

DOE Funding Cuts JLab in FY06

With approval of the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill on November 20, the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility was faced with an 8.4 percent cut from last year.

In an unexpected shift during negotiations on the bill, Congressional conferees resorted to the President's budget request for the Department of Energy's Nuclear Physics program to make room for two other spending priorities: Army Corps of Engineers hurricane-related work, and Congressionally directed projects. The move came despite both houses of Congress having restored the cuts to Energy's Office of Science when the spending bill was passed separately.

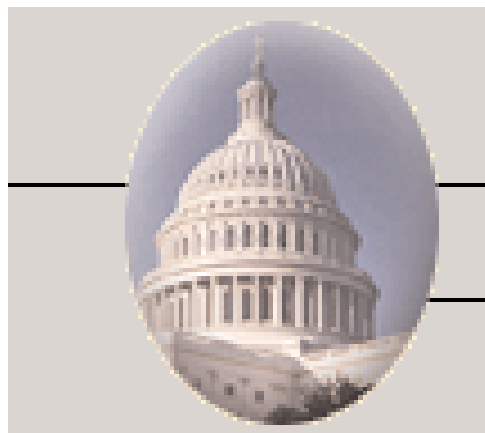
SURA expressed its disappointment with the funding, and its appreciation for last ditch efforts by the Virginia Congressional delegation. In a statement, Jerry P. Draayer noted that coping with the cut will present a tremendous challenge as it will "reduce operating time by roughly 25 percent" and require a reduction in force. He added, "While it is clear Congress is faced with very tight budgetary constraints ... this cut affecting Jefferson Lab is short-sighted."

Draayer went on to explain that the federal government has invested "over \$550 million in the infrastructure of Jefferson Lab beginning in 1984 to create a world-class, one-of-a-kind research facility. With an already lengthy experiment backlog of 3 to 5 years, taxpayers are being short-changed on their return-on-investment." He noted that a resulting reduction in accelerator run-time and workforce to support the laboratory is the opposite direction needed for this facility.

On the broader implications of reduced research funding, Draayer said, "The chorus calling for an increase in overall research spending, as the linchpin to our national and economic security, is gain-

ing new voices every week." One recent report gaining particular attention is the (Norman R.) Augustine Commission's Rising Above the Gathering Storm released in October. The Congressionally requested report of the National Academy of Sciences states: "[T]he scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength."

After the President's 2006 budget was released last February, SURA worked with several coalition partners in an effort to turn reverse the cut. SURA joined with the Energy Sciences Coalition in calling for a 7 percent increase in the overall Office of Science



funding – as opposed to the 3.8 percent cut proposed in the budget. Further, SURA participated in an effort to secure the unprecedented, bipartisan support of 68 U.S. Senators on a letter supporting "an inflation-adjusted increase of 3.2 percent over FY05 budget levels" for the Office of Science.

As a result of this focused support from a broad community, the budget recommendation of \$371 million for nuclear physics (which includes funds for JLab and Brookhaven National Laboratory) grew to \$408 million in the House bill and \$420 million in the Senate.

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SURA, CSC Team in JLab Recompetition

On December 14, SURA announced that it will partner with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) to compete for the new contract to operate and manage the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

The request for proposal (RFP) was released December 13 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the management and operating (M&O) contract of Jefferson Lab. After DOE announced in January of 2004 its intention to re compete seven of its 11 federal laboratories, including Jefferson Lab (JLab), the SURA Board of Trustees unanimously voted in April of 2004 to pursue the new contract for the 700-employee facility.

"After evaluating SURA's strengths in this recompetition, we felt we could enhance our bid by partnering with CSC to bring fresh insights to the Lab's operation to complement its already 'best-in-class' scientific program," said Jerry P. Draayer, President and CEO of SURA. "CSC is a respected company with extensive private, public, and DOE-specific experience that will serve the Lab and the taxpayers well."

Draayer outlined three highlights of CSC's contribution to the team. "As the third largest contractor specializing in cutting-edge information technology solutions for the U.S. federal government, CSC brings remarkable experience in business, facilities and project management. The company has extensive experience with DOE and other science-driven missions such as NASA. And finally, CSC's risk management, quality control and safety portfolio speaks to the level of professionalism and excellence that will be preserved and improved at JLab into the future."

