and the involvement of the nuclear physics community has been organized. This effort was sustained by the universities and states of the Southeast. The contract signed by SURA and the Department of Energy (DOE) on 3 August represents the first federal support of the CEBAF project.

Advanced technical design was initiated shortly after the project was recommended by NSAC. All major facets of the facility and machine design were examined. The Brobeck Corporation was engaged to do a complete reexamination of the costs of the accelerator components. An architectural and engineering firm was used to evaluate, design, and estimate the cost of the required conventional construction. The results of this work were incorporated into a Conceptual Design Report (CDR) which was submitted to DOE in February 1984. In March the scope and total estimated cost of the project were agreed upon by DOE and SURA. A revised CDR, which represents a complete analysis of the facility's technical design, scope, scheduling, and total estimated cost, was submitted, and a fiscal year 1986 DOE Budget Validation Review was completed in June.

The technical staff of physicists and engineers has been expanded to 14 from the original group of three. In addition, 17 administrative and clerical personnel supported by the Commonwealth of Virginia have been permanently transferred to the project and are now located at the site in Newport News, Virginia. With funds provided by the Commonwealth, a training program in accelerator physics has been initiated at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Within 1 month we will have five people involved in this program, and we expect to double this number by the end of the year. Now that funds are available, the infrastructure of the laboratory is being established, and a research and development program for critical elements of the accelerator has been initiated. The laboratory management has undertaken every effort to ensure that the project can proceed with construction in fiscal year 1986.

The involvement of the scientific community in the project is extensive. Several meetings of potential users of the facility have been held, and a CEBAF Users' Group has been constituted. Working groups to study specific research programs for the facility have been formed and are scheduled to meet on a regular basis to develop plans for major experimental devices. A workshop focusing on theoretical questions led to a separate proposal to DOE for support of a Theory Group at CEBAF. The interest in and support of the project by the nuclear physics community, as evinced by the involvement of a large number of its members, is strong.

An intermingling of rumor, innuendo, and unattributed comments within the political arena makes interesting and sometimes humorous reading; however, it is not the means by which advances in science are made. Nuclear physics is a diverse and complex field. No one probe or experimental technique can give all the answers. There always will be a need for different types of facilities. However, given finite resources choices must be made. Even with its faults, the scientific community has found no better method for a fair evaluation of scientific alternatives than the peer review system. Every nuclear science committee established during the past 5 years to judge both the scientific and technical merits of competing proposals has strongly agreed with the position of SURA scientists.

Nuclear physics is at a crucial stage in its development. Decisions made at this time will have a major impact upon the vitality, perhaps even the viability, of the field. The decision to proceed with the electron accelerator was based soundly upon the quality and merit of physics arguments developed over more than a decade. The physicists who initiated this project have and continue to play a major role in high-energy electro-nuclear physics research. They are confident that recent scientific developments only strengthen the case for construction of this facility.

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Erratum: As published, figure 2 in the report "Disruption of the terrestrial plant ecosystem at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, western interior" by R. H. Tschudy *et al.* (7 Sept., p. 1030) contained two errors. The break in the stratigraphic column should have been 3 m, and the iridium concentration should have been in parts per trillion. The correct figure is reproduced below.