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MEDIA ADVISORY

University of California President Richard C. Atkinson issued the following statement today (Oct. 17) in response to Energy Secretary Bill Richardson's announcement regarding UC's contracts to manage the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

Richard C. Atkinson
President
University of California

"I am very pleased that the Secretary of Energy has chosen to enter negotiations to extend the University of California contracts to operate the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories. The decision to proceed is a vote of confidence in a relationship that has brought great benefits to our nation for more than half a century. The University is committed to scientific excellence, responsible management and effective security in its operation of these laboratories as a public service to the nation.

"This step will be a welcome boost to our scientists and staff. As we move forward, we must address several important challenges, including rebuilding employee morale and continuing to recruit the very best scientists to our labs. At the same time, we look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate our continuing commitment to superb science and strong security in the national interest.

"The Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories are among the great scientific centers of the world. We at the University of California are proud of our long association with the labs and are eager to open the next chapter of our history together."