Los Alamos to team with Procter & Gamble in clean energy manufacturing initiative

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LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Sept. 17, 2015—Clean energy manufacturing efforts will get a boost, thanks to a new national laboratory-industry collaboration pilot announced this week by the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative (CEMI). Los Alamos National Laboratory and consumer products company Procter & Gamble will form one of the seven 'innovation pairs' working to bring sustainable ideas from some of the nations top scientists into the day-to-day world of manufacturing.

"Los Alamos plans to coordinate with P&G to explore industry-ready innovations and cutting-edge scientific capabilities that could benefit manufacturing within household brands such as Tide, Bounty, Pantene, and Pampers. The goal will be to select tangible projects that will help P&G meet their long-term sustainability goals, ultimately improving the environmental footprint of the products their consumers use," said Melissa Fox of Los Alamos National Laboratory's Applied Energy Program Office.

The areas of focus include energy, water, waste and transportation. The Los Alamos and P&G team will focus on accelerating sustainable manufacturing within P&G's 129 manufacturing sites around the world. Potential study areas could include equipping manufacturing plants with cost-effective renewable energy sources, implementing innovative recycling and re-use streams and new approaches to water re-use and recycling. Over the next two years, LANL bio-scientist Babetta Marrone, from the lab's Bioscience Division and Applied Energy Office, will be paired with James McCall, the leader of P&G's Global Product Supply Sustainability program, to execute program.

Nationwide, seven "technologist" pairs have been selected to receive $2.6 million to participate in the Energy Department's two-year Technologist in Residence (TIR) pilot to strengthen U.S. clean energy manufacturing competitiveness and enhance the commercial impact of its national laboratories.

The competitively selected technologist pairs include one senior technologist from a national lab and another from a manufacturing company or consortium of companies. Through this pilot, each technologist pair will propose collaborative R&D efforts to support industry needs and will develop mechanisms to help interested companies better leverage the national lab network for strategic, long-term, collaborative R&D in clean energy technologies.

The technologist pairs selected to participate in TIR are as follows:

- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Tesla Motors
- Argonne National Laboratory and Capstone Turbine Corporation
- Argonne National Laboratory and Cummins
- Argonne National Laboratory and the International Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research
- Los Alamos National Laboratory and Procter & Gamble
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Hewlett Packard
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Alcoa

See more about the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative nationwide.