



DoD Awards \$45 Million To Universities for Research Equipment

The Department of Defense (DoD) plans to award \$45 million to academic institutions to support the purchase of research instrumentation. The 242 awards to 99 academic institutions are expected to range from about \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 and average \$186,000.

All awards are subject to the successful completion of negotiations between DoD research offices and the academic institutions.

The awards, announced by Delores Etter, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology, are being made under the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP). The DURIP supports the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that augments current or develops new university capabilities to perform cutting-edge defense research.

The DURIP meets a critical need by enabling DoD-supported university researchers to purchase scientific equipment costing \$50,000 or more. The researchers generally have difficulty purchasing instruments costing that much under their research contracts and grants.

This announcement is the result of a merit competition for DURIP funding conducted by four research offices: the Army Research Office, Office of Naval Research, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and Research and Engineering Directorate of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

The offices solicited proposals from university investigators working in areas of importance to the DoD such as information technology, remote sensing, propulsion, electronics and electro-optics, advanced materials, and ocean science and engineering. In response to the solicitation, the research offices received 533 proposals requesting \$115 million in support for research equipment.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news>. More information on the DoD science and technology partnership with universities may be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dtic.mil/dusdst/news.html>.

Working in cooperation with several federal oversight agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PMCD is now preparing to close JACADS. Part of the process leading to closure will include disposing of secondary waste that was produced during disposal operations. In addition, Chemical Agent Identification Sets that were shipped from Guam remain to be destroyed. The Army is currently working with the EPA to refine the procedures for safe and environmentally sound destruction of these sets. Closure is scheduled to take up to 33 months.

VX land mines were manufactured in the late 1950s and early 1960s and were designed to disperse lethal agent upon detonation. They are filled with VX nerve agent, a clear, odorless, and tasteless liquid that affects the nervous system. More than 100,000 VX land mines were manufactured in the United States, and 13,302 were stored on Johnston Island.

Since 1971, the Commander, U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) has been charged with the mission of safely

storing these munitions. For almost 30 years, USARPAC provided soldiers who spent yearlong tours on this small island, away from their families, to ensure that the weapons were safely stored until they were destroyed. This long, dedicated, and successful service is a testimony to the professionalism of thousands of USARPAC soldiers of several generations.

Construction of JACADS began in 1985 after years of research into safe destruction procedures. Operations began in 1990. Former and present USARPAC commanders and U.S. Army program managers for Chemical Demilitarization have worked together closely to complete the mission safely and efficiently.

PMCD plans to commemorate the end of successful disposal operations at JACADS with a series of events scheduled for next year, culminating in a ceremony on Johnston Island in the fall of 2001.

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