D PROGRAMS

research units established by the government during World War II. In 1958, it was reported that they employed a total of 8428 scientists and engineers.

New York University plans during the next few years to establish a major scientific center, designed to handle contract research, on a 1000-acre tract in Sterling Forest, near Tuxedo Park, N. Y., about 35 miles northwest of New York City. Emphasis will be placed on research in physics, chemistry, geology, botany, engineering, and medicine. The first laboratories will be started in the spring, and within two or three years the University hopes to set up a nuclear research center. The entire project is expected to cost about $40 million over the next ten years. The tract will be known as University Valley and will also include facilities for graduate study.

Northrop Corporation's Norair Division recently dedicated a new Advanced Research Center at Hawthorne, Calif. Included in the center are laboratories for space propulsion and power, physics, planetary physics and chemistry, bioastronautics, plasma dynamics, and nuclear science. Among the items of equipment which have been installed are two plasma tunnels, one for magnetogasdynamics and one for cryogenic research, a liquid-helium cryostat for studies at temperatures down to — 460° F, and a zero gravity tower.

Equipment

A prototype nuclear reactor system designed to generate auxiliary electric power in the kilowatt range for use in space probes is reported to have successfully completed operational ground tests. Known as the "SNAP Experimental Reactor", it is about the size of a five-gallon can and weighs about 250 pounds. Fueled with enriched uranium, it is intended for use with thermoelectric converters or miniature turbine generators. The prototype model produces 50 kilowatts of heat at a coolant outlet temperature of 1200°F. It was developed for the Atomic Energy Commission by Atomics International, a division of North American Aviation, Inc.

A 3000-kw open-pool reactor will be built for the state of Rhode Island by the General Electric Company at a cost of $526 500. Scheduled to begin operation early next year, it will be operated by the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission and will be located at Fort Kearney, a former Army coast artillery base on Narragansett Bay. It will be used in research sponsored by the state, as well as for research and training programs conducted by the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, and Providence College.