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For Immediate Release
August 20, 2009



A National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) scientist will receive *R&D Magazine*'s prestigious 2009 R&D 100 Award for his development of software that provides engineers with a tool to design and optimize advanced energy plants within a virtual engineering environment.

Dr. Stephen E. Zitney, Director of NETL's Collaboratory for Process and Dynamic Systems Research, developed software called the Virtual Engineering Process Simulator Interface, or VE-PSI, that allows engineers to create virtual prototypes of new plant designs more quickly, more efficiently, and at less cost than ever before. VE-PSI also helps to improve existing designs before expending time and materials on physical prototypes and pilot plants. Dr. Zitney collaborated with Ames Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, and Reaction Engineering International of Salt Lake City, Utah, during the development process. Ames Laboratory, Reaction Engineering International, and NETL are co-winners of the award.

In announcing the annual award, *R&D Magazine* states that its selection recognizes the most technologically significant products to enter the marketplace last year. The magazine's editors, as well as independent judges, select products and processes "that can change people's lives for the better" and "improve the standard of living for large numbers of people."

Dr. Zitney grew up in West Mifflin, Pa., and earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.S. degree in chemical engineering and engineering and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Dr. Zitney, a resident of Morgantown, W.Va., will receive his award during *R&D Magazine*'s awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on November 12, 2009.

NETL is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories. NETL – "the ENERGY lab" – focuses on America's economic prosperity, which requires secure, reliable energy supplies at sustainable prices. Three overarching issues characterize the energy situation in the United States. They are energy affordability, supply security, and environmental quality. The Department of Energy's only government-owned, government-operated national lab, NETL is a research and technology center where these energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge. NETL implements a broad spectrum of energy and environmental research and development programs through its own research staff and through funded research at other labs, universities, and industry that will return benefits for generations to come.