

Volume 313 December 4, 2012

A sprawling national energy laboratory near Chicago will host the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced Friday. Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Ill., was awarded \$120 million over five years to work with more than a dozen partners, including Johnson Controls Inc. of Glendale, to bring to market breakthrough battery technologies.

The energy hub public-private research partnership is modeled on a Bush administration initiative that created a \$125 million bioenergy research hub at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Advancements in energy storage are needed to help reduce reliance on imported oil and help integrate intermittent sources of electricity such as wind and solar into the power grid, according to the Energy Department.

"This is a partnership between world leading scientists and world leading companies, committed to ensuring that the advanced battery technologies the world needs will be invented and built right here in America," Chu said in a statement.

"This new hub brings together, under a single organizational roof, the world's leading scientists, engineers and manufacturers in energy storage and provides them with the tools, resources and market reach necessary to produce major breakthroughs," said Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.). "The large-scale, innovative research and transformational new battery systems that will result from this venture will mean more effective, lower cost and longer life energy storage technologies with real world applications for anything that can use a rechargeable battery."

Though centered and based at Argonne, the joint center includes a host of partners including Johnson Controls in Glendale as well as Applied Materials and Dow Chemical, as well as the Clean Energy Trust. Academic partners include the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Illinois and University of Michigan.

National labs joining in the effort are the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory.

Argonne has already been focused heavily on battery research, coming up with some of the technological advances that helped develop the battery for General Motors Corp.'s Chevrolet Volt.

The Argonne-led hub was selected after a competition involving several other national energy labs and stakeholders from other parts of the country.

Electricity Pricing – Dec 4, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$0.03959	\$0.02595
2014	\$0.04115	\$0.02690
2015	\$0.04251	\$0.02839

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Nov, 2011	\$0.02816
Dec, 2011	\$0.02971
Jan, 2012	\$0.03043
Feb, 2012	\$0.02963
Mar, 2012	\$0.02894
April, 2012	\$0.02659
May, 2012	\$0.02816
June, 2012	\$0.03089
July, 2012	\$0.04303
Aug, 2012	\$0.03112
Sep, 2012	\$0.03034
Oct, 2012	\$0.02829
Nov, 2012	\$0.03327

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	57	39	48	47	46
Low	33	33	43	44	40

