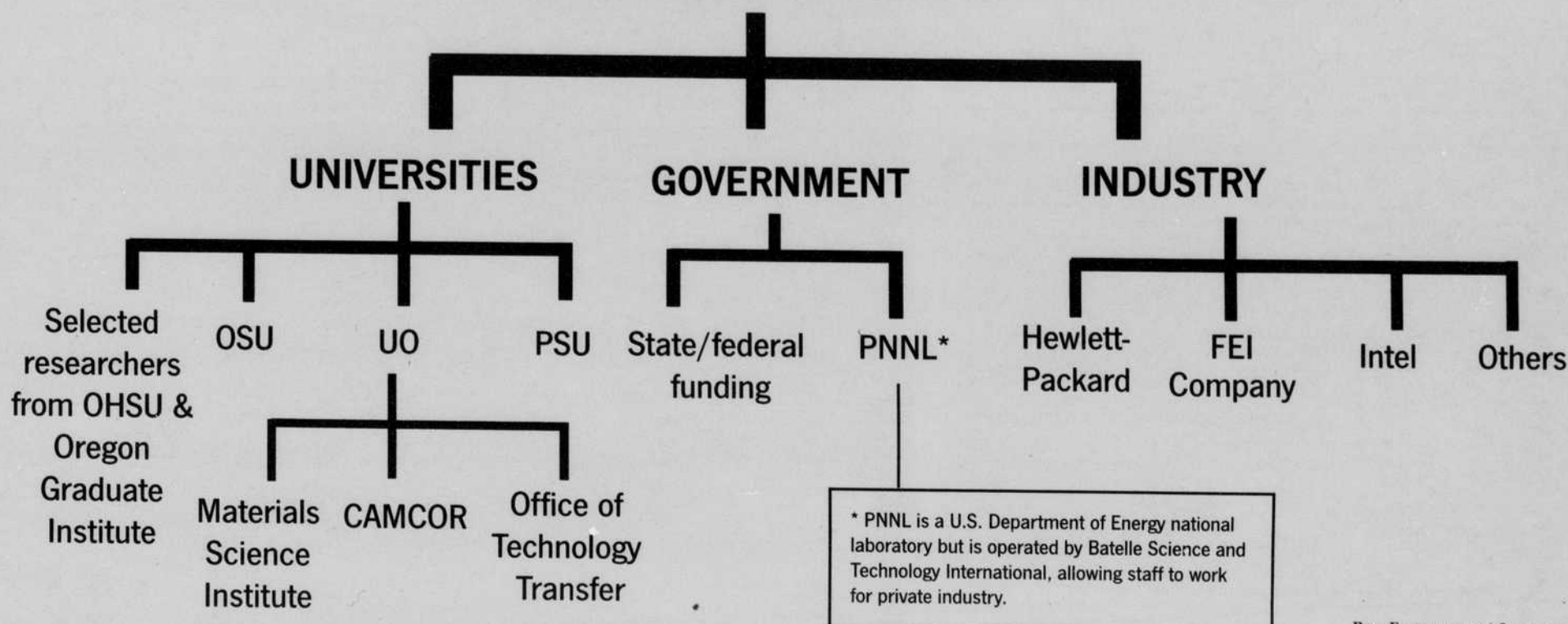


WHO IS A PART OF ONAMI?



BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Continued from previous page

"I think ONAMI will benefit ... from the funding going into the Department of Homeland Security," Linton said.

ONAMI partner Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, one of nine U.S. Department of Energy multi-program national laboratories, does research in the areas of computing and information technology, energy, environment, fundamental science, health and safety, marine sciences, national security and nuclear technology. According to the laboratory's Web site, nearly half of its \$580 million annual business volume reflects work in national security programs for the Departments of Energy, Homeland Security, Defense and other federal agencies.

"PNNL is one of our four lead collaborators, and we think there are some great collaborations working together in the area of homeland security," Rung said.

Hutchison said to his knowledge, homeland security work is not being done at the University.

Hutchison said PNNL researchers sometimes use the University's Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass

Spectrometry machine, which helps determine the composition of materials. It is shared with ONAMI affiliates and others through the Center for Advanced Materials Characterization in Oregon. Hutchison said CAMCOR, an arrangement for sharing University scientific equipment, initially began in the Materials Science Institute but has since become a separate University-wide entity, and he expressed hope that CAMCOR would help spread ONAMI further.

"This instrument is one that they didn't have, so it's been a fantastic collaboration to have them come down and use our instruments, too," Hutchison said.

Rung said ONAMI has received two contracts from the U.S. Congress in defense appropriations. One contract, a U.S. Army-based project, is Miniature Tactical Energy Systems, which makes heating, cooling and power systems for soldiers in vehicles. The Inherently Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing initiative, sponsored by the U.S. Air Force, makes coatings for aircraft surfaces, among other things. Hutchison is the program manager for this initiative.

Rung said ONAMI doesn't view the U.S. Armed Forces differently from other customers.

"This is something that they need like anyone else," Rung said, "nothing to do with weapons or anything like that."

Separate from ONAMI, PNNL is also connected with the University through the Technology Entrepreneurship Program, a collaboration between the Office of Technology Transfer, the Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship and the School of Law.

"PNNL is very interested in forming regional collaborations across the Northwest," Gerhart said.

TEP, now in its third year, is an opportunity for law and M.B.A. students to practice developing business plans.

"They look at this collection of technologies that come in from PNNL and the Office of Technology Transfer at the U of O," Gerhart said. "These are all real technologies, not an academic exercise with no meaning in the real scheme of things, ... and each team picks an innovation that they want to perform an in-depth assessment on."

ONAMI's new home

While ONAMI currently exists at the University primarily through communication between various separately housed departments, plans to give the institute a physical presence on campus are in action. Linton said the University has received \$9.5 million in state bonds to build the University's ONAMI component, as part of the Legislature's initial \$21 million investment into ONAMI. Rung said OSU and PSU also received \$9.5 million and \$1 million respectively to renovate buildings used for ONAMI work at those institutions.

Originally, Linton said, the plan was to construct the new building in the Riverfront Research Park on the north side of Franklin Boulevard. Linton said this plan had to be changed because it was found that the vibration caused by trains running nearby would cause problems for sensitive work done inside.

"When the site was tested, it didn't come up to the most stringent standards that nanomaterials require," Linton said.

The new plan is to house ONAMI

on the east side of the current science complex, between Huestis and Deschutes Halls. The building may not be visible to passers-by.

"Because of the vibrational issues, it turns out an underground site is ideal," Linton said.

Hutchison said the only thing above ground may be a light tower to let natural light down.

"The idea is that that region of campus is an open-space area, and it needs to stay open space," Hutchison said. "The plan is, there'll still be grass in that area. You'll still be able to see through to Franklin (Boulevard)."

Hutchison said design sketches will be generated within the next month after meetings with planners and the new building's potential users. Linton said the next step is for the Campus Planning Committee to approve the building.

"There's funding in hand, and we're optimistic we'll get construction started within the next year," Linton said.

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