



NEWS

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Contact: Al Stotts (505/845-6094)

National Nuclear Security Administration Announces Extension of Comment Period for Draft Los Alamos Contract RFP

Benefits Advisory Panel Will Also Be Created

Public comments on the draft request for proposals (RFP) for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) management and operation contract will be accepted for an additional two weeks beyond the original Jan. 7 deadline, Tyler Przybylek, Chairman of the LANL Source Evaluation Board (SEB), announced today. The new comment deadline is January 21.

“The Los Alamos community has taken a great interest recently in this competition and the SEB had received a significant number of requests for an extension,” Przybylek said. “The SEB chose a two week extension in order to permit interested parties to have an enhanced opportunity to comment without impacting the current schedule for contract award.”

Przybylek also announced that the SEB is forming a Benefits Advisory Panel that will advise the SEB on pension and benefits matters, as necessary, and will be available to the government’s contracting officer during the transition period when the actual pension and benefit terms and conditions will be negotiated for the new contract. The Panel will consist of experts from the Department of Energy (DOE), its actuarial adviser and a law firm specializing in these matters.

In June 2004 the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the DOE, initiated the process to compete the management and operating contract for LANL for the first time since LANL’s creation in 1943.

A Website -- <http://www.doeal.gov/LANLContractRecompete/Default.htm> -- is available to review the draft RFP. Comments on the draft should be submitted through the Website to insure that they are considered by the SEB.

A subscription feature is included in the website, which enables interested parties to receive notice whenever the site is updated. The Website is the principal solicitation distribution medium for notices, changes, questions and answers.

LANL is currently operated by the University of California. The laboratory is one of the largest multidisciplinary institutions in the world and the largest institution and employer in northern New Mexico. It has approximately 7,500 employees and approximately 3,200 contractor personnel. Its current annual budget is approximately \$2 billion. About a third of the lab’s technical staff members are physicists, a fourth are engineers, a sixth are chemists and materials scientists. Other technical staff members work in mathematics and computational science, biological science, geoscience and other disciplines.

(more)

The principal mission of LANL is to strengthen American security by applying world-class science and technology to enhance the nation's security through stockpile stewardship and reduce the global threat from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The contractor will be required to provide the intellectual leadership and management expertise necessary and appropriate to manage, operate and staff the laboratory and to accomplish the missions assigned by NNSA.

NNSA enhances U.S. national security through the military application of nuclear energy, maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, promotes international nuclear nonproliferation and safety, reduces global danger from weapons on mass destruction, provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion, and oversees its national laboratories to maintain U.S. leadership in science technology.

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