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INL leader elected to chair International Nuclear Energy Academy

IDAHO FALLS – Phillip J. Finck, Ph.D., chief scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has been elected to the leadership of the elite International Nuclear Energy Academy (INEA). He will be installed to a two-year term as chair at the end of the organization's meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency General Assembly in late September in Vienna.

INEA is a group of prominent, experienced scientists, engineers and related nuclear energy specialists who conduct studies and discussions, and develop recommendations for the international nuclear community on various generic nuclear energy issues. Academy membership is limited to 100 distinguished individuals from around the world.

Finck, who was elected a member of the organization in 2009, is an internationally recognized expert in advanced reactor and fuel cycle programs.

He completed his undergraduate degree from École Des Mines in France and earned a doctorate in nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1982. He also holds an MBA from the University of Chicago.

He was a mechanical engineer from 1983 to 1986 at Novatome in France. In 1986, he joined the staff at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) where he worked until 1993 when he joined the French Atomic Energy Commission. He held leadership positions at ANL from 1997-2006.

In October 2006, Finck joined INL as the associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science & Technology, a key position in the nation's nuclear energy laboratory. In 2012 he was named to his current position as INL Chief Scientist.

Finck's responsibilities as a leader of INEA will include more intense collaboration with nuclear related professionals across the world focused on addressing the needs of the future of nuclear energy worldwide.

Harold McFarlane, international programs director for Nuclear Science & Technology at INL, is also a member of the INEA and is a past chairman of the organization.

INL is part of the DOE's complex of national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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