

# Advanced Materials Laboratory

CENTER FOR ADVANCED ENERGY STUDIES



*ODS iron base superalloy powders prepared by mechanical alloying.*

## Advanced Materials Laboratory (AML)

One of the most significant developments in the world of energy production has been the development of materials designed to withstand heat and pressure at levels that would have been unimaginable 25 years ago. These efficiencies have prolonged the life span of nuclear reactor vessels and turbines, and made reactor fuel rods yield more energy for dramatically longer periods of time.

The Advanced Materials Laboratory (AML) at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) is where researchers create and test new materials to ensure they can withstand extreme environments. They also are experimenting with new welding techniques to ensure these materials can be used in commercial settings.

AML offers a broad range of sample preparation capabilities, including processing, structural analysis and properties determination. Specifically, AML provides:

- Radiological and non radiological materials processing (sintering, welding, casting, machining, deposition)
- Determination of materials structure of samples (atomic, nano, mesostructures)
- Analysis of materials properties (e.g. strength, toughness, slow crack growth, diffusion, thermal conductivity, thermal expansion, corrosion resistance).



### EXPLORE

Energy and Environmental Research



### EDUCATE

Energy and Environmental Education



### ENGAGE

Apply Knowledge to Industry



### ENABLE

Energy Transitions and Economic Development

## AML CAPABILITIES

Linked closely with the CAES Microscopy and Characterization Suite (MaCS) and sharing many of the same researchers, AML contains specialized equipment for testing and analysis of both radiological and nonradiological materials.

### For nonradiological materials:

- Gatan PIPS II ion-mill
- Gatan PECS
- Leco LM247AT Microhardness Tester
- CM Rapid Temperature Furnace
- Keyence VH-250L Long Working Distance Microscope
- Retsch PM100 Planetary Ball Mill
- Carver and Dayton Presses

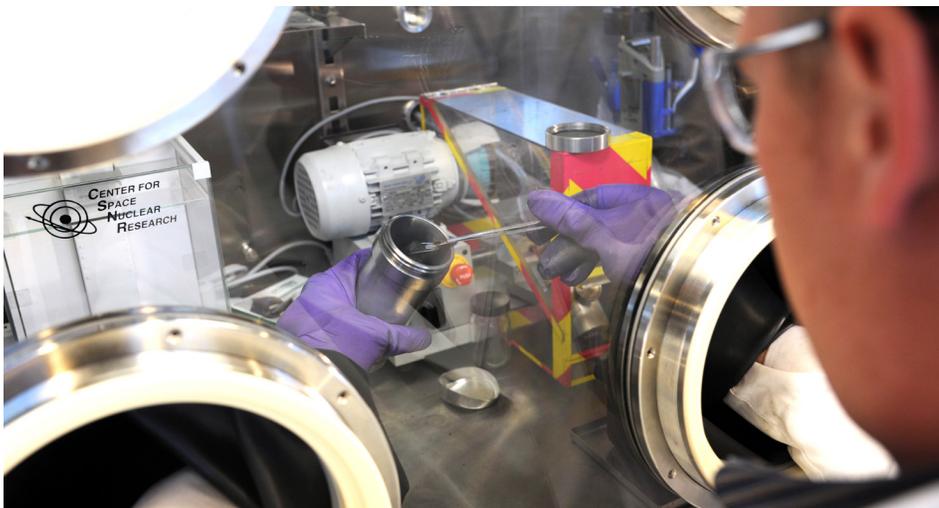
Other sample preparation tools include: low speed/high speed/precision/diamond wire saws, grinders/polishers, scales, fume hood, ultrasonic cleaner, dimpler, hot plates and drying oven.

### For radiological materials:

- Argon environment rad sample prep glovebox
- Rigaku SmartLabs high-resolution X-ray diffractometer (XRD)
- Thermal technology high temperature furnace
- Instron test frame with 5kN and 10kN load cells model 5967 R4847



*A researcher uses a medium speed sectioning saw to prepare a sample.*



## UNIQUE EQUIPMENT

- **Dr. Sinter Spark Plasma Sintering system**
  - Allows researchers to combine metal and ceramic powders to produce new materials
  - Two instruments, one for radiological and the other for nonradiological materials
- **Two stress corrosion cracking systems**
  - For experiments in boiling water reactor and pressurized water reactor conditions

*A researcher uses a glovebox to ready a sample for spark plasma sintering.*

## About CAES

*The Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES), a consortium of Idaho National Laboratory, Boise State University, Idaho State University, University of Idaho, and University of Wyoming, is a public/private research center that provides research capabilities, energy-related educational opportunities, and industry assistance to fuel economic growth.*

## FOR MORE INFO

**Dr. Yaqiao Wu**  
Advanced Materials  
Lab Lead  
(208) 533-8112  
yaqiaowu@boisestate.edu

**Bryan Forsmann**  
Sample Prep Lead  
(208) 533-8161  
bryanforsmann@  
boisestate.edu

**Julie Ulrich**  
Communications  
(208) 526-1572  
julie.ulrich@inl.gov

[www.caesenergy.org](http://www.caesenergy.org)

