

**Hearings Held on Science Policy Renewal Act**

On February 3, 1994, the Science Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee held a hearing on H.R.3476, the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act Amendments. The bill was introduced last November by Science Subcommittee Chair Rick Boucher (D-VA); Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY, ranking minority member of the subcommittee; and George Brown (D-CA), chair of the full committee.

The bill would centralize decisions about federal science and technology research. It codifies the Cabinet-level National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) established by Executive Order last November. NSTC replaces FCCSET and is intended to coordinate and integrate science, space, and technology policies throughout the federal government. NSTC will be responsible for developing national goals for federal science and technology investments and for reviewing

federal spending on research and development.\*

Another provision requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to work closely with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during budget development. The bill further requires the director of OMB to obtain written concurrence from the director of OSTP that federal R&D budgets conform to the President's overall science and technology priorities before OMB can transmit budget determinations to federal departments and agencies. It also elevates the OSTP director to Cabinet-level status. The Clinton administration objects to the concurrence requirement.

H.R. 3476 establishes several groups to advise the President on science and technology policy. It creates the National Sciences and Technologies Assessment Panel to replace the existing National Critical Technologies Panel. It codifies the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST), which was established by Executive Order.\*

Finally, the legislation replaces the Critical Technologies Institute with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), and it transfers the new Institute from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to OSTP. STPI would provide analytical and technical support to OSTP and NSTC. The administration supports the name change but prefers that administrative responsibility remain with NSF.

\*For more information about NSTC and PCAST, see the January 1994 MRS Bulletin, p. 9.)

**Proposed Federal Budget Targets R&D with Commercial Potential**

The Clinton administration's fiscal year 1995 budget reflects its efforts to direct federal science and technology spending away from space, defense, and basic research and toward the development of technologies to enhance U.S. industrial competitiveness. The largest increases for FY 1995, which begins October 1, target programs that focus on R&D with potential commercial applications.

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"Our goal in the budget...is to thoughtfully harness science and technology towards the end of economic recovery in the achievement of national objectives in order to improve our competitiveness, our security, and our...quality of life," said OSTP Director John Gibbons during a White House briefing on the budget.

The overall FY 1995 request for science and technology is \$71 billion, up from the \$68.5 billion authorized for 1994. (These figures exclude funds for R&D facilities, the space shuttle, and several other existing science programs.) Federal applied civilian R&D would increase from \$17.8 billion to \$18.6 billion for FY 1995. Basic civilian R&D would grow from \$12.6 billion in FY 1994 to \$12.9 billion. But, just as in the FY 1994 budget, civilian R&D gets 47% of the R&D pie, and defense the rest.

Program increases, which range between 7 and 60%, are planned for technology transfer programs at eight agencies, and for R&D at the National Institute of

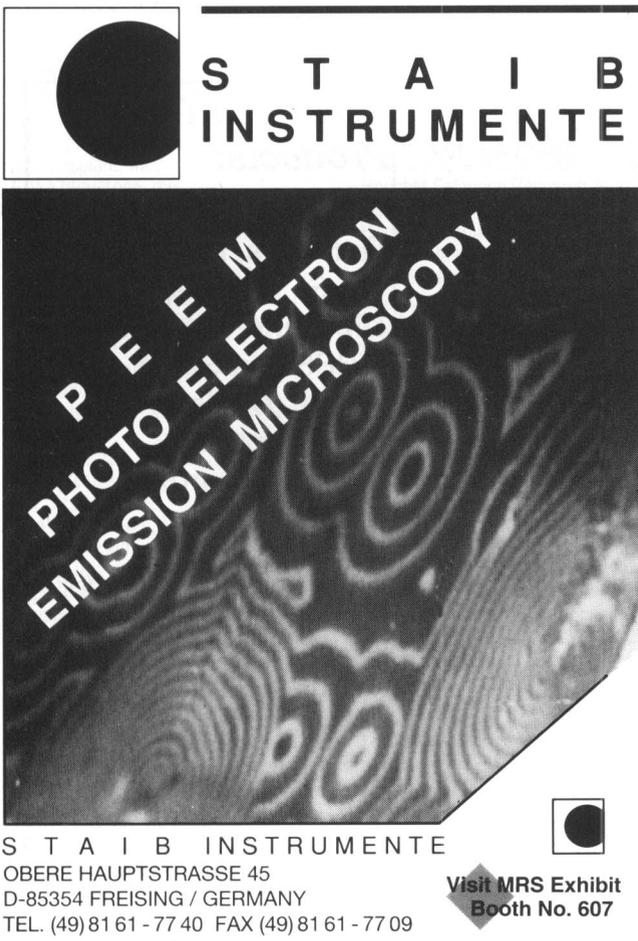
Standards and Technology (NIST), ARPA dual-use technology, manufacturing technology/extension, national information infrastructure, transportation research, and NASA's new technology investments.

