

# DOE

# NEWS

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## **DOE ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MANAGEMENT OF OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

**OAK RIDGE, TN** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today issued the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the management and operation of the Department's Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The current contract for the management and operation of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which is held by Lockheed Martin Energy Research, Inc., will expire on March 31, 2000.

"In the transition between contractors at ORNL, we want to ensure continuity so that the Spallation Neutron Source remains on track," said Secretary Bill Richardson. "The timely release of this RFP is part of my commitment to do all that it takes to bring this unique scientific facility to the U.S. science community on time and within budget. This RFP protects the new Spallation Neutron Source leadership, which has energized the staff across all the effected Laboratories. We must enable this team to stay together, grow, and move this project forward. Healthy competition will ensure the long term vitality of our national laboratory system."

The five-year contract is expected to be awarded in December 1999. The successful bidder will become fully responsible for the work beginning April 1, 2000.

"Our goal is to pursue this competition rapidly with as little inconvenience to the Laboratory and staff as possible," said Martha Krebs, Director of the DOE's Office of Science. "The competition and transition will in no way hinder on-going work at the Lab and we fully anticipate meeting our objectives on critical new initiatives, such as the Spallation Neutron Source."

The new contractor will play a major role in bringing the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) online, a top priority of the Department. When completed in December 2005, the SNS will be the world's foremost neutron scattering science facility for conducting basic research in material science, solid state physics, engineering, chemistry, and structural biology. The SNS will be a national facility used by 1,000-2,000 scientists and engineers annually.

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At a Total Project Cost of \$1.360 billion, the SNS is one of the Department's largest and most important construction projects. The project is organized as a collaboration of five national laboratories under the leadership of ORNL. This collaborative approach is being used to take advantage of the best expertise available in different technical areas, and make the most efficient use of the Department's laboratory resources. Because ORNL has the lead role, their performance in coordinating and integrating the technical work of all five laboratories is absolutely crucial to the project's success.

The RFP reflects comments received from the public and business community from the draft RFP issued in December 1998. Potential offerors have until July 12, 1999, to submit proposals for the contract. The RFP is available via the Internet at <http://www.oro.doe.gov/ornlseb>.

ORNL is one of the nation's largest energy research and development facilities with major programs in neutron-based science and technology, advanced materials research, biological and environmental sciences, instrumentation and measurement science, and advanced computing. The Laboratory has a workforce of 4,500 employees with an annual budget of approximately \$550 million.

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