Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

About INL

In operation since 1949, INL is a science-based, applied engineering national laboratory dedicated to supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's missions in nuclear and energy research, science, and national defense.

Mission

Ensure the nation's energy security with safe, competitive, and sustainable energy systems and unique national and homeland security capabilities.

Vision

By 2015, INL will be the pre-eminent nuclear energy laboratory with synergistic, world-class, multi-program capabilities and partnerships.

Working with INL

INL provides the following services.

* Comprehensive, efficient and adaptable procurement and property management support services;

* Responsive and reliable Work for Others and teaming partner support;

* Expedient acquisition and distribution of compliant materials and services;

* Property management distribution and logistics skills to support initiatives;

* Responsive, reliable acquisition tools, systems and methods; and

* Contract management and administration skills to execute major laboratory initiatives.

Challenge

The Idaho National Lab composite facilities make up a sprawling research campus in Eastern Idaho consisting of 18 separate buildings in a five-mile geography in Idaho Falls and site facilities covering over 890 square miles located in the Idaho Desert some 60 miles from Idaho Falls.

Efficient and timely receipt, documentation and distribution of freight throughout the INL system is a compressive task and vital to the fulfillment of the stated mission.

Common fright carriers were overwhelmed by the unique and varied characteristics of the Lab's facilities and were not able to provide the level of service desired to each individual receiving customer. Common carriers were also challenged by the magnitude of shipments and at times created a traffic and congestion problem around the facilities. In addition, extra resources were needed to maintain the Lab's security protocol with numerous delivery trucks accessing the campus. Attempted deliveries were at times delayed because of insufficient shipping label information. Expedited and LTL carriers were also burdened with travel to remote facilities with small shipments. The INL central receiving facility was an operational burden out side the Lab's core function.

Solution

WestOne logistics provides an off-site processing facility and conducts third party logistics management for the INL. WestOne Logistics receives and distributes all in bound freight and supports the procurement activities with timely processing, documentation and delivery of freight ranging from overnight envelopes to large & bulky items. WestOne receives, processes and delivers over 6,000 shipments per month to the lab's many facilities. WestOne has dedicated personnel and equipment that perform the various tasks associated with the INL 3PL contract. Efficient execution of receiving and distribution and timely reporting of vital information gives the Lab a competitive advantage when managing the procurement process.

Result

WestOne Logistics began its relationship with the INL through its first 3PL agreement with BEA by providing innovative controlled storage services at their commercial facility in Idaho Falls. It was the first 3PL services agreement of its kind for a U.S. Department of Energy site as well as for BEA and it was with a local small business.

WestOne Logistics service delivery to INL was expanded to include a contract providing exclusive third party logistics services through receiving and distribution of all inbound freight to the INL facilities.

This first of its kind 3PL process for government contractors implemented at the INL has proven to be cost effective and WestOne Logistics provides critical services that enable work efficiency and enhance the productivity at the Laboratory.

Commentary

The Idaho National Lab under the management of Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) is an extremely well managed program. BEA has demonstrated a passion for the mission and vision of the INL and has looked for new and creative ways to economically accomplish those goals. They have embraced the INL outreach objectives and have helped WestOne Logistics develop a 3PL program that is unprecedented for DOE. Together BEA and WestOne Logistics have defined the process of outsourced logistics for DOE Labs that adheres to the high standards of performance expected in the DOE programs.

WestOne Logistics is a proud and successful third party logistics partner with INL under their Small Business Program. WestOne has grown through the opportunity to serve the Lab and is positioned to expand its services to fill the requirement as the INL grows in scope. WestOne was nominated for DOE Small Business of the year fir 2007.

Westone Logistics is committed to the health & safety of its employees, both on and off the job, our customers and those we interface with during the execution of our services. We are committed to world-class safety behavior, safety performance and environmental stewardship. We strive to emulate and magnify the stated safety policies of the Idaho National Lab.