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Information from

ERDA

Washington, D.C. 20545



FACT SHEET

SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SERI)

INTRODUCTION

Monday, March 15, ERDA requested proposals for a manager-operator and an initial facility for the Solar Energy Research Institute, with an option for a larger future site.

BACKGROUND

- The Solar Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 1974, P.L. 93-473, called for the establishment of a Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) to perform "such research, development and related functions" as determined by ERDA to be necessary and appropriate.
- Before reaching conclusions as to the appropriate mission and roles for SERI, ERDA obtained the views of the National Academy of Sciences, private industrial groups, and many others. ERDA also conducted extensive analysis of the expected needs of the developing solar energy program.

SERI MISSION AND ROLES

- General Mission. The general mission of the SERI will be to support ERDA's solar energy program, contribute to establishing an industrial base for solar energy, and foster widespread use of solar technology.
- Initial Role. The initial role (up to 5 years) for SERI -- which is spelled out in detail in the RFP -- will be:
 - Analyses
 - Assessment and information functions
 - Specific research activities
 - Educational activities
 - Technical consultation
 - Support international cooperative programs

- Future Role. The future role that SERI is expected to perform, in addition to the above, includes selected activities and projects in research and development that are best performed by a single dedicated entity:
 - Technology and engineering development activities that result from earlier stages of research activities
 - Technical consultation on demonstration projects
- Criteria for Growth. Growth in the size and functions of SERI beyond its first year will be dependent upon:
 - Requirements of the Solar Energy Program
 - Whether these requirements can best be performed in SERI or some other facility
 - SERI's performance
 - Availability of funds

SERI SITE

- Initial SERI facility must provide sufficient office and laboratory space to support the accomplishment of the work requirements set forth in the RFP.
- Outside experimental area is not required at initial facility.
- Initial facility must be located at or near the proposed future site (which must have a capability for outdoor experimentation) and proposer must demonstrate the ability to vest title to and possession of the future SERI site in the United States Government, as represented by ERDA.
- The exercise by ERDA of the option called for in the RFP for a larger future site for SERI will depend upon the criteria for future growth listed above and upon (a) the availability of alternative locations, and (b) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and state and local regulations.

ERDA'S REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SERI

- ERDA is requesting proposals for SERI from any responsible organization(s) including non-profit, commercial or state and local entities.

- The RFP also provides that:
 - The manager-operator must be solely dedicated to SERI and that the parent organizations, if any, may be precluded from certain contracting activities with SERI and ERDA.
 - The factors to be evaluated in selection of a SERI manager-operator include: (a) management, (b) cost, and (c) initial facility and optional future site.
 - The selection will be subject to standard ERDA's Source Evaluation Board Procedures.
 - Final selection to be made by the ERDA Administrator
 - A cost-type contract will be awarded.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE

- A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., April 15, 1976, at the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, D.C.
- Proposals are due by July 15, 1976.
- ERDA expects to complete its evaluation of proposals by mid-November 1976.
- ERDA expects to make and announce a selection by early December 1976.
- SERI would begin operations by January 1, 1977.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SOLAR ENERGY R&D

Solar energy R&D funding has grown rapidly in the past few years and SERI is expected to play an important role in assisting ERDA in guiding the expanding program. The President's 1977 Budget requests a 39% increase in funding budget authority over 1976.

	(In millions)		
	<u>FY 1975</u>	<u>FY 1976</u>	<u>President's Request FY 1977</u>
Budget Authority	\$50	\$115	\$160
Outlays	\$15	\$ 86	\$116

November 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

THRU:

**MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF
VERN LOEN**

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR.

SUBJECT:

Solar Energy Research Institute

Attached is the proposal of the El Paso Natural Economic Region for locating a national solar energy research institute in the west Texas-southern New Mexico area.

This proposal was presented to me by Rep. Richard White (D-Tex.).