The administration is proposing to fund 3,200 Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), 16% more than Congress funded in FY 1994.

NIST and the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) will be big winners if the President's budget passes. Of the \$935 million slated for NIST (a 79% increase), some \$451 million would go to the ATP, \$61 million to Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (double the FY 1994 authorization), \$100 million to renovate NIST facilities. Within the \$316 million slated for basic research, physics programs would grow 3.1% to \$27.5 million and materials science and engineering would receive \$61.7 million, an increase of about 42.5%. (Note: percentage increases have not been adjusted for inflation.)

The Department of Energy's budget request, \$18.5 billion, reflects a 2.7% decrease from FY 1994. Most of this can be attributed to the \$460 million reduction because of the termination of the SSC. Funds would be shifted from defense programs to environmental restoration and energy resources, particularly efficiency and renewables, and to new energy research facilities or expansions of existing projects. \$40 million is proposed to begin construction of the Advanced Neutron Source at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; \$46 million is proposed for the B-meson research facility at Stanford University. The fusion energy proposal is up 8.5% to \$372.6 million, with \$70 million slated to fund the Tokamak Physics Experiment at Princeton University. (See related article in Research/Researchers.)

Funding for technology transfer at the national laboratories would increase by 36.5% to \$53.5 million, but some science and technology programs would be cut.



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Basic energy sciences would go down 6.2% to \$741.3 million, and nuclear physics would also go down 13.7% to \$300.8 million. Part of this is due to the completion of some construction and other close-outs.

The Clinton administration has requested a 6% increase for the National Science Foundation, or \$182.2 million for FY 1995. NSF's budget requests are linked directly to the administration's national priorities in global change research (up 46.2%); high-performance computing and communication (up 23.1%); advanced manufacturing technology; and science, math, engineering, and technology education.

A 5.3% increase (\$9.37 million) is being requested to bring the materials research subactivity budget to \$185.46 million for FY 1995. The allocation is as follows: Materials research project support up 7.8% to \$95.27 million; science and engineering centers up 0.9% to \$55.31 million; and national facilities and instrumentation up 6.1% to \$34.88 million.

### NAS/NRC Office for Central Europe and Eurasia Announces Grant Programs

Funding opportunities for project development and research visits are available under two programs of the Office for Central Europe and Eurasia (CEE) of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council. The Collaboration in Basic Science and Engineering (COBASE) program provides funds to support collaborative research involving U.S. scientists and their colleagues in the former Soviet Union and Central/Eastern Europe. The Radioactive Waste Management program provides grants to allow U.S. scientists to host colleagues from the former Soviet Union.

The COBASE program offers short-term support (\$2,000 to \$2,200) for U.S. specialists who wish to host or visit CEE for former Soviet Union (FSU) colleagues for two week in order to prepare a collaborative research proposal for submission

to the NSF or other funding organizations. Long-term grants (\$3,600 to \$12,000) will support U.S. specialists who wish to host or visit CEE or FSU colleagues for one to six months. Upcoming deadlines for the COBASE program are June 24 and December 9, 1994.

The Radioactive Waste Management Program offers a \$16,000 to \$30,000 grant level to support U.S. specialists who wish to host FSU colleagues for six to twelve months for research on managing radioactive waste. Upcoming deadlines for this program are March 30 and September 30, 1994.

For information, contact:  
Office for Central Europe and Eurasia  
National Academy of Sciences  
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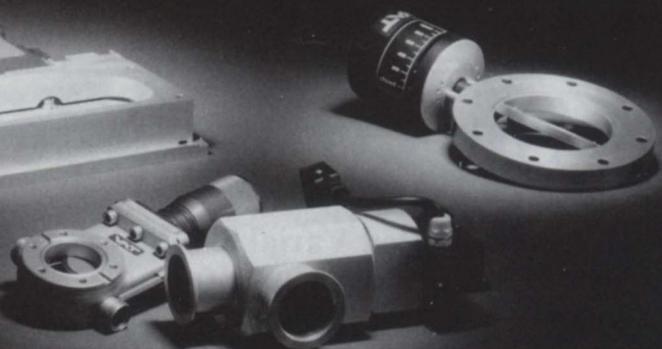
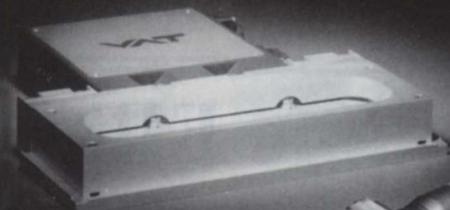
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