



Jefferson Lab / JSA



As the majority owner, and tax and administrative member of Jefferson Science Associates, LLC, SURA is proud of the progress at DOE's Jefferson Lab.

The multi-year, \$338 million **12GeV upgrade project** at the lab reached an important commissioning milestone in late September. That event was celebrated with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe as the featured guest speaker.



The partnership with the Commonwealth grew stronger still when the Governor included a **\$4.2 million special appropriation** request for the lab to plan a potential bid for the new Electron Ion Collider – a \$620 million U.S. Department of Energy project expected to be endorsed by an upcoming report by the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee.

Development



Responding to an RFP to run the **National Radio-Astronomy Observatory (NRAO)** for the National Science Foundation, SURA engaged in months of planning, writing, and engaging potential partners from within, and outside, its membership. The cooperative agreement will be awarded this fall.

Additionally, at its Spring meeting, the Board of Trustees updated the charter for the **Development & Relations Committee** to include formation, and Executive Committee participation, of subcommittees to strengthen SURA's development outreach. Subcommittees and Chairs appointed were: Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) – Prakash Nagarkatti (University of South Carolina); Tech Center – Dennis Manos (College of William & Mary); and NRAO/ALMA – Fred King (West Virginia University).



Information Technology

The **SURA Research Capabilities Database Working Group** – made up of IT and Development & Relations Committees members – was formed after the Spring Board meeting to assess the collective research assets of the membership. The initial tasks were to survey SURA membership to identify institutions in the process of deploying research networking tools for their own use, find the tools they are working with, and then explore options for federating access to these institutional implementations across the SURA membership. The group expects to complete a multi-institutional pilot deployment of an aggregating tool by late Summer 2015.



SURA was approved for the fourth year of **Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE)** with NSF funding at \$235,000. SURA's role is to promote XSEDE services and programs, engage new communities, develop communities of interest, and deliver regional training events. Last Spring over 70 people participated in the SURA-led workshop at Arizona State University – the first workshop with a track for digital humanities and social sciences. That was followed by workshops at the San Bernardino campus of Cal State and Clark Atlanta University.

Coastal and Environment Research

With continued funding of approximately \$1 million through 2014, SURA's Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) is an example of a successful university, government, and industry partnership with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The SURA COMT program provides potential modeling components for application by the NOAA U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System

COASTAL & OCEAN MODELING TESTBED

program. Funding on the same order of magnitude has been extended through 2018. COMT has been successfully established as one of NOAA's ten official testbeds. NOAA testbeds facilitate the orderly transition of research capabilities to operational implementation through development testing.



NOAA

Key collaborators include researchers from University of North Carolina, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Dalhousie University, University of Oregon, University of Maryland, University of Puerto Rico, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, University of Washington, University of Notre Dame, Texas A&M

University, Louisiana State University, and University of California-Santa Cruz. Industry partners include Remote Sensing Solutions, Inc. and RPS Applied Science Associates. Other Coastal and Environmental Research Committee initiatives include (a) development of a tethered robot program to support Arctic research, (b) nearshore modeling to improve the forecasting of hydrodynamic, sediment transport, and morphological processes, and (c) facilitating the integration of natural and social sciences in order to better assess the vulnerability and resilience of coastal systems.

Public Affairs

After the Board of Trustees approved a slightly revised mission statement in late 2013, SURA engaged a contractor to assist with assessing the **value proposition and communication tools** to support it through most of 2014. The new logo, tagline, vision statement, and website were presented to and affirmed by the Board at its November meeting. "The Science of Collaborative Research" tag line is meant first to de-emphasize regional constraints. Moreover, it suggests that SURA's mission is not only focused on the pursuit of research, but also perfecting the intrinsic challenge of making collaboration happen.



In the second year of participating in a **Nuclear Physics Day on Capitol Hill**, the number of Hill visits by Jefferson Lab Users Group members nearly doubled. Joining with other nuclear physics lab users (from the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State and the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York), the scientists lobbied House and Senate offices regarding FY15 funding issues. SURA also supported engagement with the National Labs Federal Representatives group to help plan and participate in a **National Lab Day on Capitol Hill** – hosted by the Senate

National Laboratory Caucus and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information, visit www.sura.org