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Only a handful of U.S. materials science labs are properly equipped to study plutonium alloys, and Iowa State University is not one of them. Yet Iowa State's MSE Department hired noted plutonium expert Adam J. Schwartz to join the faculty as a full professor in early June. So what's going on here? The answer is simple; Prof. Schwartz was also recently hired as the new director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory. So the majority of his effort will be administrative. But he does have a fractional appointment for teaching and research in the MSE Department.

Read more.