

DRAFT

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JOINT LASER CENTRE - STATEMENT OF INTENT

This memorandum records the intention of the Science Research Council (SRC) and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) to set up a Joint Laser Centre (JLC) under the executive responsibility of the Director Rutherford Laboratory and the Director AERE. This will be equipped with high powered laser facilities for the purpose of developing a knowledge of laser induced high compression and related fields and for providing research facilities for the UKAEA, the SRC, and for Universities. The JLC will remain in being for such period as the two parties may agree subject to a minimum of 12 months written notice on either side.

The principal scientific objectives of the programme, using these facilities, will be:

- (a) to create and study in the laboratory, superdense plasmas generated by laser compression of matter;
- (b) to study non-linear interactions of very intense laser radiation with matter;
- (c) to develop more efficient and new high power lasers for future experiments in laser compression and other fields.

The scale of the JLC envisaged is approximately 70 staff by the end of the second year with joint capital expenditure of approximately £4M (at November 1974 prices) over the first four years. This expenditure will be incurred in two stages:-

- (a) Purchase of major lasers and initial diagnostic equipment temporarily housed (£2.4M), for which approval has been sought by both SRC and UKAEA.
- (b) Construction of permanent building and installation of electron beam system for which a capital submission still

has to be made within the UKAEA and then to the Department of Energy, but which formed part of the SRC submission.

Staffing and costs of the JLC will be shared so as to reflect the balance of SRC and UKAEA interests in the programme and this division will be reviewed from time to time. Until otherwise agreed, capital and operating costs (excluding staff costs) will be shared equally and each organisation will contribute equivalent staff effort. Future capital proposals will be agreed between the Rutherford Laboratory and AERE prior to submission for approval to their respective authorising bodies.

Responsibility for necessary consultation on security matters and for implementation of any necessary control will lie with the UKAEA. The project will be housed on the Rutherford Laboratory side of the Harwell site.

A legal agreement embodying the substance of the above intent and dealing with finance and ownership and disposal of assets will be prepared for signature by the SRC and UKAEA. Detailed arrangements concerning use of the facility, security, ownership of results and procedures for reviewing the operation of the JLC will be agreed between the Rutherford Laboratory and AERE.

The intention of this arrangement is to avoid transfer of staff related costs from one organisation to another. The final agreement must however be worded to ensure some recompense to the party who, for whatever reason, provides substantially more than half the staff. The phrase "until otherwise agreed" might be considered sufficient to cover the point.