



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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SURA Moves to Renew Federal Laboratory Contract

Washington, DC – The Board of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) has adopted a recommendation from its Executive Committee to pursue a contract from the Department of Energy (DOE) that will allow it to continue its stewardship of the 700 employee Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab), a nuclear physics research lab, located at Newport News, Virginia.

“This expression of support from our Board indicates SURA’s continuing commitment to advance cutting-edge science and technology in support of national goals,” said Dr. Jerry Draayer, SURA President. “We are also pleased that DOE recently announced that our current contract will be extended for an additional year to allow for an orderly competition.” The DOE extension continues its current contract with SURA through September 30, 2005.

Dr. Stephen Wallace, Chair of the SURA Board of Trustees, and a nuclear physicist at the University of Maryland, noted that, “Since its modest beginning of 13 universities, SURA is now bringing to the DOE Lab the intellectual, fiscal and political support of over 60 of the region’s leading research universities. It is this vital reach and connection that SURA has in the higher ed and research communities that make it a unique operator of this basic science lab.”

Dr. John White, Chair of the SURA Council of Presidents and Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, stated, “It is our desire that SURA maintain its longstanding relationship with the DOE. We can assure our stakeholders that we will continue to provide exemplary stewardship of the Lab consistent with the tradition of outstanding annual ratings given to SURA by DOE for Jefferson Lab’s sterling performance.”

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. results from research done at Jefferson Lab. And over 100 new faculty positions in the nuclear physics discipline have been added in universities since SURA brought the Lab to the region. Most recently, the Jefferson Lab experimental program has been highlighted with experimental evidence of a new five-quark particle, the pentaquark, heralded as one of the top ten science stories of 2003 by *Discover Magazine*. SURA was responsible for the 1980 initiative that created Jefferson Lab and has been responsible for its operation since construction was completed in 1995.

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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, 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.