Not-for-Profit Sought by DOE
As Next Contractor to Operate BNL

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced Wednesday, May 28, that it is seeking a not-for-profit organization or team to take over the operation of BNL from Associated Universities Inc., according to an announcement in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD).

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Since 1976, the Mini-Semester Program has been offered to students from community colleges and four-year colleges such as the State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY Suffolk), which have been associated with BNL in academic partnerships that provide supplemental funding this year. Renée Flack, Educational Programs Administrator in BNL's Office of Educational Programs (OEP), commented, "Thousands of students have benefited from our educational programs, and we are delighted with the continued support of our partners." SCCS students in the Mini-Semester program are eligible to work at BNL in OEP's Cooperative Program during the semester, which allows them to do research in a laboratory to contribute to their technical projects for college credit. All Mini-Semester participants are eligible for ten-week summer appointments at the Lab. Added Flack, "The experience that these programs offer the students is invaluable in helping them decide on their careers and to get jobs. Some of our previous students have been hired for full-time positions at BNL."

-- Liz Seubert

Mini-Semester Gives Maxi Experience

Mini-Semester Program students (with asterisks) with college representatives (front, from left) David Bynum, SUNY SB; Glenn Williams, BNL; Kenneth Harrisson*, SCC; (second row, from left) Hector Melgar*, SCC; Roupchan Hardare*, NCYTCTC; Granity Scott*, NCCC; Lisa Millsaps*, NCCC; and Ed Taylor, CCD; (Third row, from left) Cathy Lombardo, BNL's Computing & Communications Division (CCD); Bernard Baldwin*, BCC; Karlos Ramos*, BCC; Elizabeth Galban*, NCYTCTC; Maza Mohamed*, MCC; (back, from left) Ed McSweney, NCCC; Dwight Simpson*, MCC; Bob Lambiaso, Retaliating Heavy Ion Collidet Project; Ona Rice, BNL's Medical Department; Peter Paniagua*, SCC; and Liz Seubert, CCD.

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AUI Notices Scientific Staff Of Appointment Termination

In a tense meeting with the scientific staff, who had packed Berker Hall on Tuesday, May 27, AUI's President and interim Laboratory Director Lyle Schwartz gave formal notice to the staff that their scientific appointments will be terminated as of the last day that Associated Universities, Inc., (AUI) will remain the prime contractor. AUI has recently revoked the contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The new, performance-based contract will be awarded in November and will allow for an appropriate transition period.

"Your relationship with AUI is what is being terminated, not your jobs at BNL," stated Schwartz. Written notice of the termination was distributed in a memorandum generally distributed outside the auditorium. Before a copy is mailed to each member of the scientific staff, this memo is being reviewed as a result of the meeting to clarify AUI actions in light of the questions and comments that followed Schwartz's announcement.

Although Schwartz assured the scientific staff that this announcement was a "formal process" which "does not affect continuity of employment," many in the audience equated AUI's appointment with their employment at the Lab, and thus questioned the future of their jobs at BNL. In fact, many staff members who went through the termination discussion period following AUI's announcement expressed concern, indignation or anger regarding the lack of a written guarantee of future employment beyond the transition period.

Coming a day before DOE's announcement that it is limiting the contract competition to nonprofit organizations (see story, left), these reactions arose from the many uncertainties of continued employment from DOE, including those from Energy Secretary Federico Peña during his visit to BNL on May 1, during which he announced the revocation of AUI's contract effective in approximately six months.

Some questioned whether or not Schwartz had a conflict of interest that has come to light as a result of this notification: On one hand, he is the AUI President, who has to ensure that the corporation's legal obligations are fulfilled; but, on the other, he is the Interim BNL Director, expected by many in the audience to be their representative to DOE. This may be the correct administrative action in the situation; however, since my arrival at BNL, there has been no conflict of interest in virtually all the issues that I have dealt with. Since AUI's historic and long-term concern is the continuity of BNL, and the successful outcome of every major project, I do not think that such a conflict of interest is either in the corporation's or the Laboratory's best interest. Therefore, if the conflict arises more frequently during the transition, I will take appropriate action in each instance."

