

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH
THE CENTER FOR ENGINEERING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
OF THE AUA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Background Armenia is an industrialized and technologically advanced nation, at least in relation to the other republics within the former Soviet Union. Many talented scientists and engineers work in such fields as physics, astrophysics, geophysics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, electronics, and mechanics. With the dismemberment of the Union, decline in military spending, and a general deterioration of the economy, many of these people have or may become unemployed, and those who remain employed receive salaries that do not suffice even for basic foods. (The typical salary of a Ph.D. in physics is around 700 rubles per month, which is equivalent to \$7). If this situation continues, many of these people will leave their professions for more profitable but less productive jobs. The long term effect on Armenia's future would be devastating.

As sad as this situation is, it offers an unprecedented opportunity for AUA to engage in scientific and engineering research and development and for international cooperation. The Center for Engineering Research & Development (CERD) is intended as a vehicle through which such activities can be organized and carried out within AUA.

Objectives of CERD The objectives of CERD will be as follows:

- To identify promising scientific and engineering research and development projects and to seek funding by submitting proposals to various agencies and private sources in Armenia, the U.S., the United Nations, as well as other countries of the world. With the present situation in Armenia, AUA is in a position to present highly competitive proposals in terms of intellectual resources and costs.
- To employ AUA students as well as scientists and engineers from outside on funded projects. This will enhance the educational experience of AUA students by allowing them to work on basic and applied research projects in teams with other researchers from Armenia and abroad.
- To foster cooperation and interaction between AUA visiting faculty and Armenian scientists and engineers.
- To foster cooperation and interaction between AUA, other educational, scientific, and engineering research institutions in Armenia and similar institutions in the U.S. and other countries. This will also allow AUA to make use of research facilities existing in Armenia.

Governance CERD will be administered by the Research Institute in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the Board of Trustees of AUAC. A Director for the Center will be appointed by the AUAC Board of Trustees. Every effort would be made

to foster collaboration between CERD and other centers such as the Center for Business Research and Development.

Funding It is proposed that \$50,000 be allocated from within the 1992 AUAC budget as startup funding for CERD. Most of this amount will be used towards the purchase of computers and other equipment and supplies necessary for the Center. A few funding sources for CERD have already been identified and the Center is expected to be self-supporting in the near future.

Facilities It is proposed that initially two rooms in the AUA building be designated for CERD. One room will be used as office for the employees of the Center; the other will be used as a work room with computers and software library. At a later date, a separate office for the Director and one or two conference rooms will be necessary.

It is requested that the following equipment be dedicated for use by CERD: The VAX2000 work-station (already available), two Macintosh IICI computers (already purchased), two PC-486 computers (to be purchased), and a LaserJet printer (to be purchased). These new purchases will be made from the allocated fund mentioned above.