SURA, the university coalition selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to design, construct and operate Jefferson Lab in the early '80's, has consistently earned "outstanding" ratings as the management and operating (M&O) contractor of the facility since its first performance-based contact in 1995.

GWU Hosts SURA Board of Trustees Meeting

President Stephen Trachtenberg and Executive Vice President Donald Lehman, The George Washington University, hosted the SURA Board of Trustees for its Fall 2005 meeting at the Elliott School of International Affairs in Washington, DC. The Board took the following actions at its meeting on November 9. Details regarding the Board meeting can be obtained from the SURA Executive Director and Corporate Secretary Elizabeth L. Lawson at elawson@sura.org.

- Approved the draft minutes of the Spring 2005 Board of Trustees meeting
- Voted to hold the Spring 2006 Board meeting in Washington, DC on May 2 & 3, 2006
- Elected the members of the IT Steering Group
- Appointed Donald Lehman as Chair of the Finance Committee for the 2006-2007 term
- Amended the SURA bylaws to change Board quorum requirement from a majority to one-third
- Established the SURA Distinguished Service Awards
- Awarded \$125K sabbatical support to SURA trustee David Ernst to lead the SURA MSI initiative
- Approved \$50K for support and analysis of activities related to minority serving institutions
- Approved development and relations activities for FY2006, including: Hampton Roads Research Partnership membership (\$7.5K); COVITS (\$10K); Terahertz symposium (\$13K); Girvan Institute and other tech transfer activities (\$15K); Relations support and sponsorship (\$10K)
- Approved the proposed FY2006 budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia funds for JLab
- Adopted a resolution to amend the SURA bylaws to add financial expert from member school as voting member on the Finance Committee.

SURA Workshops Encourage Collaboration for Effective Deployment of Grid Applications

The 2nd SURA Cyberinfrastructure workshop, Grid Application Planning & Implementation, was held last month at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) in Austin. The workshop was open to those wishing to learn how to apply grid technology to advance scientific as well as other applications, with an emphasis on collaborative grid development and deployment.

Participants included grid and application developers, users from various communities, grid technology implementers, and industry partners. Industry sponsors included Cisco Systems, IBM, Sun Microsystems and United Devices.

The workshop was designed to raise awareness of the diverse set of projects and initiatives that are helping to mature grid technologies while encouraging collaboration across areas of grid and application deployment. Presenters described the efforts of major grid implementations (e.g., Open Science Grid, Distributed Organization of Scientific and Academic Research, UT Austin's UTGrid, University of Michigan's MGRID), provided insight into grid-enabling specific applications, and identified resources for building and operating a grid, including a preview of the Grid Technology Cookbook, currently under development by SURA, the Open Science Grid, and IT consultant Mary Trauner.

Highlights included the "Ask-A-Grid-Expert" panel, and an update on formation of the National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure (NSF OCI). The Ask-A-Grid-Expert panel included industry and academic experts in a wide ranging, extended exchange with the audience on a variety of grid related topics. Frank Scioli, on detail at the NSF OCI from the Directorate of Social and Behavioral Sciences, provided a fresh viewpoint on the development and support of cyberinfrastructure, emphasizing the cultural and social aspects of grid building as critical elements for success.

SURA has developed the SURA Cyber-infrastructure Workshop Series to disseminate best practices for effective grid deployment, to align grid development with the needs of research applications, and to enable e-Science participation at local, regional and national levels.

The first Grid Application Planning and Implementation event was held in January 2005 at Georgia State University. A workshop focusing on "Life Sciences and the Grid" was held earlier this month at the Virginia Commonwealth University campus in Richmond.

Copies of presentations from all three workshops are available under "Past Events" from the SURA website, www.sura.org.



Participants in the "Ask-A-Grid-Expert" panel discuss grid technology at the December workshop in Austin. (Photo credit: Jerry Perez, Texas Tech University)

JLab Funding Cut in FY06

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Typically, a Congressional compromise would put the final number between those two figures. However, Draayer said, "After the closed-door meetings of the conferees, there were two factors which we have learned influenced Members to resort to the earlier \$371 million recommendation: Army Corps of Engineers funding at \$1 billion above the President's request; and a 62 percent increase in funding for Congressionally-directed projects."

