

### Todd Combs, PhD

Associate Laboratory Director Energy and Environment S&T Todd.Combs@inl.gov



## **Idaho National Laboratory**



### Addressing the world's most challenging problems



#### **VISION**

INL will change the world's energy future and secure our critical infrastructure.

#### **MISSION**

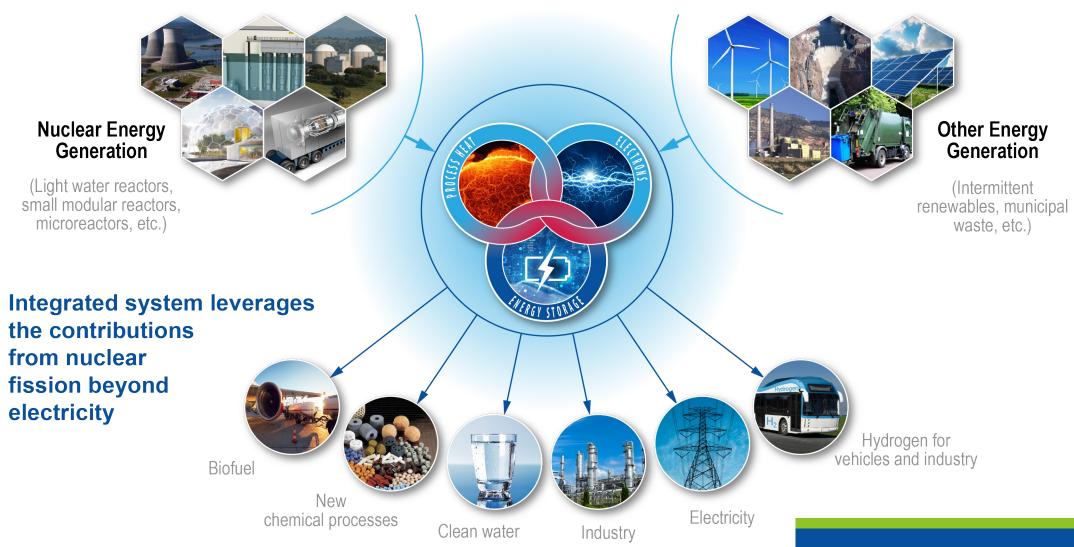
Discover, demonstrate, and secure innovative nuclear energy solutions, clean energy options and critical infrastructure.

## **Program Overview**

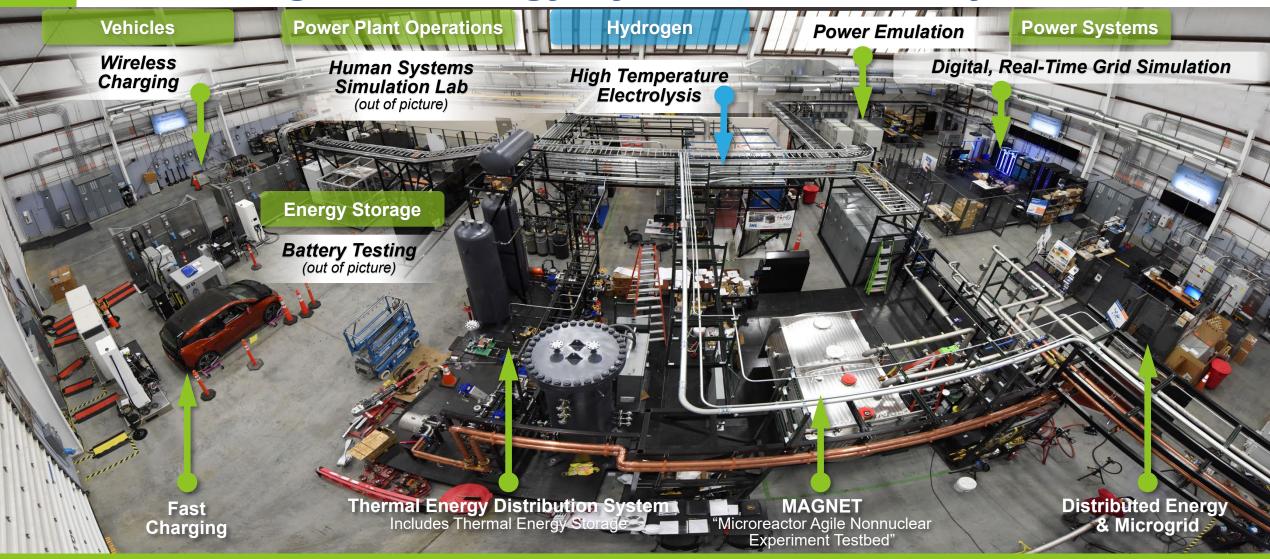
- Integrated Energy Systems
- Resilient Energy Systems
- Manufacturing
- Feedstocks for a Circular Economy

