POLICY POSITION

5. SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Nuclear Science Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation has ranked the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) as the highest construction priority for nuclear science in this country. A state of the art accelerator complex, CEBAF will enable scientists to make heretofore inaccessible breakthroughs in our basic understanding of the structure and nature of the atomic nucleus with profound implications for energy development and materials technology.

The Department of Energy has chosen the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), a consortium of over 30 colleges and universities throughout the southern region, to develop and manage this important facility, which will be located in Newport News, Virginia. The SURA proposal for CEBAF was subjected to the most extensive peer review of any nuclear science project sponsored by the U.S. Government. This choice speaks to the imagination and initiative shown by the southern states in achieving leadership in basic science education and research.

The President requested research and development and initial construction funds for CEBAF in his FY 1985 budget. The Congress has approved $3.5 million for FY 1985 and agreed to $1 million in FY 1984 for research and development for CEBAF. An additional $7 million is included for a supercomputer facility at Florida State University which will support SURA and CEBAF.

CEBAF has been the major impetus to the organization of SURA, which has the broader goal of managing large cooperative projects in science, engineering, and medicine for the benefit of research and training, particularly in the southeastern United States. Currently being explored are regional facilities for supercomputers, materials science, improved astronomical observations and a synchrotron light source, which could be an important experimental tool for materials science and for biological and medical research. Closer ties are also being explored with regional and national industrial centers with interests related to those of SURA's member institutions.

Science and technology are critical influences on the security and well-being of our region and the nation, and the U.S. leadership in science and technology is being challenged aggressively by several