Charlie -

Is this taken care
of? Did you talk
to Bill Rice and
did he send you
something on it?

Nete — YES.
10/7/75

SEE ATTACHED
COPY TAKEN TO RHODES
OFFICE FOR BOB MCCONNELL.

Notes:

Bill Rice called

10-3-75

Shirley

Please see Hazy Carter at ERDA + tell him that I need to know if there is a document in ERDA setting forth the guidelines for ^{the} site selection of a Polar Research Institute. (The document (memo) does exist it's done by a Philip McFee to a John Treen + recommends that the site be at an existing National Laboratory). I need to know the status of that document + its relationship to the ERDA contracts with the National Academy of Sciences + Mitre Corp for independent studies of the site selection criteria. Is the McFee document an in house study? What kind of weight does it carry?

Chas.





ENERGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Office of
Congressional Relations

~~For your information/~~ Per your request.

Bill Reil *H. Hollister Cantus*

H. Hollister Cantus
Director



UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

October 1, 1975

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the ERDA announcement of the establishment of the Solar Energy Research Institute Project Office. This Project Office will prepare recommendations to Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., Administrator of ERDA, on the role and mission, management organization and site criteria for the Institute.

Each member of Congress will receive the two reports described in the announcement as soon as they become available. The assessment done for ERDA by the National Academy of Science, should be distributed within the week. The industrial survey, to be prepared by the Mitre Corporation, should be available within the next few weeks. As other information concerning SERI is developed, it will be immediately provided to each member of Congress.

All Congressional inquiries concerning the Solar Energy Research Institute should be referred to Mr. William L. R. Rice, Assistant Director of Congressional Relations for Solar, Geothermal and Advanced Energy Systems. His telephone number is (202) 376-4036.

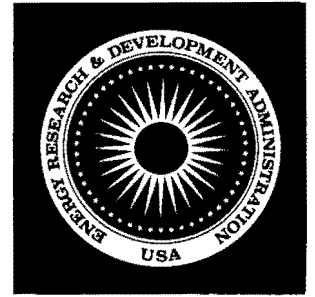
H. Hollister Cantus
Director, Office of Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Press Release



Information from

ERDA
Washington, D.C. 20545



No.: 75-198
Contact: Brad Byers
Tel.: 202/376-4065

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, October 1, 1975)

ERDA ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF
SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT OFFICE

Establishment of a project office to develop management guidelines and site evaluation criteria for a new National Solar Energy Research Institute was announced today by the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). Formation of the institute is provided by the Solar Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Act to perform research, development and related functions in support of the National Solar Energy Program.

R. Phillip McGee, Senior Engineer, in ERDA's Division of Physical Research, has been appointed Manager of the Project Office. The office will prepare recommendations to Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., Administrator of ERDA, on:

1. The role and mission of the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI).
2. The management organization for SERI.
3. The criteria for evaluating proposed sites for SERI.

The Project Office has set November as a target date to announce site evaluation criteria and to solicit proposals for sites. A public meeting to answer questions on the criteria will be scheduled following the public announcement, and a deadline for submission of proposals will be announced. This deadline is expected to be not less than 45 days after the November announcement.

Final selection is expected to be made in April or May 1976, depending upon the length of time allowed for submission of proposals. After evaluation of the proposals by the Project Office and possible site visits, recommendations as to the sites that best meet the criteria will be submitted to Dr. Seamans for his consideration.

Included in ERDA's deliberations will be two reports that are due in October. One is being prepared by a committee of the National Academy of Science and the National Academy of Engineering. The other, reflecting the views of industry, is being prepared by the Mitre Corporation. The two reports will contain recommendations to ERDA as to the role, mission and organizational structure of the Institute.

Copies of both reports will be available from the Technical Information Center, ERDA, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

To insure that all parties are treated equally, all public inquiries concerning SERI should be directed to the SERI Project Information Center, ERDA, Washington, D.C. 20545. The telephone number is (301) 973-3283. The mailing list for site criteria also will be maintained by this office.

