used to test reined and re-rifled big guns for the Navy.
- The Atomic Energy Commission took over the site in 1949, creating the National Reactor Testing Station – to design and test commercial and military nuclear reactors.
- The first usable amount of electric power from nuclear energy was generated by Idaho’s Experimental Breeder Reactor-I, which also proved reactors could “breed” more fuel than they consumed.
- The testing station was formally designated a national laboratory in 1974.
- INL’s unmatched Advanced Test Reactor – the world’s most capable materials test reactor – was named a national scientific user facility in 2007.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Idaho National Laboratory is “open for business.” The laboratory maintains its historic Experimental Breeder Reactor-I as a visitors’ center from Memorial Day through Labor Day, seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It’s located approximately 50 miles west of Idaho Falls on U.S. Highway 20/26.

Tours of other INL facilities can be arranged throughout the year by contacting the INL Tours Program. Speakers can be requested, and information on INL business opportunities and education programs is also available right from INL’s home page – www.inl.gov

INL is operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC
WHAT IS THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY?

Idaho National Laboratory is a federally owned energy, national and homeland security and supporting science center that performs complex research to advance our national interests.

- INL is the formally designated U.S. center for nuclear energy research, development and demonstration.
- INL is home to the Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex, and supplies the technologies needed to improve personal and national security.
- INL’s alternate energy, environmental and other enabling science capabilities combine to provide unique and unparalleled quality-of-life-enhancing solutions for the region and nation.

HOW BIG IS IT?

The entire INL desert site, which includes research and cleanup operations, covers 890 square miles – roughly 85 percent of the land area of the state of Rhode Island. It’s nearly 36 miles long north to south and extends 36 miles east to west at its widest point.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK THERE?

The research institution known as Idaho National Laboratory has roughly 3,700 scientists, engineers and support employees who work in Idaho Falls and at the desert site.

There are also companies working on cleanup projects, and the Idaho Operations Office of the U.S. Department of Energy and other government agencies do work on the broader INL site, as well. When the employees of all those operations are included, the total work force of the INL site rises to more than 8,400 — making it the third largest employer in the state.

WHAT HAS INL DONE FOR ME LATELY?

The scientists and engineers of INL have a long and proud history of developing technologies that make a difference in the real world.

- Provided the space battery for NASA’s New Horizons mission of scientific discovery to Pluto and beyond
- Developed a concealed weapons detection system, explosives detection system and other technologies already in use making schools, public buildings and military installations safer
- Engineered a highly effective means to remove arsenic from drinking water
- Produced detailed maps of hydropower and geothermal resources across the region and nation
- Developed a technology that consumes carbon dioxide while creating synthetic alternative fuels that are carbon-neutral
- And much more