## Integrated Energy Systems

### Future Energy System – transforming the energy paradigm



## **INL's Integrated Energy Systems Laboratory**



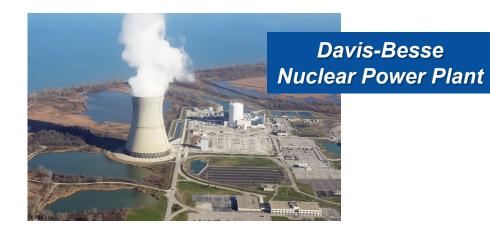
## Joint EERE-NE H<sub>2</sub> Production Demonstration Projects

# Four projects have been announced for demonstration of hydrogen production at nuclear power plants

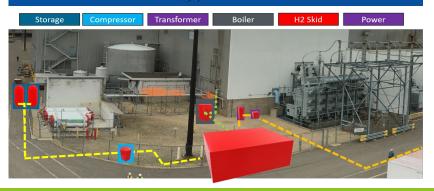
- Demonstrate hydrogen production using direct electrical power offtake from a nuclear power plant for a commercial, 1-3 MWe, low-temperature (PEM) and high temperature steam electrolysis modules
- Acquaint NPP operators with monitoring and controls procedures and methods for scaleup to large commercialscale hydrogen plants
- Evaluate power offtake dynamics on NPP power transmission stations to avoid NPP flexible operations
- Evaluate power inverter control response to provide grid contingency (inertia and frequency stability), ramping reserves, and volt/reactive control reserve
- Produce hydrogen for captive use by NPPs and first movers of clean hydrogen







## Thermal & Electrical Integration at Xcel Energy Nuclear Plant



## **High Temperature Electrolysis – Hydrogen Production**

#### **Program Overview**

- High temperature electrolysis (HTE) systems produce hydrogen using heat and electricity with ultra-high efficiency.
- INL's 25 kW HTE Station (pictured right) verifies durability and performance of solid oxide cells that are used to produce hydrogen with high efficiency.

#### **Example Projects**

 High Temperature Steam Electrolysis modules testing: Bloom Energy, FuelCell Energy, OxEon



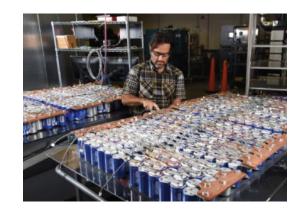


## **Energy Storage**

#### **Program Overview**

• INL's battery facilities provide 20,000 square feet and can test hundreds of batteries at the same time.

- Battery500: The team has developed long life batteries with two times the energy of previous state of the art commercial batteries.
- Machine Learning: INL is reducing time needed to validate technologies.
  - From 18 months to 2 weeks, the team can now predict performance and cell failure 36 x's faster.





## **Transportation Electrification**

#### **Program Overview**

• Provide data, tools and expertise to help the public and private sectors plan the fueling/charging infrastructure necessary to support widespread electric and fuel-cell vehicle adoption.

- White House national EV charging network planning team
- INL Net-zero
- Technical assistance to Idaho OEMR, DEQ for EV charging infrastructure program using Volkswagen settlement funds
- INL motorcoach fleet electrification will provide a blueprint for other Idaho fleets.





