



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
www.sura.org

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SURA Joins Science and Tech Alliance

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today announced its affiliation with the Alliance for Scientific and Technology Research in America. ASTRA is a growing collaboration of organizations and individuals designed to promote better understanding of science and engineering and to conduct policy research to educate the public on the linkage between scientific research and development (R&D) and innovation, our standard of living, national security and economic growth.

“SURA is excited to join with this key coalition striving to improve the state of science in the country and forge a public message about the importance of R&D to maintain our global leadership,” said Jerry P. Draayer, SURA President and CEO. “ASTRA’s membership has grown in four short years to include the key leaders from industry, academia and a wide representation of science and technology organizations.” Draayer added, “SURA hopes to greatly contribute to the joint work of this coalition in building the case for improved funding and federal commitment to the U.S. maintaining our leadership in innovation.”

The SURA executive committee passed a resolution earlier this summer calling on federal policymakers to “triple the nation’s R&D budget in the next decade” in response to a number of disturbing trends showing gains by competitor nations in key indicators. One study released by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, noted that R&D investment in the U.S. grew by only 34 percent in a recent 6-year period, while R&D funding in China, Taiwan and South Korea grew by 140 percent. The Task Force was a key spin-off of work by ASTRA.

ASTRA Executive Director Robert Boege praised SURA for joining in ASTRA’s efforts. “SURA’s leadership in ASTRA will help our overall efforts immensely.” He added “ASTRA is looking forward to SURA’s participation in making a stronger case for increasing basic research funding and in helping us educate the public about some pressing needs across a wide spectrum of concerns.” Boege went on to explain, “These needs include: adequate and balanced federal funding for the physical sciences and engineering, more effective scientific education at all levels. We also need to develop a better understanding of the linkages between basic research and the engines of economic growth.”

For more information about the ASTRA collaboration, see www.aboutastra.org

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit www.sura.org.