

## PROJECT UPDATES February 2016

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**Summary** – Since Governor Abbott signed HB 2 into law on June 22, 2015, project personnel at the Bureau and across UT-Austin have been working to create the foundation for a successful program. Effort thus far has focused on several main areas: acquisition, recruitment, partnerships, research, and outreach; some of which are described below in greater detail.

### Acquisition and Deployment:

- A contractor to manufacture and install the TexNet monitoring seismic stations has been selected through a rigorous and competitive public bid process. We are moving forward toward signing the contract and making a press release.
- Seismic station hardware and software, installation, maintenance, and telecommunications are being planned.
- Deployment of TexNet hardware will begin after the contract is signed, site reconnaissance is finalized and the new systems pass performance testing.
- Locations for permanent seismic stations have been provisionally identified, based on geographic location, soil and rock conditions, and the quality of previously collected data using the temporarily-installed EarthScope USArray.
- We are in the process of planning site visits and obtaining land use agreements for these locations.

### Recruitment:

- The Bureau continues execution of the TexNet-CISR recruitment plans. Recent efforts include:
  - o Top applicants are being interviewed for the position of TexNet Research Scientist Associate, providing technical support at UT and in the field for installation, maintenance, and management of TexNet hardware, along with seismic data monitoring and acquisition.
  - o Dr. Alexandros Savvaidis has officially started as Project Manager to oversee installation, deployment and operation of TexNet.
  - o Dr. Peter Hennings has officially started as Research Scientist to help create and run the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research (CISR) as Co-Principal Investigator.

### Partnerships:

- Critical to the success of TexNet-CISR is the establishment of an Industrial Associates (IA) program that provides a mechanism for which private industry can engage with expertise, data and financial support for research. Although contractual restrictions are not placed on the use of these industry-provided funds, we are actively soliciting guidance and technical collaboration from the member group to ensure that the research products are scientifically-leading and have appropriate practical value both to the State of Texas and industry. Nine companies have committed to joining and more are in the final stages of deliberation. An IA Formational Meeting will be held March 24<sup>th</sup> in Houston to welcome the inaugural participant companies and collect their technical feedback. Representatives from each TexNet-CISR research group and IA company will be in attendance to facilitate collaboration.
- We anticipate working with the Governor's Advisory Council once it has been named.

### Outreach:

- A media relations plan has been developed to react in an organized and appropriate fashion when the Bureau is contacted by media or other interested parties. A proactive communications plan is currently being designed to organize communication outputs from the TexNet-CISR team.
- Website status, needs, and goals have been initially assessed and planning is ongoing for public and IA access of TexNet-CISR research content.
- Team researchers presented their research and project plans at TIPRO Conference in San Antonio, the UT's Energy Institute's Energy Week, and with California oil and gas regulators during an education conference.