

The new order affects only people who need access to critical areas, mainly staff who operate the reactor or deal with its fuel, says David Moncton, director of MIT's nuclear research reactor—one of a handful in the country that still use highly enriched uranium. Students and others will still have access to the “experimental floor and other places where experimenters are allowed to go,” he says. The order presents “no significant burden,” he adds. “And to the extent that it does, it’s an increase in security—maybe marginal, because, at least at MIT, we were already very secure.”

The move is in accord with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and “is one of many steps the NRC has taken in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, to keep US research reactors secure,” NRC chairman Dale Klein said in a press statement. **TF**

Lunar partners. NASA and the British National Space Centre—which coordinates UK civil space policy—signed an agreement in April to cooperate on NASA's Moon-Mars program.

“Space exploration is an endeavor in which the US and UK have a long history of bilateral cooperation to celebrate

per-year management contract for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California to a team led by Bechtel National and the University of California. The winning team, which also includes BWX Technologies and the Washington Group International, is almost identical to the consortium that was awarded the 2005 management contract for Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. National Nuclear Security Administration official C. S. Przybylek, who made the final decision on the bids for the contract, said there are some differences between the two groups—the University of California is the lead partner at LLNL, while Bechtel will be the lead partner at LLNL. The losing bid was from a team led by Northrop Grumman Corp.

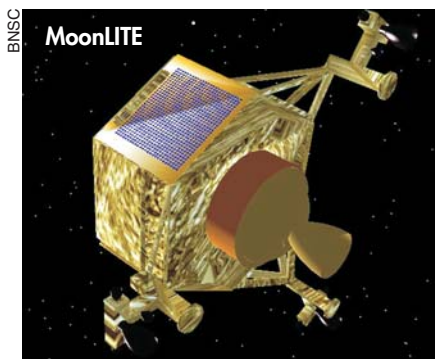
The University of California has managed both labs since they were created, but a series of security problems at LLNL, and to a lesser extent at LLNL, led Congress in 2003 to require that the contracts be put out for bid. Bechtel, a global engineering, construction, and project management company, is expected to tighten up management practices at both labs.

The new LLNL contract also includes as partners Battelle Memorial Institute, four small business subcontractors, and Texas A&M University in College Station. The contract begins 1 October 2007 and runs for seven years. It can then be extended annually for up to 13 years after the initial 7-year period. George Miller will stay on as director. **JLD**

Chronicle corporate physics. A new endowment at the American Institute of Physics (AIP) will support the preservation of the history of physicists in industry. The Marc H. Brodsky Fund for Oral History of Physicists in Industry honors Brodsky's 13-year role as the institute's executive director and CEO (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, July 2006, page 22) and his career as a corporate physicist.

The endowment will pay for the continuation of a program begun in 2002. More than 100 scientists have been interviewed thus far under the History of Physicists in Industry project (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, April 2007, page 28), but the original funding runs out this December. Among the endowment's lead donors is Brodsky's brother Julian, cofounder and vice chairman of Comcast Corp. A champion of libraries and history, Julian Brodsky had seen a Comcast fire destroy valuable archives, and he wanted to support the AIP History Center project while commemorating his brother's career.

Marc Brodsky, who called the endowment “very gratifying,” said it is critical to continue the oral history program—the only one of its kind in the US, according to project director Joe Anderson—because records of corporate physicists' lives and work are spotty and scarce. AIP, which publishes *PHYSICS TODAY*, hopes to raise the endowment, now at \$90 700, to \$2 million. **KHK ■**



and build upon,” says NASA administrator Michael D. Griffin. The UK has already completed a feasibility study of two robotic mission options to the surface of the Moon: MoonRaker, a small propulsive lander to provide in situ geological dating, and MoonLITE, a dual-purpose satellite equipped with missile-shaped penetrators carrying seismometers to investigate the lunar interior and powerful telecommunications equipment to test at the Moon.

The agreement is part of an effort by 14 space agencies to create a global exploration strategy for visits to the Moon and Mars. More multilateral agreements with other space agencies are expected this summer. **PKG**

LLNL contract. The US Department of Energy awarded the \$45.5 million-

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