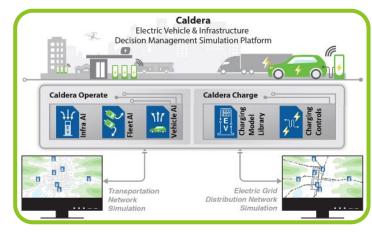


### **Electric Vehicles & the Grid**

#### **Program Overview**

- Developing technology to integrate EV charging and hydrogen fueling into the broader energy system.
- Our research includes data collection, modeling and simulation, cybersecurity, and real-world demonstrations.

- Caldera: a tool for evaluating EV charging impact on the electric grid
- Cybersecurity: EV charging as critical infrastructure must be secure to protect transportation and the grid
- Studying in-road wireless charging could remove the need for large, bulky batteries.





## **Hydropower**

#### **Program Overview**

 Advancing hydropower's ability to balance the regional grid and maximizing the value of this renewable resource for communities.

- Hydro+Storage: developing tools to design hydropower hybrids.
- Irrigation Modernization: decision tool for irrigation districts.
- Hydropower + Hydrogen: generating green hydrogen.
- Working with Minidoka irrigation district to investigate upgrade opportunities.
- Teamed with Idaho Falls Power to show how hydropower plants can be used to serve critical community electric loads during emergency outage.





## Resilient Energy Systems

## **Microgrids**

#### **Program Overview**

• INL's microgrid test bed system allows researchers to study and demonstrate their uses and component capabilities prior to real-world application.

- Net-zero microgrids R&D initiative, with potential to incorporate and integrate advanced storage, renewable energies, no/low-carbon fuels, and small modular/micro reactor technologies.
- R&D on relocatable microgrid systems with outage relief benefits for end users.



## Manufacturing

## **Electric Field Assisted Sintering Technology (EFAST)**

#### **Program Overview**

 EFAST is a system that can manufacture advanced components made of metals and ceramics that can withstand extreme conditions.

#### **Example Projects**

 The new DCS-800 EFAST in operation at INL (pictured right) is the world's largest and can manufacture materials at industrially relevant scales.



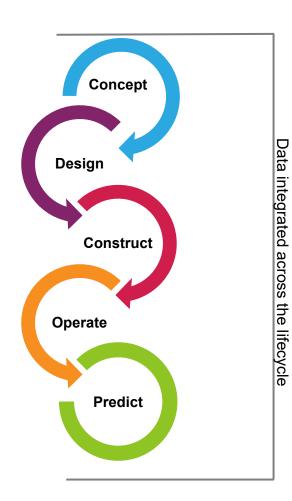


## **Digital Engineering**

#### **Program Overview**

- Digital Engineering (DE) uses artificial intelligence and realtime integrated data to coordinate engineering, construction, procurement, and facility operations.
- DE keeps costs down through integrated design and work on track while dramatically reducing overall program risk.

- Digital Engineering Design Ecosystem for Nuclear Reactors.
- Digital Twins for Non-Proliferation.
- Integrated Hybrid Cloud / High Performance Computing Platforms.



## Feedstocks for a circular economy

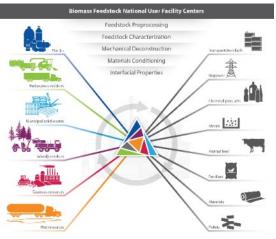
## **Biomass Feedstock National User Facility**

#### **Program Overview**

 At the Biomass Feedstock National User Facility researchers focus on R&D associated with key technical barriers facing the U.S. bioenergy and manufacturing industry.

- DARPA: mobile waste processing systems for remote locations.
- Waste fractionation to produce insulation or compounds for auto parts.
- New project on improving soil health with cover crops and biochar.





#### E-RECOV

#### **Program Overview**

• Electrochemical Recycling Electronic Constituents of Value (E-RECOV) is a method that uses an electrochemical cell to efficiently recover valuable metals from discarded electronics.

#### **Example Projects**

 Supporting industry partner Quantum Ventura Inc., to build a demonstration plant with capacity to process over 7 kg/day of electronic waste





INL research studies use of potato wastewater in reclaiming rare-earth elements







Battelle Energy Alliance manages INL for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. INL is the nation's center for nuclear energy research and development, and also performs research in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and the environment.