6-1-1978

Volume 2, Number 6 (June 1978)

The OTEC Liaison

Follow this and additional works at: https://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsudigital_otec-liaison

Part of the Energy Policy Commons, Environmental Studies Commons, Natural Resources Management and Policy Commons, Oceanography Commons, Oil, Gas, and Energy Commons, Science and Technology Studies Commons, and the Water Resource Management Commons

NSUWorks Citation

The OTEC Liaison, "Volume 2, Number 6 (June 1978)" (1978). The OTEC Liaison. 10.
https://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsudigital_otec-liaison/10

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the NSU Digital Collections at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The OTEC Liaison by an authorized administrator of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.
US Department of Energy's Thorne Reorganizes Four Technical Program Offices

As expected with the confirmation of Robert D. Thorne as Assistant Secretary of Energy Technology in May, the anticipated reorganization of his department took place on June 20th. The four Technical Program Offices are: the Office of Solar, Geothermal, Electric, and Storage Systems; the Office of Fossil Energy; the Office of Nuclear Waste Management; and the Office of Fusion Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Secretary
James R. Schlesinger

Deputy Secretary
John F. O’Leary

Under-Secretary
Dale D. Myers

Deputy Under-Secretary
John D. Young

Deputy Under-Secretary for Commercialization
Jackson S. Gouraud

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Assistant Secretary
Robert D. Thorne

Office of Solar, Geothermal, Electric, and Storage Systems
Dr. Bennett Miller

Acting Deputy Program Director
Dr. Henry H. Marvin

Solar Thermal and OTEC
Dr. Howard S. Coleman

Chief, Ocean Systems Branch
Sigmund Gronich

The Department of Energy Announcement, dated June 20th, 1978, noted that the above expires September 20th, 1978.

LOCKHEED'S TOP OFFICER CITES OTEC AS A MAJOR NEW ACTIVITY

In a copyrighted article in the June 23rd issue of The New York Times, Lockheed's Chairman of the Board, Roy Anderson, was interviewed by the Times' Thomas Mullaney. Describing how an interim management has returned the bespattered defense contractor to prosperity over almost a decade by rebuilding the confidence of its bankers and customers, Anderson mentioned OTEC as an area that holds great expectations for the firm.

Anderson said new areas for Lockheed in the 1980s include both solar power and ocean thermal-energy conversion. "We are into some of these things already," he said. "We are not interested in branching out into other fields."

The new activities are subject, however, to several uncertainties, including Lockheed's continual financial progress, the potential success of the L-1011, and a high level of government procurement. The company's contracts with the government provided the bulk of its $3.2 billion in sales in 1976, and overseas business is becoming increasingly important. As recently as 1975 Lockheed was $900 million in debt, with stockholder equity at $27 million. However the equity had increased to $220 million by the end of 1977, and the debt has now been halved.

THE LATEST NEWS ON OTEC-1

The OTEC Liaison has learned from several sources that the scenario for the awarding of the contract for OTEC-1 will be something like this: The contracts with the three remaining teams (ODECO, TRW, and Lockheed) will be negotiated and signed. The three signed contracts will then be submitted to Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology Robert D. Thorne, who, with a panel committee, will make the final selection sometime in August.

This scenario ties in with the timing of the awarding of the contract indicated by Sig Gronich in a telephone interview in June.
Letter From The Publisher

Dispelling an Unwarranted Concern...

In the last eight months, several individuals have expressed, in hushed and tremulous voices, their fears about the potential vulnerability of OTEC plants in wartime. The idea was put forward that ocean-based Solar Ocean Energy facilities would be virtual "sitting ducks" which could not be easily defended. This vulnerability has been felt, in these quarters, to be a possible detriment to the advisability of building OTEC plants.

This editor disagrees strongly with this unfounded concern.

An offshore or coastal-based SOE/OTEC facility would be no more vulnerable than a land-based nuclear or conventional plant, and no less easily defended. Or any type of production facility, for that matter.

If a potential enemy wished to destroy a conventional or nuclear power plant, it could easily do so by missile or air attack. The locations of most of these installations are common knowledge, and they can be easily reached and attacked. With the sophisticated state of military technology today, any type of centralized power source is equally vulnerable.

A case in point is the profusion of Single Point Moorings (SPMs) throughout the world for the offshore unloading of oil supertankers. More than 80 SPM ports exist around the world, with Rotterdam’s Europort receiving a quarter of the oil used by all of Western Europe. The first SPM in US waters is now under construction off Louisiana.

In fact, floating OTEC plants are likely to be more defendable due to their intrinsic mobility. For that matter, they might serve as distant early-warning stations.