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Information from

ERDA

Washington, D.C. 20545



No. 76-73
Contact: Ben E. McCarty
Tel. 301/353-3335

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Monday, March 15, 1976)

ERDA TO ISSUE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) announced today it is issuing requests for proposals for a manager-operator and an initial facility for the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), with an option for a larger site in the future.

The Solar Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 1974 established SERI to perform "such research, development, and related functions" as determined by ERDA.

Proposals will be accepted from any responsible organization, including non-profit, commercial or state and local governmental entities. The Source Selection Official for this procurement will be the Administrator of ERDA and proposals will be evaluated by a Source Evaluation Board. It is expected that the Institute will begin operating by January 1, 1977.

Pointing out the significance of SERI, Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr., ERDA Administrator, said, "If the full potential of solar energy for meeting our national energy needs is to be realized, a major, concerted technological effort is required over the next few decades. I expect the Solar Energy Research Institute to make an increasingly significant contribution to this effort as it responds to the solar program's growing need for analysis, information, and research related to all promising solar energy applications.

"For my part, I am determined to get SERI off to a good start by exercising my responsibilities at the appropriate time for selecting the best, most qualified management-contractor, facilities and site that are offered in response to this solicitation. Accordingly, I urge those interested in SERI to give this matter their best effort, for we in ERDA plan to do the same."

A preproposal conference is scheduled for April 15 to discuss the scope of work and answer questions arising from a review of the document. This conference will be held in the Departmental Auditorium between 12th and 14th Streets on Constitution Avenue at 9:30 a.m.

Those organizations not on the SERI master mailing list to receive the request for proposals should write to Mr. Ray Fields, Chairman of the Source Evaluation Board, Division of Solar Energy, ERDA, Washington, D.C. 20545. Those on the master mailing list will receive copies automatically.

Ten copies of each proposal should be delivered to the Division of Solar Energy, ERDA, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20545, no later than 5 p.m., July 15, 1976. The Source Selection Official reserves the right to reject proposals or modifications received after that date.

The initial role of SERI will be the performance of analysis, assessment and information functions, research activities in specific aspects of the solar energy program, conduct of educational activities, provision of technical consultation to other elements of the ERDA solar energy program and support of international cooperative programs.

SERI's future role could include increased research, development and related activities in support of ERDA's solar energy program.

ERDA estimates that the cost of the contract for the first year of performance will be between \$4 and \$6 million.

By using a phased-growth approach both in terms of organizational and site size, SERI could evolve into ERDA's lead solar energy laboratory, subject to several criteria including performance and availability of funds.

April 28, 1976

**Robert A. McConnell, Esq.
2721 North Central Avenue
Suite 802
Phoenix, Arizona 85004**

Dear Bob:

It's always better late than never! I'm finally getting around to filling your request for the signing pen on the energy bill and I am enclosing the same herewith.

Also, I'm sending you a copy of the ERDA fact sheet on the Solar Energy Research Institute which was released on March 15 just in case you didn't get a copy of it.

I noticed that our opposition made some headway in the Arizona GOP Convention. Sorry to hear that. I hope you'll get that situation straightened out.

I'll look forward to hearing from you on your next trip to Washington.

Sincerely,

**Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President**

Enclosures

CL/jm



ROBERT A. McCONNELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
2721 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 802
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004
(602) 277-4474

March 11, 1976

Charles Leppert
Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Charlie:

It was good to see you again at the Speakers' Reception of March 10, 1976.

As I mentioned, any information that you can pass on to us about Congressional races or Senate races in Arizona will be very greatly appreciated.

There have been several "tid-bits" passed on by other friends in Washington that have been of significant help over the last few months.

Obviously, any time that you think I can be of assistance to you or any of your friends please do not hesitate to call on me.

Best personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RAM', written in a cursive style.

Robert A. McConnell

RAM/st

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