

DOE Notes

DOE Acts on President's Superconductivity Initiative

Department of Energy officials will move immediately to implement DOE-related elements of the superconductivity initiative announced by President Reagan at the July 1987 Federal Conference on Commercial Applications of Superconductivity. (See the *MRS Bulletin*, Vol. XII No. 5, 1987, p.50.)

In conjunction with the President's initiative, Energy Secretary John S. Herrington has asked Los Alamos National Laboratory to explore private sector interest in establishing cooperative research programs to develop enabling technologies for commercial applications of superconductivity. (See related article in *Research/Researchers* in this issue.) The Los Alamos effort could lead to establishment of a pilot program that, if successful, will be expanded to other DOE laboratories.

As part of this effort, DOE will expedite an ongoing attempt to remove impediments to transferring technology developed in federal laboratories to the private sector.

DOE laboratories have been asked to place a high priority on superconductivity research in FY 1988 funding and FY 1989

budget planning. New high temperature related superconductor materials research is under way at Argonne, Brookhaven, Los Alamos, Sandia, and Oak Ridge National Laboratories, and at the Lawrence Berkeley and Ames Laboratories. Two consortia of laboratories have been organized to conduct research aimed at particular aspects of materials processing: Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Lawrence Berkeley will focus on synthesis, thin films, and alternate processing materials; Argonne, Brookhaven, and Ames will focus on conductor development.

As part of the President's initiative, DOE will also establish three superconductivity research centers, and a computer data base on superconductivity at the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Three centers will facilitate transfer to the private sector of information and research developed by all the national laboratories involved with superconductivity research—the Center for Superconductivity Applications at Argonne National Laboratory, the Center for Thin Film Applications at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and the Center for Basic Scientific Information at Ames Laboratory. The centers are expected to be operational in a few months.

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Candidates

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