Awards recognize outstanding LANL Tech Transfer

August 23, 2010

Annual event honors success in patents, licenses, copyright, and programmatic and regional impact

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, August 23, 2010—The 12th Annual Technology Transfer Recognition and Awards reception honored Laboratory scientists and technicians who develop scientific technologies in support of the Laboratory's mission that have potential for commercialization in business and industry. The awards reception took place on August 19, 2010 at Fuller Lodge in downtown Los Alamos.

Keynote speaker for the event was Wendolyn Holland, a senior advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Energy in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

“The significance of this event is that it's a way of saying thank you for making technology transfer a part of what researchers are doing, that their work makes a difference in the world, “ said Holland. “Los Alamos is a leader among DOE National Laboratories and clearly a leader in technology transfer.”

Awards were given for distinguished accomplishments in patenting, copyright, licensing, programmatic impact, and regional impact during fiscal year 2009.

An invention that provides a material and a method for replacing standard oil well drilling fluid won the Distinguished Patent Award. The modified fluid shrinks when heated during the production phase of deep oil well development. The new fluid reduces the risk of a casing failure due to increasing temperatures and pressures in deep wells.

This patent is currently the basis of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Chevron.

The winner of Distinguished Licensing Award is an innovation that led to the creation of a licensed product that increases plant photosynthesis rates by coordinating a plant’s uptake of nitrogen from the soil and its use of carbon dioxide for growth. The product accelerates growth—thereby speeding plants to maturity and harvest—and enhances yield without the use of growth hormones.

The Programmatic Impact Award recognizes LANL scientists for their efforts in the Stand-Off Radiation Detection System Program. The program’s goal is to develop advanced nuclear detectors that can determine the type and location of radiation sources at much greater distances than current technology. The Los Alamos National Laboratory team partnering with major defense contractors has successfully demonstrated a new system.

The Distinguished Copyright Award goes to the “RADIUS™” team. RADIUS™ stands for Rapid Automated Decomposition of Images for Ubiquitous Sensing and is a computational framework for structural representation of images using polygons instead of pixels.

The recipients of the Regional Impact Award are Chevron Energy Technology Company and a group of Laboratory retirees that formed Chevron’s Area 52 research facility in Santa Fe. This facility created both new jobs and new products based on Laboratory technologys.

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