

2/9/00 John Browne memo announcing the formation of CCS

On the recommendation of Bill Press (DLDSTP) and Steve Younger (ALDNW), I am approving the formation of a new Division whose focus will be computer sciences research. This new Division— not yet named—will be within the NW Directorate, and will be closely allied with CIC Division. It will serve as the organizational home for computer science research at LANL, and for the application of that research to actual LANL programs, particularly those in the CIC and X Divisions. It will also take on cross-cutting aspects of computational science research, in support of LANL's strong distributed abilities in this area. I expect that the new Division will be in operation on June 1, 2000.

When we formed the new Bioscience (B) Division last year, we chartered a broad-based Transition Team to work through the many practical issues of starting up a new organization, not least of which is the composition of its membership. Similarly here, I have asked Bill Press to take the lead in chartering a Computer Sciences Transition Team. The Team will be chaired by Charlie Slocomb, with John Reynders and Andy White as deputy chairs. Bill Press will shortly be contacting prospective Transition Team members to ascertain their willingness to serve.

One of the first tasks of the Transition Team will be to settle on a detailed charter and a name for the new Division. The Transition Team will operate openly and transparently. Any affected staff member will be able to find out what issues are being considered and what alternatives are being proposed. Division Directors and Group Leaders in any organization from which membership in the new Division may be drawn will be fully informed and will be a part of the discussion process.

Divisions are in many ways the long-lived "atoms" of the Laboratory. They embody essential capabilities in which we are making a commitment for the long term. At the beginning of the new century, the field of computer science research has clearly achieved the status of being essential to existing and potentially new mission areas. It is appropriate that we recognize this in our divisional structure. Please give your full cooperation to the Transition Team as it works through this important assignment.