I suggest putting an end to this unwarranted concern.

A Few Words About Confidentiality

It’s been about a year now since the inception and publication of The OTEC Liaison. From the very beginning, I was privy to various information, rumors, and confidences from those with whom I spoke. Even before publication, there was occasional reticence on the part of friends and associates in the OTEC community regarding the possible publication—or relaying in other forms—of information or opinions that it was desired to keep confidential.

When this issue first came up, I said what I am saying again now: If I were to betray a confidence—just once—the individual concerned would certainly not speak to me with such freedom again. Obviously, in a short time there would be little to print!

So please be assured that this policy of keeping things to myself when requested to do so will continue. Not necessarily out of some high code of ethics or lofty journalistic principles—but out of simple common sense.

Richard Arlen Meyer, Editor and Publisher

DOE NAMES FOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Secretary of Energy James R. Schlesinger has named William C. Arntz, Regional Administrator for the former Federal Energy Administration since 1973, as Regional Representative of the Department of Energy’s four-state region covering Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the US territories in the Pacific.

Secretary Schlesinger said Arntz will be DOE’s senior spokesman in Region IX, whose headquarters are at 111 Pine Street in San Francisco.

Arntz has served as Acting Regional Representative for the region since October, when DOE was activated. He also has been a career Federal official since 1950. On October 1st, 1977 he was appointed by President Carter as Chairman of the Western Federal Regional Council, composed of principal officials of Federal agencies within the four-state region.

Also named were Harold J. Keohane for Region I (Boston), Robert L. Low for Region II (New York), and Robert H. Bauer for Region V (Chicago).

As Secretary Schlesinger’s Regional Representatives, Keohane, Low, Bauer, and Arntz will provide overall direction for the Department’s regional dealings with the public, state and local officials, business and labor, and other groups concerned with energy policy and planning. They will also be responsible for administering the Department of Energy’s regional grant programs and co-ordinating energy planning activities.

The Chicago and San Francisco Offices will also provide administrative support for most of the Department’s other activities located in those regions.

NOTICE OF TOL’S VACATION SCHEDULE

The offices of The OTEC Liaison will be closed for two weeks in August: from August 7th through August 11th, and two weeks later from August 28th through September 1st, reopening after Labor Day on September 5th. Telephone calls to our Chicago office will be taken and later relayed by a temporary telephone-answering service.
SOLAR ENERGY POLICY FORUMS HELD ACROSS COUNTRY IN JUNE

On May 3rd President Carter announced a Cabinet-level Domestic Policy Review of Solar Energy to develop an overall national strategy for speeding the use of solar technologies. James R. Schlesinger was asked by the President to serve as Chairman, with recommendations to be prepared for the President’s attention September 1st, 1978 so as to be reflected in the 1980 fiscal-year budget and legislative initiatives.

Schlesinger pointed out in a form letter that the Solar Energy Policy Committee is to provide the President with:

1. A sound analysis of the contribution which solar energy can make to US and international energy demand, both short- and long-term;
2. Thorough review of the current federal solar programs to determine whether they, taken as a whole, represent an optimal program for bringing solar technologies into widespread commercial use on an accelerated timetable;
3. Recommendations for an overall solar strategy to pull together federal, state, and private efforts to accelerate the use of solar technologies.

TOL AT CHICAGO MEETING

A series of eleven public meetings were held in June in each federal region and the District of Columbia. The Chicago-area meeting was held June 26th at the Illinois Institute of Technology, with the Editor of The OTEC Liaison (TOL) present.

About 125 persons attended, with most allotted five minutes to present their views. A panel of four DOE officials was present at all times, with each speaker’s presentation tape recorded. To the surprise of this writer, Henry Marvin, Director of the Department of Energy’s Division of Solar Technology, was in attendance and served as a member of the four-person panel listening to speakers’ remarks. We had expected only lower-echelon DOE personnel to be present, and came away quite impressed that Marvin was there.

Many months ago Carter invited the American public to express their opinions and suggestions about America’s energy problems. An article in the press several months later told of hundreds of mailbags with people’s responses stored away unopened. Whether these thousands of letters were subsequently read or are still in storage is unknown to this writer. However from all outward indications the Solar Energy Forums (based on the Chicago-area meeting) were well organized and well attended by effective DOE officials. The results of these meetings will hopefully be published. TOL will try to obtain summations of these expressions of public opinion and publish them this fall.

When a brief meeting with Marvin was finally arranged, he abruptly ended the interview by telling the TOL representative “I am no longer responsible for the OTEC program.” A further discussion of this and other DOE personnel changes is described in an article elsewhere in this issue.

