

NRC to Present Forum on Materials Research

"Driving Innovation Through Materials Research" will be the subject of the 1996 Spring Forum of the Solid State Sciences Committee of the National Research Council. The forum, to be held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., on February 12-13, will include presentations from research and policy leaders in government, industry, and universities on the changing landscape of materials research and development. Robert Walker (R-PA), chair of the House Science Committee, has been invited to present the keynote address.

Erich Bloch, Distinguished Fellow with the Council on Competitiveness, will open the plenary session with a discussion on reinventing R&D. Other presentations will focus on pressing R&D issues related to research universities, national laboratories, and industry. Agency representatives including Martha Krebs, Assistant Secretary for Energy Research in the Department of Energy, and Arati Prabhakar, Director of the National Institute of Science and Technology, will

discuss the R&D outlook from the federal agencies. A special session on wealth creation through materials R&D will feature presentations from William F. Brinkman (AT&T), Paul Horn (IBM), and others. The forum will also explore R&D opportunities presented by new photon and neutron facilities and by new scientific directions such as nanomaterials.

The forum is held approximately every two years to provide a platform for information exchange among representatives from the solid state science community, federal agencies, and elected officials. Further information may be obtained from Don Shaper, Board on Physics and Astronomy, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC 20418; (202) 334-3520; or from the World Wide Web: <http://www.nas.edu/bpa>.

President Announces Three DOE Labs "Essential" for Nuclear Security

On September 25, President Clinton signed a decision directive that retains the Department of Energy's three nuclear weapons laboratories: Lawrence Liver-

more National Laboratory, California; Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico; and Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico and California. Specifically, the President has determined that "the continued vitality of all three DOE nuclear weapons laboratories will be essential" for the purpose of ensuring confidence in the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile in the absence of nuclear testing. He also said that the laboratories provide essential services in fundamental science, environmental protection and cleanup, and industrial competitiveness.

The directive was signed on the basis of an Administration review of the laboratory systems of DOE, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The President directed this review on May 5, 1994.

Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary said, "While the Department [of Energy] will continue its aggressive reform efforts aimed at cutting costs at the labs—which will include downsizing and the possible closure of redundant or excessive capabilities—the President has made clear that

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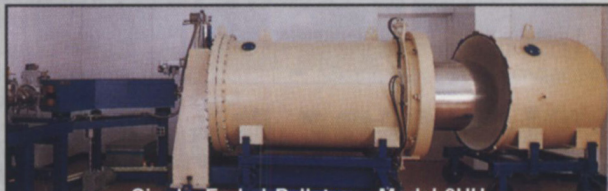
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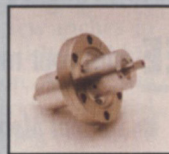
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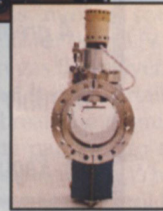
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this Administration opposes lab closures that would damage the Nation's capacity to deliver benefits to society through science and technology."

Considerable discussion had been made about the possible consolidation of nuclear weapons design activities at one laboratory through the transfer of nuclear weapons-related responsibilities from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Galvin Task Force on Alternative Futures for the DOE National Laboratories supported such a position in its February 1995 report. O'Leary initially favored the plan if implemented over a ten-year period rather than the five-year Galvin Task Force recommendation. O'Leary said, "We looked at the implications of removing one of our weapons labs from the stockpile stewardship program and the potential cost savings of consolidation. Our conclusion was that the savings from consolidation would be insignificant compared with the impact that such action could have over time on our ability to maintain confidence in the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile."

Copies of the National Science and Technology Council's *Interagency Federal Laboratory Review* may be obtained from NSTC, Office of Science and Technology

Policy, Old Executive Office Building, Room 435, Washington, DC 20500; fax (202) 456-6026.

Symposia to Address Undergraduate Education in Science

Education-reform leaders will convene with college administrators, faculty, and students at two regional meetings to continue discussions and develop strategies to promote changes in undergraduate education in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SME&T). The meetings are cosponsored by the National Research Council's Board on Engineering Education, Committee on Undergraduate Science Education, and Mathematical Sciences Education Board.

Input from attendees will contribute to a national dialogue on what each segment of the higher education community can do to improve and enrich SME&T education for undergraduates. These discussions will help the NRC undergraduate education initiatives to prepare recommendations for both disciplinary communities and to higher education community at-large. The symposia will also provide input to a National Science Foundation study aimed at providing a set of recommendations for improving

undergraduate education, *Review of Undergraduate Education*.

The symposia are scheduled for January 19, 1996 at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas and February 1, 1996 at Pomona College in Claremont, California. Preregistration is required; there is no registration fee. To register or to receive more information, contact NRC, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20418; phone (202) 334-1462, fax (202) 334-3159; or e-mail regsymp@nas.edu.

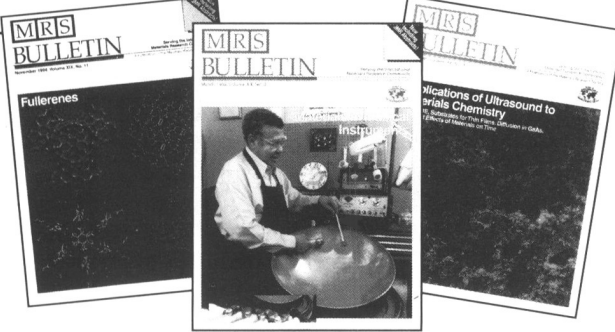
U.S. R&D Spending Continues Downward Slope

Total spending for U.S. research and development (R&D) is expected to reach \$171 billion by the end of 1995. The total is one percent more than the \$169 billion spent in 1994 but, after adjusting for expected inflation, the 1995 figure represents a two percent decrease in the nation's R&D investment. The figures come from "National Patterns of R&D Resources," a series of surveys sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and analyzed in a forthcoming report, "Science & Engineering Indicators—1995."

"The estimated reductions in 1995 R&D expenditures in the United States represent a continuation in the patterns of R&D leveling and decline that have developed during the past decade," said John E. Jankowski Jr., director of research and development statistics in NSF's Division of Science Resources Studies (SRS).

The full set of R&D statistics is available electronically and is analyzed in a National Science Board report scheduled for release in February 1996.

For a free copy of the data brief, contact the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 965, Arlington, VA 22230; phone (703) 306-1773; or e-mail databrief@nsf.gov. □




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