

to keep the program alive.

The research labs at NIST, suffering from a serious lack of funding in recent years, will receive a boost of 12.8%, or \$42.3 million, to \$373.4 million. While the increase is welcomed by the science community, it is actually less than the \$417.5 million requested by the administration.

NOAA R&D increases 10.7% to \$684 million thanks to a report by the US Commission on Ocean Policy recommending an increase in ocean research. The funding also creates a new scholarship program to attract more students to oceanic and atmospheric science.

Jim Dawson

Barring ITER Site Consensus, Europe Will Forge Ahead

Agreement on a site for ITER remains elusive, but in late November, the European Union's council of ministers gave its seal of approval to building the international fusion energy test reactor in Cadarache, France. That site is also backed by China and Russia, while South Korea and the US favor Japan's candidate, Rokkasho (see PHYSICS TODAY, August 2004, page 28).

The EU says it still prefers a consensus for the European site, but if that fails it will strike out independently, with whoever chooses to join. "Our mandate is a so-called triptych: Cadarache, six parties, and a broader approach," says Achilleas Mitsos, European Commission director general for research. The broader approach refers to compensating the candidate host that concedes.

The EU's decision to move ahead if no site consensus is reached is "a big step forward," says Paul Vandenplas, vice chair of the European Consultative Committee for Fusion. "Otherwise, something of major importance for mankind's future energy will be killed because of political deadlock. Japan knows that Europe is making a last desperate attempt to keep the six partners together."

Earlier in the fall, it seemed that the deadlock on siting ITER had eased. The deal for Japan, if it were to accept not being the host, was sweetened to include not only IFMIF, the International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility, but "privileged" partnership, under which the country would receive more industrial contracts than correspond to its 18% contribution to building ITER. In that model, Europe would pay 58%, and the

four other member states would each put 10% toward the multibillion-dollar project. From that total of 116%, the extra money would go toward fusion facilities in Japan, such as upgrading the JT-60 tokamak or building an international computing center.

Despite those hints of nearing an agreement, the negotiations have become, if anything, stickier. The European negotiators "made a serious tactical error, assuming Japan would back out. Now the Japanese are mightily upset," says an observer close to the negotiations. Europe hasn't agreed to discuss the roles of host and nonhost independent of site, says Satoru Ohtake, one of Japan's negotiators for ITER. Instead, the EU insists on its own site, with the "cheapest possible" compensation for Japan, he adds. "They underestimate our determination."

For its part, the US remains "committed to the Japanese site," says Raymond Orbach, director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science. "I think it is essential that the six-party framework be maintained," he adds. "Think of the consequences [a breakup] will create for future international collaboration."

Financially, ITER could be built without Japan and its backers. France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland have volunteered to up their contributions for a Europe-led ITER. But keeping the partnership intact is important, says Mitsos. "It will be a failure if Japan does not participate."

Intense negotiations continue. No firm deadline is in place, though observers generally expect a decision in the first part of this year.

Toni Feder

Oddone Named to Head Fermilab

Physicist Pier Oddone has been named as the next director of Fermilab and will take the post on 1 July 2005. Oddone, currently deputy director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), will succeed physicist Michael Witherell, who announced in October 2003 that he planned to step down next July.

"I am delighted to announce the appointment," said Frederick Bernthal, president of the Universities Research Association, a consortium of 90 research universities that operates Fermilab in Batavia, Illinois. Oddone's "stature as a distinguished particle physicist, his experience in the scientific operation of another great national laboratory, and his

leadership abilities make him extremely well suited to keep Fermilab at the forefront of scientific excellence and to guide the lab during the critical years ahead."

Oddone, 60, a native of Peru, is the recipient of the American Physical Society's 2005 Panofsky Prize for inventing the Asymmetric B-Factory. His undergraduate degree is from MIT and he received his PhD in physics from Princeton University. He was director of LBNL from 1987 to 1991, and has been deputy director of scientific programs there since 1989. He was selected for the Fermilab directorship after a five-month search by a 19-member committee headed by physicist Neal Lane of Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Oddone told a meeting of the Fermilab staff that his "grand ambition" for the lab is that it become the site of the International Linear Collider (ILC). The proposed collider would create high-energy particle collisions between electrons and positrons and would provide a tool for addressing questions about dark matter, dark energy, extra dimensions, and the fundamental nature of matter.

"The laboratory is poised for a future that includes the premier experiment in flavor physics, potentially the premier program in neutrino physics, and strong participation in the LHC [Large Hadron Collider at CERN]," Oddone said in a written message to the Fermilab staff. "If our efforts are successful, our future may also include a new global facility [the ILC] at the energy frontier to complement the Large Hadron Collider."

Witherell said that "years of effort building and improving accelerators and detectors have laid the foundation" for a rich scientific harvest at Fermilab. "We are very fortunate that Pier will be leading Fermilab through the important and difficult tasks ahead." One of the difficulties Oddone faces is the flat funding for Fermilab. In fiscal year 2005 the lab received about \$291 million, a 1.2% increase over last year and less than the lab requested.

Witherell is returning to the University of California, Santa Barbara, to become vice chancellor for research.

Jim Dawson



FERMILAB

Oddone