

Timeline of Catalysis Research at INL



Idaho's national laboratory has a long history of advanced catalysis research. Here is a snapshot of milestones.

1990

1994: Idaho researchers earn Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) funding for two exploratory catalysis research projects. Four more LDRD projects begin over the next three years.

May 1997: The lab enters its first industrial catalysis partnership, with Marathon-Ashland Petroleum, bringing funding from DOE's Office of Fossil Energy.

2000

2001: INL begins researching how catalysts and heat from high-temperature nuclear reactors can enhance hydrogen production, with funding from DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy.

2001: Solid catalyst alkylation process using supercritical fluid regeneration earns the first of many future catalysis-related patents.

2003: Another 1994 LDRD project matures. The Continuous Flow Solid-Catalytic Biodiesel Production Process attracts industrial collaboration with Texas Biodiesel.

2004: INL chosen by DOE's Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative as lead lab for catalyst development and testing for thermochemical water splitting cycles.

2006: INL receives an R&D 100 Award for Xtreme Xylanase, an enzyme that separates sugars from lignocellulose at high temperatures and acidic pH.

2008: Catalysis researcher Dan Ginosar is named INL's Inventor of the Year in recognition of his numerous patents, patent applications, license agreements and Cooperative Research and Development Agreements.

2010

2010: Supercritical Solid Catalyst biodiesel process wins R&D 100 Award, Platts Global Energy Award of Excellence, and Gordon Battelle Prize for Technology Impact.

2014: Distinguished staff scientist Dan Ginosar earns INL's Lifetime Achievement Award for numerous contributions including 27 U.S. and international patents.

2015: INL purchases Temporal Analysis of Products (TAP) system; second TAP system added in 2016.

2017: INL selected as "user portal" for DOE-AMO's Chemical Catalysts Research and Testing (CCRT) program.

2020