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NETL NEWS

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NETL Researcher Selected to Receive Nation's Highest Award for Young Scientists

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Dr. Paul R. Ohodnicki, a materials scientist at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), has been named by President Obama as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE award is the highest honor the U.S. government can bestow on scientists or engineers in the early stages of their research careers. Dr. Ohodnicki was selected for his outstanding innovation and technical leadership, which have advanced foundational materials science and led to the development of new applications and inventions in materials technology.

A prolific author, inventor, and collaborator, Dr. Ohodnicki is a member of the Functional Materials Team in NETL's Research & Innovation Center, where he leads research efforts to discover and develop novel high-performance materials for application in process monitoring and control for advanced energy systems. His research collaborations have resulted in the development of a portfolio of patented and patent-pending technologies. Beyond technology innovation, his highly cited research has also made significant contributions to the materials science community.

Dr. Ohodnicki is the principal investigator of a \$4.5 million, multiyear project that spans materials discovery and development to full-scale system analysis and demonstration of new power electronics for grid integration of solar and energy-storage technologies. The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technology Office, is a direct result of Dr. Ohodnicki's long-standing collaborations with co-principal investigator Professor Michael McHenry from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Ohodnicki's research successes demonstrate an ability to further foundational materials

understanding and engineer real-world materials solutions to address our nation's energy challenges.

Dr. Ohodnicki is involved in science outreach and education as a Science and Engineering Ambassador for the National Academy of Sciences and as a mentor to post-doctoral and graduate students. He has taught graduate-level courses at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh and has an adjunct affiliation in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Ohodnicki is also an active member of numerous scientific societies, where he has held a variety of leadership roles, including serving as chair of the Energy Conversion and Storage Committee of The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society.

Dr. Ohodnicki received his bachelor's degree in engineering physics from the University of Pittsburgh and his master's and doctorate degrees in materials science and engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Ohodnicki and his family reside in Hampton Township.

NETL is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory that produces technological solutions to America's energy challenges. For more than 100 years, the laboratory has focused on developing tools and processes to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to the American people. Three NETL research sites—Albany, Ore., Morgantown, W.Va., and Pittsburgh, Pa.—conduct a broad range of energy and environmental research and development activities that support DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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