



CAES Director Harold Blackman (left) and Premier Technology President Douglas Sayer (right) sign a memorandum of understanding establishing future collaboration between the two technology institutions.

Premier Technology donates \$60,000 in equipment to CAES, signs MOU

by Keith Arterburn, *INL Communications*

On Aug. 27, senior representatives of Premier Technology and the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) met at Premier's technology center in Blackfoot, Idaho, to sign a memorandum of understanding that delineates how CAES and Premier will collaborate on technology development, scientific research and work-force training.

President Douglas Sayer signed for Premier Technology, and Harold Blackman of Idaho National Laboratory (INL) signed as the director of CAES.

A leading manufacturer and industrial contractor in Idaho, the U.S. and abroad, Premier Technology demonstrated its commitment to the partnership and economic development in Idaho by announcing it was donating a glovebox worth \$60,000 that CAES will use for researching the characteristics of reactive metals and ceramics. The glovebox, manufactured by Premier at its Blackfoot facility, provides the highest standard of environmental control in the industry.

Blackman said, "Premier's donation is a valuable technological addition to CAES and enables important research and training. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with Premier Technology and its talented work force. This partnership will help advance the pace at which the Center can transform research into action."

Sayer said, "Much of the work at Premier complements the mission of CAES. Establishing this partnership will help the Center create a core scientific capability that can be applied toward the world's energy challenges. Our partnership also reinforces Idaho's strong commitment to revitalizing energy and science education in the U.S., and helps address the shortage of college students entering the field of energy research such as nuclear."

The MOU establishes a collaborative relationship for advancing a technology-based work force and economic development in Idaho, plus:

- Sharing nonproprietary information to ensure consistent and clear communication;
- Identifying areas of mutual interest for study and development;
- Leveraging collective capabilities for mutual benefit; and
- Cooperating in the pursuit of external grants whenever appropriate.

Founded in 1996, Premier is one of the fastest growing companies in Idaho. In 2007, Premier opened its new corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility in Blackfoot, where over 350 technicians and engineers are employed. Premier operates facilities in Twin Falls for its food industry customers and in Pocatello for processing materials and for large fabrication projects. Its customers include the U.S. Departments of Defense and Energy, and NASA. For DOD, Premier provides equipment to support global demilitarization and nonproliferation efforts. Premier also supports key NASA prime contractors in critical programs such as the new Crew Launched Vehicle, the Space Shuttle replacement. For DOE, Premier supports cleanup of radioactive waste locations throughout the nation, essential nonproliferation projects, next-generation commercial nuclear fuels and research in alternative fuels aimed at reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. Premier's private sector customers range from Areva, the French nuclear services and engineering company, to Frito Lay.

CAES is a public/private partnership composed of Idaho's three public universities -- Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho -- private industry and INL. In September 2008, CAES will open a new 55,000-square-foot research facility in Idaho Falls. In this new facility, CAES will promote a broad spectrum of energy research that includes fossil, renewable and alternative energy sources, as well as environmental stewardship, and a focus on the national renaissance of commercial nuclear power.

The partnership between Premier and CAES promotes sustainable energy solutions, while preparing a new source of trained scientists, engineers and energy professionals. The partnership also promotes industrial engagement with the state's three public universities in close proximity to INL's key research activities and resources.

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