

## DOE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) Government and industry have taken another joint step in enhancing U.S. competitiveness and protecting the environment. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the aluminum industry last week launched a collaboration to pursue technologies that improve energy efficiency and production processes. Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary and David N. Parker, president of The Aluminum Association Inc., penned an agreement in Washington, DC, to identify areas for joint research, development and technology demonstrations.

Aluminum is a critical product for many vital U.S. markets. The industry employs more than 130,000 people and produces more than 20 billion pounds of ingot and fabricated mill products, seven million of which is secondary recycled metal. Aluminum industry customers include the transportation, food and beverage packaging, building and construction, and electrification industries.

Through this compact, DOE and the aluminum industry will collaborate to identify and evaluate new technologies that address needs such as:

- Developing new ways to improve the efficiency of aluminum production/recycling;
- Improving health, safety and environ-

mental conditions associated with all aluminum production operations; and

- Developing new sensors and controls to enhance the aluminum industry's competitiveness.

Aluminum is an essential ingredient for products that modern society requires and developing nations demand. Realizing the goals set forth in the aluminum industry's vision will contribute significantly to the development of socially useful, ecologically sustainable and economically viable aluminum products and manufacturing processes worldwide.

## OKLAHOMAN REAPPOINTED TO THE MUSHROOM COUNCIL

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman appointed three mushroom producers to the Mushroom Council, which administers the national mushroom promotion and research program.

Virgil H. Jurgensmeyer of Miami, OK, Region 4, was reappointed. Newly appointed are Edward A. Leo, Kennett Square, PA, Region 2; and William K. Street, Tacoma, WA, Region 4.

The regions reflect the four U.S. production areas. The three appointees will serve 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 1997.

Authorized under the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, the council administers a national promotion, research, and consumer information program to maintain and expand markets for fresh mushrooms.

Assessments paid by producers or importers of an average of more than 500,000 pounds of mushrooms per year fund the program, and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors it.

## QUALITY BRINGS RESULTS

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) Sixteen Department of Energy (DOE) organizations and teams from throughout the diverse Energy Department complex are the 1996 recipients of the Energy Quality Awards, and 22 additional teams were selected by Vice President Al Gore to receive the coveted Hammer Award. These awards recognize recipients for improving government performance through enhanced customer service, streamlining operations and cutting costs.

The Energy Quality Award is awarded to DOE organizations that strive for demonstrated customer satisfaction and improved productivity. The program is in its second year of operation.

"Almost 25% of the DOE work force was represented in applications for this year's awards," said Nancy K. Weidenfeller, Director of DOE's Office of Quality Management. "Each of the participants has significantly improved DOE's business processes to deliver better services to the American taxpayers—our primary customers."

The 1996 awards ceremony is the second annual presentation of awards to DOE federal and contractor employee organizations, which focused on leadership, information and analysis, strategic planning, human resources development and management, process management, business results, and customer focus and satisfaction.

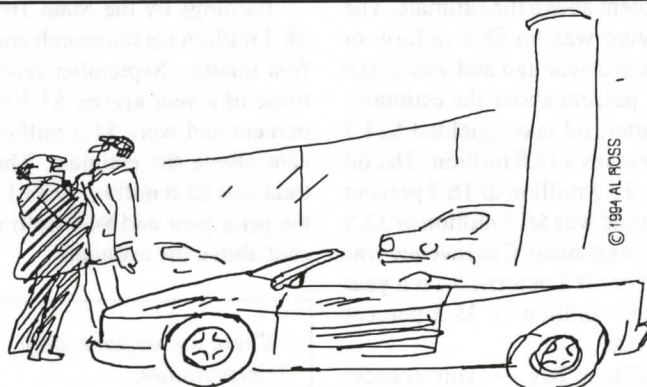
National Quality Month recognizes the significance of continuous quality improvement. By participating, the Department is joining thousands of people in the public and private sectors in sharing and actively promoting commitment to customer satisfaction.

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Los Alamos Director Sig Hecker said, "Los Alamos is proud to continue its long tradition of helping to define the leading edge of high-performance computing by our major role in the ASCI program. By demonstrating that these computational advances can support a complex technology like nuclear weapons, ASCI can have a similar, crucial impact on simulations of the industrial processes, global climate, biotechnology and many other fields of science."

The system will combine commercial off-the-shelf components, including MIPS' microprocessors, with innovative technologies from Cray Research and Silicon Graphics' Scalable Systems Group. It will accelerate the current trend in the computing market toward clusters of shared-memory programming servers.

The Cray Research-Silicon Graphics contract requires an initial delivery system with 256 processors to be installed at Los Alamos by December 1996 and the final system with 3,072 processors, by December 1998.



"And I say you can afford it! The economy needs it."