DOE Notes

Developers Selected for Multimegawatt Space Nuclear Power Supply

The U.S. Department of Energy announced the selection of six contractors who will each conduct 10-month preliminary concept assessments and technology feasibility evaluations of a potential multimegawatt space reactor system for possible future space missions. The contractors include:

- Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Madison, PA)
- General Electric Company (King of Prussia, PA)
- Rockwell International (Canoga Park, CA)
- GA Technologies, Inc. (San Diego, CA)
- Boeing Aerospace Company (Kent, WA)
- Grumman Corporation (Bethpage, NY) At the completion of the Phase I evaluations, DOE will select between one and three of the concepts on which to conduct more detailed Phase II development designed to resolve basic feasibility issues.

Phase I contracts are valued at approximately \$1 million per concept. Funding for Phase II contracts is expected to be approximately \$5 million per year per concept over a three to four year period. The second phase is expected to be completed by 1992.

The multimegawatt space nuclear power system concepts are being developed in cooperation with the Defense Department's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (SDIO) as part of the joint multimegawatt space reactor program for potential SDIO missions. A safe, reliable multimegawatt space reactor power system is also expected to be applicable to future civilian space missions and activities.

J.F. Ahearne Named Chairman of Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety

Former Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman John F. Ahearne will serve as chairman of an Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety, an independent committee reporting to the Secretary of Energy on safety issues at DOE nuclear facilities.

The panel was chartered as part of DOE's response to safety recommendations made last October in a report prepared by the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering. The NAS report recommended that DOE establish a committee of experts from outside the department to provide independent safety oversight on an ongoing basis.

Ahearne has been appointed to a twoyear renewable term as chairman. Additional committee members are being selected on the basis of specific expertise in a variety of areas, including radiation safety, management, design and construction technologies, quality assurance, thermal hydraulics, severe accident technology and risk assessment. A full list of members is expected to be announced soon.

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