



Jefferson Science Associates

Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

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Leemann Steps Down from Jefferson Lab Directorship

Washington, DC – Christoph Leemann, Director of the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, announced today that he will resign from that position after six and a half years at the helm of the research facility. Leemann will also step down as President of Jefferson Science Associates, a joint venture between the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) and CSC Applied Technologies, which was awarded the management and operating (M&O) contract from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in a recompetition last Spring.

John T. Casteen, President of the University of Virginia and JSA Board Chair, said, “Dr. Leemann has provided tremendous leadership for Jefferson Lab over the past several years. As board chair of the managing contractor organization that assumed control of the lab’s operations last year, I am especially grateful for his effective management of the lab during that period of transition.” Dr. Casteen added, “We are appreciative of Dr. Leemann’s work on expansion plans that will essentially double the lab’s energy and research capacity. This expansion will guarantee that the lab will continue to be an effective research center for the next generation.”

To assist the JSA Board of Directors in the search process, Leemann offered to remain on board into the last quarter of the fiscal year. Until such time as a successor is named, Leemann said, “I will lead the Laboratory and do my part to avoid the need for interim leadership of any significant duration.” The next meeting of the JSA Board is scheduled for April 24 in Washington, at which time a search committee and process is expected to be announced.

In a statement to lab staff, Leemann said, “Over the last few years, Jefferson Lab has consolidated its position as an institution with unique capabilities for the study of fundamental properties of matter and the advancement of forefront accelerator technology. Having participated in the creation and shaping of this laboratory has been a privilege and a source of great satisfaction; to lead it as Director over the last six and a half years, was the culmination of my professional career.” Leemann added, “The Laboratory has enhanced its scientific and managerial leadership, and has earned an outstanding evaluation for its science, management, and operation under the new paradigm.” JLab earned that exceptional evaluation in its annual Performance Evaluation Report issued last month by the DOE Thomas Jefferson Site Office.

Jerry Draayer, President & CEO of SURA, stated, “Throughout his tenure at Jefferson Lab, Christoph has been a strong proponent for the lab and the science agenda it pursues. His contributions as a researcher, manager and lab leader have been pivotal in gaining support for a major upgrade that should continue to enable the lab to do discovery level science through the second decade of the 21st century, and for this the scientific community owes him a great debt of gratitude.”

Lawrence Hare, President of CSC Applied Technologies added, “We are most grateful for Christoph’s leadership in steering the lab through the transition to a new contractor and maintaining the operational

excellence necessary for the lab to reach its scientific agenda. He leaves the lab in a state of readiness to move forward and his willingness to assist the Board in the search process is important.”

SURA was originally awarded the contract to build the lab in 1984 and operated it since completion. The coalition of over 60 universities consistently earned “outstanding” ratings as the M&O contractor of the facility from its first performance-based contract in 1995. DOE released a request for proposal to recomplete the M&O contract for the 700-employee facility in December 2005, and awarded the new contract to JSA, LLC in April of last year.

Leemann came to Jefferson Lab from the University of California’s Lawrence Berkeley Lab in 1985, attracted by the opportunity to build a new facility and a new organization on a green site. He was instrumental in the design, technology choice, and construction of the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) – as Jefferson Lab was originally known. He has served Jefferson Lab for nearly 22 years in various leadership positions.

Jefferson Lab is a renowned research facility with over 2,000 international users. Nearly one-third of the Ph.D.’s awarded in nuclear physics in the U.S. result from research done at Jefferson Lab. And over 90 new faculty positions in the nuclear physics discipline have been added in universities across the south since SURA brought the Lab to the region.

Casteen concluded, “The JSA board, lab employees, and members of the lab’s user community join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Leemann for his valuable service to Jefferson Lab and to the broader advancement of science.”

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