RESEARCH FACILIT

Research Support Programs

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research has announced an expansion of its support for research projects in the area of applied mathematics. This program, which will emphasize both the traditional and modern aspects of applied mathematics, will be a part of the program of the Directorate of Mathematical Sciences of AFOSR. It is the hope of the Air Force that the added support will help fill the increasing need for mathematical methods to be used in solving problems in the physical and engineering sciences. The program is expected to start in the fall of 1961. Interested applied mathematicians are encouraged to submit proposals for support under this program to the Director of Mathematical Sciences, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Washington 25, D. C.

The establishment of the Walter F. Joyce Foundation, a nonprofit organization for the study of geophysical and geochemical phenomena, has been announced by the Apparatus Division of Texas Instruments Inc. The Foundation's initial grant of approximately $60 000 has been made to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a study of phenomena associated with radon gas to be carried out under the direction of Robley D. Evans of MIT's Physics Department. Radon is the only naturally occurring, long-lived, chemically inert, radioactive gas which is continuously generated and is always present in all rocks and soils. Field sampling, analysis of soil gas and air, and interpretation of experimental results will be carried out under the MIT program.

Research Centers

Federal contract research centers administered by educational institutions reported expenditures of $289.1 million for separately budgeted research and development during fiscal year 1958, according to a recent report by the National Science Foundation. This was more than twice the figure reported for 1954, the period covered by the last such study. In addition, the amount spent in 1958 represents 39 percent of all R & D expenditures of colleges and universities during that year, whereas in 1954 the comparable figure was only 32 percent. Of the 1958 total, $285.3 million was received from federal sources and $3.8 million from nonfederal sources. Most of the money was spent on work in engineering ($117.1 million) and the physical sciences ($157.7 million). About one quarter of the total ($70 million) was reportedly spent for basic research.

The 28 federal contract research centers are administered by 18 universities, and are an outgrowth of