

**DOE Notes**

**Task Force to Study Future Role of DOE Labs**

The Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) named eight members to a task force that will study the future role of DOE laboratories. According to Energy Secretary James D. Watkins, "Their review will help the department develop a set of 'guiding principles' to manage the DOE laboratory complex in a manner that will sustain its excellence as an intellectual resource for the nation well into the future."

Task force members include W.R. Brinkman, executive director, research-physics division, AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ; Timothy P. Coffey, director of research, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC; and John S. Foster Jr., member, board of directors, TRW Inc., Redondo Beach, CA, and chairman of the Defense Science Board.

The task force will also include five SEAB members: Lew Allen Jr., director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA; Edward A. Frieman, director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, and chair of the task force; Leon M. Lederman, director emeritus, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL; Michael May, director emeritus, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA; and John P. McTague, vice president, technical affairs, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI.

Created in the spring of 1990, SEAB will conduct four studies over the next year, including the laboratory study. An interim report on the laboratory study is due by May 1991 and a final report by October 1991.

**Applications Sought for NRC Research Associateships**

The National Research Council is accepting applications for the 1991 Resident, Cooperative, and Postdoctoral Research Associateship Programs for research in the sciences and engineering. The research is to be conducted on behalf of 30 federal agencies or research institutions whose 115 participating research laboratories are located throughout the United States. The programs provide opportunities for PhD scientists and engineers of unusual promise and ability to perform research on problems largely of their own choosing yet compatible with the research interests of the sponsoring laboratory. Initiated in 1954, the Associateship Programs have contributed to the career development of over 7,000 scientists ranging from recent PhD recipients to distinguished senior scientists.

Approximately 450 new full-time Associateships will be awarded on a competitive basis in 1991 for research in chemistry; earth and atmospheric sciences; engineering and applied sciences; biological, health, and behavioral sciences and bio-

technology; mathematics; space and planetary sciences; and physics. Most programs are open to both U.S. and non-U.S. nationals, and to both recent PhD degree recipients and senior investigators.

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renewable to a maximum of three years; senior applicants who have held the doctorate at least five years may request a shorter period. Annual stipends for recent PhDs for the 1991 program year range from \$27,150 to \$42,000.

Applications to the National Research Council must be postmarked no later than January 15, 1991 (December 15, 1990 for NASA), April 15, and August 15, 1991. Initial awards will be announced in March and April—July and November for the two later competitions—followed by awards to alternate candidates later.

For information on specific research opportunities and participating federal laboratories, as well as application materials, contact: Associateship Programs (GR430/D2), Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418; fax (202) 334-2759.

### NASA Selects 280 SBIR Proposals

NASA selected 280 research proposals for immediate negotiation of Phase I contracts in its Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR). Proposals selected were submitted by 229 small, high technology firms located in 30 states.

SBIR objectives are to stimulate technological innovation in the United States by using small business, including minority and disadvantaged firms, to help meet federal R&D needs, and to encourage commercial applications of federally supported research innovations.

The current SBIR awards were selected competitively from 2,148 proposals received in response to the solicitation which closed July 16, 1990. Selections were made on the basis of scientific and technical merit, capabilities of the firm, and value of the proposed research innovations to NASA.

Phase I projects are 6-month, fixed-price contract efforts, normally not exceeding \$50,000, to establish their feasibility. Approximately one-half of the Phase I projects proceed into Phase II, depending on the availability of funds. Phase II contracts do not normally exceed two years and \$500,000. Phase III activities may be funded by the private sector for commercial development or funded outside the SBIR program by NASA or other agencies for government use.

As required by law, NASA allocates 1.25% of its annual R&D budget for SBIR. Approximately \$14 million of NASA's 1991 SBIR budget will fund the 280 Phase I projects.

A list of companies selected for the current program is available from NASA Headquarters (telephone 202-453-8400) and all NASA field centers. For more information about upcoming NASA SBIR solicitations, contact: H. Johnson, NASA Headquarters, Code CR, Washington, DC 20546; telephone (703) 271-5650. □

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