2010 Summer Conference
July 22 - 23, 2010

Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, NM

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies established the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) in 2003 in order to develop and sustain a vibrant community of nuclear weapons experts. The PONI yearly conference series brings together junior and senior level professionals from the national laboratories, the military, and industry, academia and policy sectors to hear selected presentations on nuclear weapons infrastructure, strategy and policy. PONI holds three regional conferences per year and then a fourth Capstone Conference at Offutt Air Force Base – home to United States Strategic Command – in Omaha, Nebraska. The Capstone Conference features selected presentations from preceding regional conferences and offers individuals an opportunity to present their work to senior leadership from across the nuclear policy spectrum. Those who present at the Capstone Conference will also be invited to publish a paper based on their presentation in a journal produced by CSIS.

We are now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2010 Summer Conference, to be held on July 22 - 23 at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. This conference, like each conference this year, will generally focus on the following four topics.

- Nuclear Strategy, Policy, and Posture
- Nuclear Nonproliferation
- Scientific and Operational Supports for Nuclear Policy
- Nuclear Disarmament and Material Security

A more detailed version of the 2010 PONI Research Agenda accompanies this call for presentations. Additionally, a $500 honorarium is being offered for presentations on issues related to Technical Nuclear Forensics. **Presentations are to be no more than 11 slides in length and last no longer than 10 minutes.** Your presentation proposal should be no more than 2 pages and, although there are no formal requirements, would ideally include the following.

1. Your name and professional/academic affiliation
2. Preliminary title of presentation
3. Issue background (brief)
4. Summary of thesis or argument

The due date for presentation proposals is June 21, 2010. Travel support is available for presenters lacking university or organizational backing. If you have any questions about the submission process for the Spring PONI conference, please contact PONI Coordinator Mark Jansson at (202) 775-3286 or mjansson@csis.org. More information about the Project on Nuclear Issues can be found on the PONI website, located at http://www.csis.org/program/project-nuclear-issues.

Project on Nuclear Issues

2010 PONI Research Agenda

Purpose: To propose a research agenda for the 2010 Project on Nuclear Issues Conference Series. This agenda is intended for use as a reference for those interested in presenting and not to predetermine presentation topics in advance of conferences. PONI will consider all nuclear-weapons related presentation proposals.

1. **Nuclear Strategy, Policy, and Posture**
    a. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and its effects on wider U.S. nuclear policy
    b. Force structure for effective deterrence
    c. Ballistic Missile Defense: technical and operational issues, and strategic impacts
    d. The role of nuclear weapons in the 21st century
    e. Declaratory policy: what should it be and why
    f. Assuring allies and deterring potential adversaries
    g. Operationalizing the strategic triad or other potential models
    h. Implications of the nonproliferation policies and nuclear postures of other nations on the U.S. and vice versa
    i. Etc.

2. **Nuclear Nonproliferation**
    a. Maximizing benefits and minimizing risks of civil nuclear cooperation
    b. Diplomatic strategies for dealing with suspected NPT violations (e.g. Iran and North Korea)
    c. Strengthening international enforcement of NPT obligations
    d. 2010 NPT Review Conference: Inputs and Outputs
    e. Fuel supply guarantees and other options for mitigating proliferation risks
    f. Strengthening the counter-proliferation framework, institutionalizing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), and design of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
    g. Disrupting proliferation networks through UNSC 1540 implementation and other means
    h. Prospects/risks for future proliferation; regional cascades, proliferation networks, etc.
    i. Etc.

3. **Scientific and Operational Supports to Nuclear Strategy and Policy**
    a. Maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear stockpile without testing
    b. Role of dual-use science and engineering to retain competency and evaluate treaty compliance
    c. Governance of the nuclear enterprise and considerations for the future location of the NNSA within the government
    d. Nonproliferation and radiation detection sciences: technical and operational developments and challenges
    e. Nuclear forensic science: data collection and post-detonation operations
    f. Nuclear weapons management and operations within the armed forces
    g. Improving the physical security of deployed stockpiles
    h. Etc.

4. **Nuclear Disarmament and Material Security**
    a. Steps towards nuclear disarmament while maintaining a credible and reliable force
    b. Political and military considerations for New START and subsequent treaties, including negotiation and verification goals
    c. Possibilities for future multilateral arms reduction frameworks
    d. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: key issues for ratification and entry into force
    e. Negotiating a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty
    f. Securing all nuclear materials and vulnerable sites within four years
    g. Etc.