CALL FOR PAPERS ISSUED FOR 1979 OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

As detailed in the cover story for the April issue of TOL, the Annual Offshore Technology Conference, held in Houston, is becoming more and more important to OTEC, with the entrance of many offshore oil companies into the field of Solar Ocean Energy/OTE. At the 10th OTC Conference in May a special section was devoted to the OTEC program, and an expansion is anticipated for the 11th OTC meeting, to be held in Houston April 30th through May 3rd, 1979.

Marcus E. Milling, of Exxon, heads the 12-man committee that will formulate the program. Abstracts for proposed papers should be submitted, along with a completed Data Reporting Form, to the Program Manager, Offshore Technology Conference, 6200 North Central Expressway, Dallas, Texas 75206. The deadline for submission of abstracts for consideration is September 1st, 1978. Copies of the Data Reporting Forms are available from OTEC headquarters in Dallas.

More than 79,000 persons—over 20% more than the previous year—attended the 10th OTC meeting. We encourage your participation in this important conference.

In an update from the September issue of TOL, outlined below are the key personnel of the Ocean Systems Branch of the US Department of Energy’s Solar Division (centralized) and their current responsibilities, along with contact locations and associated contractors. This information was obtained in a mid-June conversation with DOE’s Sigmund Gronich.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DOE PERSONNEL</th>
<th>SUPPORT ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>KEY PERSONNEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Systems</td>
<td>Sigmund Gronich</td>
<td>Value Engineering</td>
<td>Paul Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Lloyd Lewis</td>
<td>Argonne National Laboratory</td>
<td>Jack Dittmars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>Bob Cohen</td>
<td>Argonne National Laboratory</td>
<td>Norm Sather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Plant</td>
<td>Abe Lavi/Ken Reed</td>
<td>Oak Ridge Laboratory</td>
<td>Joe Veadly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Engineering Support Services</td>
<td>Bill Sherwood</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>Joe Veadly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biofouling and Corrosion</td>
<td>Gene Kinelski</td>
<td>Argonne National Laboratory</td>
<td>Joe Veadly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Cable</td>
<td>Tom Garrity</td>
<td>Morris Guralnick Associates Inc.</td>
<td>Hubert E. Russell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Value Engineering
2550 Huntington Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22303

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
Post Office Box Y
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
(615) 483-8611, Extension 35000

Morris Guralnick Associates Incorporated
550 Keary Street
San Francisco, California 94108
(415) 362-1092 or 362-0343

Support Services

Argonne National Laboratories
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

Ocean Engineering
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Rockville, Maryland 20853

US Department of Energy
Division of Solar Energy
600 E Street
Washington DC 20545
(202) 376-4772

OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
Announcement of the contractor team for the OTEC-1 platform, while originally scheduled for July 7th, may be delayed about a month (till early August), according to a statement by Sig Gronich, Chief of DOE's Ocean Systems Branch, in a June conversation with the Editor of The OTEC Liaison.

A Gibbs and Cox study indicates that The Ranger, the vessel proposed by the Offshore Drilling and Exploration Company (ODECO) for the OTEC-1 platform, could accommodate up to and including a 100 MW plant.

The OTEC Liaison was told recently that the Department of Energy had a man in Japan visiting that country's OTEC research facilities.

A number of firms experienced in offshore contracting shied away from bidding for the OTEC-1 platform because of their hesitancy to become involved with the federal bureaucracy.

ODECO's bid for the OTEC-1 platform includes plans to speed up the long-range planning of DOE's OTEC program by a year and a half.

It is understood that Russia is actively involved in OTEC research and planning, but few details are known. Since the USSR is of course nowhere near tropical waters itself, it has been suggested that its research may be directed either toward augmenting the power supplies of countries it supports, such as Cuba, or toward utilizing the large delta-T in its own territorial waters between arctic ocean waters and the surrounding atmosphere. (See the Newsbriefs in the May issue of TOL regarding a similar Canadian plan.)

DOE UNDER-SECRETARY MYERS WANTS OUT OF "SOLAR BUSINESS"

Speaking before the Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists recently, Department of Energy Under-Secretary Dale Myers made the following comments. "Generally, our view is that if we can get out of the business, we ought to get out of the business. If we are in the position where, for example, the solar water heater has developed to the point where an industry exists that can back it, warrant it, keep it going, and service it, we shouldn't be doing solar-water-heater demonstrations. If we find, as in the case of oil shale, where five industries have done development on oil shale over a period of 20 years, that they probably know more about it than we do, there isn't any point to our having a line item in the Federal budget to build a big oil-shale plant. We are better off encouraging the industries to go do it themselves, so they get the experience and get into the business."
INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Listed below are conferences and symposiums pertinent to the OTEC community, ocean energy, and oceanographic technology. Major meetings recently completed are still listed for the benefit of any readers who wish to contact conference organizers for reports of proceedings.


