



March 2017 SPSE-UPTE Monthly Memo

The Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) has decided to re-bid the current management and operating (M&O) contract for the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) when that contract expires on September 30, 2018. Officials at DOE/NNSA have also intimated that the timeline for the contract bidding will be like the one they followed for their bid process of Sandia National Laboratories, which concluded in December with their selection of a team headed by the Honeywell Corporation to manage Sandia.

Since we know the Sandia contract bidding timeline, this allows us to estimate the timeline for the Los Alamos contract bidding. We estimate that the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released by DOE/NNSA no later than 1 September of this year.

UPTE has been working for more than a year now to get DOE/NNSA to adopt our proposed new framework for an M&O contract to manage LANL. It is UPTE's firm belief that the root cause of the deterioration of the laboratory's productivity and the inefficiency of its operations arise principally from one aspect of the contract, and that is its for-profit nature, in which management bonuses are directly tied to meeting superficial project milestones. We have been gathering evidence to support our contention that this profit-driven management structure makes it harder and harder to maintain the core scientific competencies on which the science and national security missions of the laboratories depend. Some of this evidence can be found in UPTE's new web site (www.deprivatizethelabs.org). You can also find there the full text of UPTE's proposed new M&O contract framework.

Two new key features of the new framework are

1. a not-for-profit management structure in which there is no longer any performance-based incentive fee structure; and
2. a recognition that the scientific and engineering staff of the laboratories are stakeholders in the success of the laboratory's missions; hence the proposed new contract calls for the establishment of Employee Councils to work with management in fulfilling the laboratory's missions.

The most valuable asset of LANL is its scientific and technical staff. It is way past time for DOE/NNSA to recognize this.

We need your help in making the case. You can best show your support by joining UPTE. Here's how:

- Print out the [UPTE Membership Application Form](#).
- Fill out the form and sign it in the lower right corner where indicated.
- Mail it to: SPSE-UPTE, P.O. Box 200, Livermore, CA 94551.

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Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers (SPSE), Local 11 of the University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE)

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