Enforced Contractual Provision

Under the terms of AUI's recently-terminated contract with DOE, AUI has employed BNL's resident scientists under what are called scientific appointments, with tenure, to work on time-limited tasks, subjecting "a commitment of continuing employment by AUI until the appointee's retirement; continued appointment, not subject to a time limit; and term appointment, made for designated periods."

All three appointments, however, could be revoked as part of the "enforced termination of DOE contractual provision, or by reason of financial exigency" which Schwartz pointed out was the case.

AUI is obliged to give not less than six months' notice of a scientific appointment to tenure, four months' notice to those with continuing appointments and two months' notice to those with term appointments. But, according to Appendix A in the DOE contract with AUI that had been signed in August 1995, in the event that those holding tenure, continued and term appointments are terminated, "AUI will continue to pay the residents for salary payments in lieu of the guaranteed amount of notice." By giving the scientific staff adequate notice, commented Mike Goldman, BNL's Laboratory Counsel, AUI is fulfilling its obligation under the contract and eliminating the liability risk for the corporation for failing to give such notice. Whether or not AUI bids for the new contract to administrate BNL, it will continue in its current situation.

Severance benefits for BNL's scientific staff, as also explained in Appendix A, "are not payable when an employee is employed by or receives an offer of employment with a replacement Contractor where continuity of employment credit for prior length of service is preserved under substantially equal conditions of employment and compensation.

The problem, however, for the majority of those who made their comments in public is that no one has yet received an offer of employment by a replacement contractor, or knows what benefits will be offered by such a contractor, since the process to select one is only just beginning. As was brought up by a question, the existing contract ensures the continuation of medical benefits for retirees and their dependents by having DOE assume the liability for that expense.

During the transition from AUI to an unknown contractor, many pointed out, there would be turnover in the laboratory and a rent and office building fund for new and ongoing projects is being jeopardized.

Acknowledging the uncertainties, Dean Helm, assistant to DOE's site Executive Manager, John Wagoner, urged all to present their input and suggestions to DOE, including those from Energy Secretary Federico Peña. Included in the audience was the Brookhaven Scientists and Association or the Friends of Brookhaven.                 — Marsha Belford


Brookhaven National Laboratory

Brookhaven National Laboratory
Coming Up

Arthur Kornberg, Nobel laureate and Professor Emeritus at Stanford University’s School of Medicine, will give the next BNL 50th Anniversary Distinguished Lecture on “Biotechnology or Technology?” on Wednesday, June 11, at 4 p.m. in Berkner Hall. Also, Arthur Kornberg will be representing a seminar on “Inorganic Polyphosphate: A Molecular Fossil Comet” on the same date at 11 a.m. in the Biology Department’s Seminar Room, Bldg. 463.

Pick a H.S. Student

Through Friday, June 6, those interested in sponsoring Community Summer School Program (CSSP) intern may review the students’ applications at the Office of Educational Programs, in the Science Education Center, Bldg. 900. From Monday, July 7, through Friday August 15, student interns, who are high school juniors and seniors with talent and ability in science, will participate in research under the direction of Brookhaven staff in laboratories around site at no cost to the sponsoring departments and divisions.

Not-for-Profit

(Cont’d.)

assuring safe and reliable operations of research and user facilities, including clear reactors. The offer will be required to address ES&H as an inherent critical aspect of accomplishing the Birk 438. Additionally, the offer must possess the vision and capacity for utilizing and enhancing the special features of Brookhaven as a multipurpose Laboratory to establish innovative, creative multidisciplinary research team to address problems not readily solved in a university setting.