Sep 18-23: Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition, Astrobahn, Houston TX. Sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in conjunction with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. Info: Paul Drummond, Executive Secretary, ASME Petroleum Division, 345 E. 47th St., New York NY 10017, (212) 644-8074.

Sep 25-30: Fifth International Ocean Development Conference and Exhibition, Keidaren Kaikan, Tokyo, Japan. Jointly sponsored every two years by 15 Japanese oceanic organizations and supported by 11 agencies and ministries. Six sessions cover Marine Pollution, Resources and Energy, Fisheries, Materials and Structures, Coastal Zone Management, Surveying and Investigating Systems. Info: Kenneth V. Mackenzie, Naval Ocean Research and Development Activity, NSTL, Bay St. Louis MS 33629, (601) 688-4790.


Nov 5-9: 1978 Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition, Albert Thomas Convention Center, Houston TX. Topics include ocean energy sources and conversion. Info: ETCE News Bureau, PO Box 59489, Dallas TX 75229.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

To add to The OTEC Liaison's function as an informative and useful instrument of communication, the editor invites readers to contribute. Contributions may take the form of informally-written reviews of research underway or planned, letters to the editor, or collect telephone calls. Inquiries of any sort are also invited, as we are generally well informed of OTEC progress as well as projected planning by researchers, government and private industry.

US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT INVITATIONS AND CONTRACT AWARDS

Listed below are procurement invitations and contract awards related to OTEC in particular and ocean resources in general, culled from the Commerce Business Daily. This is not to be construed, however, as a complete list.

Jun 7: Examination and Evaluation of the Construction and Installation Processes of Commercial Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Plants: The work will be in three task areas: (1) Requirement Synthesis: Consider all OTEC plant physical characteristics and environmental factors. (2) Capability Assessment: Assess capability of technologies and facilities and state of the art to satisfy OTEC needs developed in (1) above. (3) Construction Installation Plan (CIP): Develop comprehensive construction and installation plans for each generic OTEC plant characteristic. Issue date o/a 19 Jun 78. Closing date o/a 20 Jul 78. RFP-03-78-A01-4199GR. US Department of Commerce Procurement Research Division, Washington DC 20230.


Jun 14: Integration Issues to Realize OTEC Market Potential: The US DOE, Division of Solar Technology is developing technology for Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) systems. OTEC utilizes temperature differences of ocean water at different depths to generate base load electricity. There are two separate parts to this solicitation (RFP ET-78-R-02-0018). The DOE contemplates multiple awards for each. Hence proposals may be submitted for either or both parts. One award for each is set aside for small business competition only, and shall be awarded to a responsive proposer. DOE anticipates the professional effort required under each 12-month award to range from one to three person years. One part concerns integration issues to realize US market potential for OTEC electricity (delivered to shore via submarine cable). Some of the issues to be addressed will be: identification of potential utility and industrial users; assessment of the relative commercial attractiveness and implementation strategy of OTEC as an alternative power source; identification and recommendation of how to overcome technical, institutional, financial, and regulatory impediments; and identification of potential owners and operators of OTEC power plants. The other part concerns integration issues to realize the market potential of OTEC energy-inten-
sive products. Some of the issues to be addressed will be: identification of specific markets as well as factors that will affect the utilization of these products; identification of potential owners and operators of energy-intensive manufacturing facilities as well as associated incentives available or required for their investment of capital; assessment of the relative commercial attractiveness; and identification and recommendation of how to overcome technical, institutional, financial, and regulatory impediments. These procurements are primarily of interest but not limited to utilities, holding companies, power pools, public-utility regulatory commissions, regional power authorities, reliability councils in geographical regions of potential commercial interest for OTEC electrical power, A/E firms, system engineers, management and financial institutions, power-plant equipment manufacturers, manufacturers of OTEC-derivable energy-intensive products, potential users and operators of OTEC power plants and/or associated manufacturing facilities. Request RFP ET-78-R-02-0018 by writing to the below address. Telephone requests will not be honored. Include four self-addressed labels. It is anticipated that the RFP will be available 18 Jun 78. Receipt of proposals will be no later than 7 Aug 78. This announcement is not a request for proposal. Attn: E. Speizman, Secretary, Proposal Evaluation Panel for this RFP. US Department of Energy, Chicago Operations Office, 9800 S. Case Ave., Building 2, Room J-108, Argonne IL 60439.