Draayer added, "We were encouraged by the *Congressional Record* colloquy engaged with committee leaders by the Virginia and New York Senators on behalf of JLab and Brookhaven."

Senators John Warner and George Allen convinced the committee chairman, Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, to help press the Department of Energy to consider the reprogramming of existing funds to ease the impact on JLab. Rep. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia's 1st District, wrote Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman requesting his assistance as well, citing the "unexpected and unusual" action by the conferees and the need to "develop funding accommodations" for the Jefferson Lab.

"We will continue to engage our friends in Congress and the public and private sectors to see that the FY07 budget restores the trajectory of growth that Jefferson Lab is on, and deserves to remain," Draayer concluded.

3rd Annual SURA Terahertz Applications Symposium

Join technology managers and scientists from around the world for the third annual SURA THZ Applications Symposium. This event will feature presentations and demonstrations of terahertz waves being used in a growing number of real-world applications, from biomedical scanning devices to homeland security screeners. Mark your calendars, June 1-2, 2006, in Washington, DC and check www.sura.org/THz for more information.



Jefferson Lab Rates FY 05 "Outstanding" for Operations

The Jefferson Lab completed a self-assessment of its operations during the fiscal year 2005 – ending September 30, 2005 – based on metrics and peer reviews.

This evaluation resulted in a rating of "Outstanding" for the fiscal year. Using this and other information the Department of Energy (DOE) Site Office at Jefferson Lab prepares its own evaluation of lab performance and has agreed to and confirmed the "Outstanding" rating for the fiscal year.

These self assessments and Site Office evaluations are conducted annually under the terms of SURA's contract with DOE for the management and operation of the lab. They cover all aspects of laboratory operations including science and technology; corporate citizenship; environment, health and safety; business and administrative practices; project management; and overall institutional management. The lab has consistently received overall ratings of "Outstanding".

SURA Commends Dell for Gulf Storm Relief

The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) joined Dell last month in announcing a specially discounted offering for colleges and universities impacted by the recent hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, particularly Katrina.

"Dell has demonstrated a tremendous measure of corporate citizenship by offering this relief to colleges whose infrastructures were damaged by recent hurricanes and flooding," said Jerry P. Draayer, President and CEO. "SURA is proud to partner with their efforts."

A recent joint communication to dozens of schools impacted by the storms stated:

Now that the devastation from these storms on campuses has been assessed, many institutions are now ready to replace damaged computer hardware and rebuild their IT infrastructure. SURA, representing a number of those schools, has worked with Dell to identify those institutions that may wish to take advantage of this special discount.

The discount, effective immediately and for a limited time only, provides a series of client and enterprise bundles that are placed on the schools' custom Dell Web pages, called "Premier Pages." The communication to customers concluded, "Dell and SURA sincerely hope that these offerings will assist in your efforts to recover from any loss incurred as a result of these storms."





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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.

Strengthening Access to High Quality Coastal Data and Models: SURA's SCOOP program

Based on initial support from the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR), SCOOP activities to create an open access network of distributed sensors and linked computer models for the southeastern coastal zone of the U.S. were furthered in Fiscal year 2005-06 with ONR support.

Most importantly, SCOOP activities have access to future funding due to the recent approval of a Commerce, State, Justice and Science (SSJC) Appropriations Bill for FY 06-07 approved in November.

The SURA and SCOOP participating institutions are particularly grateful for the support of: Sen. Richard Shelby (AL), Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX), Rep. Bud Cramer (AL), Rep. Frank Wolf (VA), and Rep. Rodney Alexander (LA). Their support reflects the deep commitment of those states most deeply affected by Hurricane Katrina and its extensive damage to heavily populated low-lying coastal areas.

Support for SCOOP activities will over the

upcoming year broaden and refine interoperability among coastal observing systems. The emerging product will be an improved low-cost, comprehensive, real-time accessibility to between eight university data and modeling systems and four ocean observing systems or regional associations (RAs). Access will be available to comprehensive data with combined historical and real-time forecast modeling of the hazards from water inundation, waves, and winds. These ensemble models are crucial to enhancing disaster emergency planning as conditions shift over time and region along the coastal areas from Texas to Maine.

In addition to serving as an assimilator of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), SCOOP offers the defense communities portability of this suite of methodologies for managing and visualizing observed and modeled data on coastal phenomena.

For more information on SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) program, see www.sura.org.