

## International Isotopes Picks Hobbs for Deconversion Plant

By Dan Yurman, Contributing Reporter

International Isotopes (OTC:INIS), a small firm in Idaho Falls, has big plans to recover fluorine for industrial use via uranium deconversion from depleted UF<sub>6</sub>. Steve Laflin, CEO, announced this week he has decided to put the \$55 million plant at a site in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Laflin said the economic development advantages of the location mitigated in its favor. Hobbs is just 25 miles north of Eunice, where Louisiana Energy Services is building a \$2 billion uranium enrichment plant that will spool up its first centrifuges by yearend.

Laflin said his firm would submit an application for an NRC license for its New Mexico plant by November. He hopes to break ground there in 2011.

### Demonstration Plant in Idaho

He is also building a large \$10 million technology demonstration plant in Idaho Falls that will employ 20 people. He is plowing the current round of investment funding, some \$2 million, into

engineering design for both facilities.

Laflin plans to attract investors by showing them how the technology works in Idaho Falls, and to book contracts for the New Mexico facility. When asked if he has a contract with LES, he said, "not yet," but he added that he is not tied to just one facility and hopes to do business with AREVA's Eagle Rock uranium enrichment plant once it comes online in 2014.

Separately, International Isotopes reported for 2008 a 19% increase in revenue in two business segments - radiochemical sales and cobalt products.

The new facility, which will employ 150 people, will consist of both depleted uranium deconversion and fluorine gas extraction processes. INIS holds patents that give it exclusive rights to the Fluorine Extraction Process, which produces high-value, high-purity gases in conjunction with uranium deconversion and provides a key commercial advantage to the deconversion project.

The plant is expected to have an initial deconversion capacity equivalent to processing approximately 575 depleted UF<sub>6</sub> tails cylinders per year. Those cylinders are expected to come from one or more enrichment companies in the U.S. and INIS will charge for this deconversion service. ☺