

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