

## Capitalizing on the Nation's Investment

As the preceding pages illustrate, NREL's scientists and engineers are engaged in innovative research and development that is changing the way energy is created and used. However, research and development is only part of what we do. To effectively pursue our mission and take on the nation's energy challenges, it is critical that NREL's technological advances and solutions reach the marketplace in a timely manner. Through our numerous collaborations with industry, we ensure that our research and development is properly focused and market relevant. Our alliances with companies, universities, and other federal laboratories also increase the knowledge base and innovative capacity of NREL's technical staff, allowing us to better capitalize on the national investment in NREL's important work.

Each year NREL's world-class staff works with industrial, academic, and government organizations on literally hundreds of projects. In addition to our collaborative projects, we test and validate technologies using our expertise, facilities, and equipment; prepare focused informational reports using our knowledge of state-of-the-art, clean, energy-related technologies; share NREL-developed software tools with the broader community; and license our patented technologies to entrepreneurial and established companies.

Any of these technology transfer mechanisms can lead to the creation of new enterprise opportunities for business growth and development, and accelerate the transition of NREL-developed technologies to the marketplace. "Accelerate" is a key word for us—our nation's energy challenges are immense and immediate, and we must rapidly move technologies out to our industrial partners in order to increase our nation's energy security, reduce the environmental impacts of energy use, and bolster U.S. competitiveness and productivity.

The examples presented in this issue of the *Research Review* are but a snapshot of our research and development projects that will lead to technology transfer activities. Technology is continually being transferred between NREL staff and the dozens of outside parties with which we interact. And it is not just a one-way flow, but a two-way exchange of ideas, problems, and solutions through individual and collective innovation. That is how we work: always with the goal of moving new concepts and technologies from the laboratory to applications that benefit society.

For more details on NREL's technology deployment and commercialization activities, visit our Technology Transfer Web site at [www.nrel.gov/technologytransfer/](http://www.nrel.gov/technologytransfer/) and pick up a copy of our inaugural Technology Transfer Report, due out in late summer 2007. ■



NREL worked with Northern Power Systems to develop a 1.5-megawatt direct-drive generator for wind turbines, shown here during testing at NREL's National Wind Technology Center.



Every other year, NREL helps to sponsor and manage the Solar Decathlon on the National Mall. The event encourages university students to incorporate the latest technologies into small solar-powered, energy-efficient homes.