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U.S. Department of Energy to Extend Management and Operating Contract for its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will extend for up to two years the management and operating (M&O) contract for its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington. Battelle Memorial Institute currently holds the contract, set to expire September 30, 2007. This extension will provide for continued operation of PNNL by Battelle while DOE finalizes details for a Request for Proposals (RFP) to compete the management and operation of the government-owned laboratory.

"PNNL is critically important to the Department's mission and to advancing the President's bold energy policies," said Dr. Raymond L. Orbach, Under Secretary for Science and Director of the Office of Science. "The merit-based selection of the next contractor will ensure sound management of the laboratory facilities and will solidify the long-term viability of this world-class national lab, integral to America's scientific competitiveness and national security."

As part of extending the M&O contract, PNNL's "use permit" will remain in effect through the contract extension. DOE expects to issue a draft RFP, for public comment, for the PNNL contract before the end of fiscal year 2008.

PNNL is one of DOE's 17 world class national laboratories, and performs research for several DOE program offices -- including its Office of Science -- as well as government agencies, universities, and industry, to deliver breakthrough science and technology. PNNL solves complex problems in energy, national security, life sciences and the environment by advancing the understanding of physics, chemistry, biology and computation. PNNL currently has approximately 4,200 staff members and a 2006 fiscal year business volume of \$750 million. Battelle has held the contract since 1965.

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