

## EPA Wants You! Join the ***Emergency Response Laboratory Network*** and ***Water Laboratory Alliance*** (ERLN/WLA)

In an effort to further build capabilities to respond to environmental incidents, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched Phase II of the Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN). The ERLN is a national network of laboratories that can be ramped up as needed to support large scale environmental responses by providing consistent analytical capabilities, capacities, and quality data in a systematic, coordinated manner. The first phase of the ERLN focused membership recruitment on EPA Regional and programmatic laboratories and two State laboratories that are developing specialized analytical capabilities for environmental samples contaminated with chemical warfare agents.

Phase II focuses on recruitment of State, Federal, local, and commercial laboratories (Phase 1 focused recruitment on EPA programmatic and regional laboratories and 2 state laboratories developing specialized environmental analytical capability for chemical warfare agents). The recruitment effort is integrated with the launch of the first phase of EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance, which focuses on State and local drinking and waste water utility laboratories. Phase II of the ERLN also includes the launch of a new ERLN Web site ([www.epa.gov/erln](http://www.epa.gov/erln)), designed to enhance the experience for member labs and help potential members learn about ERLN tools and resources.

Potential member labs can learn more about the solicitation for membership (including downloading the application and reading about reimbursement opportunities) by visiting the following Web page: <http://www.epa.gov/oam/srpod/index.htm> (click on the Environmental Response Laboratory Network pre-solicitation notice posted 9/29/09 to find the solicitation). The solicitation includes laboratory requirements and an application package. Laboratories responding to the solicitation will have 90 days to respond from the date the solicitation is posted, however, the solicitation will appear approximately every 30 days until the 90 day period has ended. It's known as a "rolling" solicitation.

Please share information about the ERLN Web site with your laboratory contacts, and encourage them to join the network. If you have any questions, please contact Schatzi Fitz-James at 202-564-2521 or [Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov](mailto:Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov),

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