Jun 15: Analysis of Existing Inventories of Energy Data Sources: Sole-source award to Information Access Corp., Los Alisos CA 94022, PO EI-78-X-01-4264, Procurement Agent: M. Lucas. 

Jun 16: Programmatic Environmental Impact Assessments in Four Solar Technologies: The contractor(s) shall perform programmatic environmental assessments in one or more of the following four solar energy technologies: Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, Wind Energy Conversion, Photovoltaics, and Solar Thermal Electric. Qualified respondents must demonstrate knowledge of or familiarity with one or more of the technologies and capability of assessing environmental and socio-economic impacts for that technology. Notes 11 and 68 apply. This is not a request for proposal, nor will the Government pay for information submitted. DOE reserves the right to consider a small-business set-aside based on responses received. Response is required within 10 days after publication of this notice. Department of Energy Procurement Division, Attn: Joann Littlehales, 1333 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612.


Jun 21: Survey of Worldwide Market for Critical Energy Equipment. RFP EH-78-R-01-6414. This RFP will solicit proposals to perform an analysis of the current and future (1985) market for energy equipment to form the basis for Department of Energy decisions on the export of US manufactured equipment. This will include the following tasks: (1) survey current demand and develop a model consisting of engineering factors for projecting future regional and world demand for energy equipment under varied energy demand scenarios; and (2) analyze and display current and 1985 trade patterns, including the identification of shortages. One award is anticipated. The RFP will be issued on or about 20 Jun 78. Firms desiring a copy of this RFP should submit their requests in writing. No telephone requests will be honored. Department of Energy, Office of Procurement Operations, Washington DC 20545, Attn: Document Control Specialist.

Jun 23: Study Numerical Methods for Ocean Forecasting and Objective Analysis: Negotiations are to be conducted with Science Applications Inc., 8400 Westpark Dr., McLean VA 22101.

Jun 26: Environmental Assessment Subprogram Support to the Division of Solar Technology to meet legal requirements and DOE requirements for such items as Environmental Development Plans, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements, and Special Environmental Studies. In order to be considered responsive, offerors must be a small-business concern as defined by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.3-8). Additionally, offerors must be able to locate a necessary skill mix of personnel within a 50-mile radius of Washington DC. Requests for proposals are anticipated to be available on or about 30 Jun 78. Requests for copies of this solicitation, accompanied by four self-addressed mailing labels, must be received by DOE/SAN not later than 10 days from the date of listing of this synopsis to the Commerce Business Daily. Telephone requests will not be honored. US Department of Energy, San Francisco Operations Office, Attn: S. O'Brien, Ref: RFP ET-78-R-03-2003, 1333 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612.

Jun 29: Analysis of the Department of Energy Procurement Regulations: This procurement has been designated as a small business, labor surplus area set-aside. A labor surplus designation requires a minimum of 51% of services to be performed in a labor surplus area. The Department of Labor has designated the Washington metropolitan area as a labor surplus area at the time of this solicitation. For this solicitation, eligibility of an area as a labor surplus area is determined at the date of solicitation, not at the date of award. Responses must be in writing. No telephone requests will be honored.


Jun 30: Programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment in Four Solar Technologies: RFP ET-78-R-03-2102. Four programmatic environmental impact assessments are needed for the Department of Energy's Photovoltaics, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion, Wind Energy Conversion, and Solar Thermal Electric Programs. The assessments are to be detailed reports in conformance with DOE regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fifty percent of this procurement is being reserved for small-business concerns under a partial set-aside determination. It is anticipated that one to four cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts will be awarded as a result of this procurement. The anticipated term of this contract is 12 months starting approximately September 1978 and ending September 1979. A resultant contract may include assessments of one or more of the four programs. The successful proposer(s) is expected to be thoroughly familiar with the technology being assessed and capable of assessing the environmental and socio-economic impacts identified for the technology. Proposers may compete for one or more of the technologies. However in order to contract with DOE, proposers must be financially sound, and have an acceptable accounting system and the ability to comply with government regulations. It should be noted that small and minority participation will be a selection consideration. Firms desiring a copy of the Request for Proposal should submit requests in writing. No telephone requests will be honored. Please include four self-addressed labels. It is anticipated that the RFP will be available on or about 30 Jun 78. This is not a request for proposals. Department of Energy, San Francisco Operations Office, 1333 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612.
