

**The University of Arizona**

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## **Introduction & Declaration of Interest**

In accord with Draft Solicitation DE-SOL-0008470 for Sandia National Laboratories Management and Operating Contract Competition, The University of Arizona hereby declares its interest by submitting the following summary of its past performance, capabilities and feedback on the subject Draft Solicitation.

## **Background & Past Performance Summary**

The University of Arizona is a premier, public research university. The National Science Foundation ranks the UA 20th in research and development expenditures in excess of \$600 million. The NSF also ranks the UA No. 1 in physical sciences research, No. 68 in the world and No. 42 nationally. Comprised of eight academic and three administrative departments, UA employs about 750 people. The University of Arizona is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), and is recognized as an outstanding research and innovation ecosystem replete with sponsored research challenges and education programs as diverse as astronomy, medicine, optical sciences, engineering, space and autonomous systems, cyber/MIS, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and the arts. UA faculty and programs are among the nation's best and well known for conducting large-scale research projects, particularly in Astronomy and Optics, including the ongoing \$800 million **OSIRIS Rex** program.

Other projects of distinction include the following:

- **Phoenix Mars Lander** successfully completed a daring landing on the northern Martian polar ice cap on May 25, 2008. The University of Arizona was the PI organization for the \$386M program, designed and built four of the seven instruments and hosted and managed the Science Operations Center. The only Mars mission to explore either Martian polar region, Phoenix yielded important science data on the detailed terrain and ice processes, ice composition, weather, and climate cycles.
- **High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE)** launched in 2005 and provides the highest surface resolution of any planetary imager in color and three dimensions. The University of Arizona is the PI organization and operates the instrument. HiRISE images have dramatically expanded our understanding of the Martian surface and resulted in numerous scientific discovery including recently evidence of highly saline flowing surface water. The \$31M program also provides essential lander and rover landing site evaluation.
- **Large Optical Test and Integration System (LOTIS) Collimator**, a \$65M commercial contract provided Lockheed Martin, Sunnyvale with a 6.5m precision collimator deployed in a vibration-isolated vacuum chamber as a facility to test large aperture optical systems. The University of Arizona designed, fabricated, tested, delivered, installed, and operated the system.

## **Feedback & Summary**

As compared with other competing universities, the comprehensive technical and scientific research capabilities and professional competencies resident with the staff and faculty of The University of Arizona, stands out as the most compelling and value-added benefit for Sandia Labs. That benefit ensures an exceptionally high probability of delivering the most capable management and research teams with cutting-edge technology to service the SNL enterprise. Comprehensive implementation plans are an imperative and programmatic discipline is a habit essential to success of day-to-day operations.

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