

17 February, 1999

To: Steve Younger and Tom Hunter

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to propose the continuation of the series of US/Russian conferences known as the Joint Conferences on Computational Methods (JCCM). This series of conferences was begun in 1992 to bring together computational specialists from the three US DOE nuclear laboratories (LLNL, LANL and Sandia) and the two Russian Federal Nuclear Centers (VNIIEF and VNIITF) to report and discuss issues in computational science and simulation. Five conferences have now been held, with each of the five participant laboratories acting once as host; LLNL (October, 1992), VNIIEF (September, 1993), LANL (January, 1995), VNIITF (May, 1996), and Sandia (September, 1997). These JCCM conferences have succeeded in establishing an understanding and professional working relationships between US and Russian computational specialists.

Professor Ivan D. Sofronov has recently proposed that this series of conferences be continued. He has also proposed that instead of simply rotating through all five laboratories in order as before, that the meetings be established on a more regular schedule, every eighteen months. Professor Sofronov has offered to host the next JCCM conference in Sarov during August of this year. Subsequent meetings would occur every eighteen months, alternating between Russia and the US. Thus, Russian conferences would be held during the summer, and US conferences would be held during the winter.

Agreeing to continue the JCCM conferences obligates the three US laboratories to send delegations of no fewer than about five people to meetings in Russia (Sarov in August 1999, Snezhinsk in the summer of 2002, and then in Sarov again in the summer of 2005). Each of the three US laboratories would host a conference (LLNL in Winter 2001, LANL in the winter of 2004, and Sandia in the winter of 2007). Of course US laboratories would also be expected to send a contingent to conferences hosted at the other US laboratories.

Approval for such a continuation of the JCCM Conferences was sought from Dr. Jerry Freedman at DOE headquarters, who gave his approval on January 27, 1999. This proposal has also been discussed and approved at LLNL. I hope to hear soon that you can each support this proposal.

Sincerely,

George Miller