The notice continued: “The Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected to include several Qualification Criteria relating to the existing Laboratory workforce. . . . For this solicitation, DOE anticipates requiring offers . . . to agree to requirements to offer employment (except for key Laboratory management personnel), consisting with Fiscal 1998 appropriations, either through its own organization or designated subcontractor(s) to virtually all other Laboratory personnel currently employed at comparable pay and benefits; credit employees’ length of service with the current contractor, [and recognize the currently certified collective bargaining agents and their existing bargaining agreements . . . . The new contractor must also commit to reasonable and accountability for existing commercial and regulatory obligations. Secretary of Energy F. Ederico Peña also announced that DOE’s Acting Associate Deputy Secretary for Field Management, Franklin Peters, has been named the Source Selection Officer who will make the final decision on the new contractor. Over the next six months, he will lead a Source Evaluation Board of DOE scientific, technical and operational experts, who will evaluate each prospective contractor based on the Source Selection Criteria. To begin development of Source Selection Criteria, information exchanges were held by DOE with BNLeers and the community on Thursday and Friday, May 28 & 29, respectively. A Strategic Solicitation Plan including draft Source Selection Criteria will be issued for public comment in mid-June. It will be available from the DOE Chicago Operations Office home page on the World Wide Web at http://www.ch.deo.gov or, for requests on computer disk, by calling (312) 344-6018; or access current job openings on the World Wide Web at http://www.bnl.gov/jobs/index.html.

H.S. Science Day Today

Today, almost 1,000 high school students from 16 Suffolk County school districts will be on site for the High School Science Day Open House. Organized by the Museum Programs of the Public Affairs Office, the event is a celebration of the outstanding science produced at BNL over its 50-year history, held to promote students’ interest in science and technology.

During the fair, students will take one of three two-hour tours of BNL facilities. Led by BNL tour guides and staff volunteers, the tours include stops at the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron, the National Synchrotron Light Source, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and the Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope.

Book Fair Next Weekend

The annual BERA spring book fair will take place next Thursday and Friday, June 5 & 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Berkner Hall. To see a complete list of the books, as well as a limited display of what will be available at the fair for immediate purchase, go to the BERA Sales Office, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Andrea Dehler, Ext. 3347, or M. Kay Dellimore, Ext. 2873.

Computer Training

Seats remain in the following computer classes: beginner EXCEL, June 17; beginner ACCESS, June 25 & 27; basic Windows 95, 8:45 a.m. - noon, June 24 & 26; and beginner PowerPoint, 1-4 p.m., June 24 & 26. To register, contact your training coordinator. For more information, contact Pam Mansfield, Ext. 7286.

PLACEMENT NOTICES

The Laboratory’s placement policy is to select the best qualified candidate for an available position. Candidates are considered in the following order: (1) present employees within the immediate work group; (2) present employees within the Laboratory; and (3) outside applicants. In keeping with the Affirmative Action Plan, selectees are made without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or veteran status.

Each week, the Human Resources Division lists new placement notices, first, to employees may be interested in all job openings; use a TDD system to access job information by calling (516) 344-9018, or access current job openings on the World Wide Web at http://www.bnl.gov/jobs/index.html.

OPEN RECRUITMENT – Opportunities for Lab employees and outside candidates

NS 4015. ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR - will be responsible for first-line supervision in the electrical shop. Will direct electricians, including responsibility for training, scheduling and technical direction. Will coordinate all work, maintain records and reports, and supply technical assistance and information. Plant Engineering Division.

Classified Advertisements

Equity for Women

“Economic Equity for Women: Realities, Responsibilities and Rewards” will be discussed on site in a video conference featuring Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Sponsored on site by the Women’s Program Advisory Committee, the video conference will take place on Thursday, June 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 493. Seating is limited, so email your intention to attend by mtanaka@bnl.gov.

Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

Barry M. Cornell..................................Plant Eng.
Alex J. Korol........................................Plant Eng.

Departures

Raymond Jackson..........................RHIC

Brookhaven Bulletin

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