

arrangement were voiced by the Justice Department earlier this year. It now appears that such concerns will not impede the group. While the Justice Department plans to evaluate particular research projects for possible antitrust law violations, it has agreed, in principle, to the formation of such a consortium. With 12 companies signed up and an initial estimated annual budget of \$75 million, Inman is in the process of getting the research operation underway.

Inman described having received a "flood" of applications for the 250-260 scientific positions to be filled by the beginning of next year. The University of Texas, Austin, is putting up the funds to build a new lab for the scientists, scheduled to be completed in 18 months to a year, and will lease land held by the university to the consortium for this facility. Meanwhile, the university will provide interim housing for the research team beginning 1 August.

The consortium plans research programs in four main areas of computer technology:

- ▶ advanced computer architecture, including artificial intelligence and parallel architecture
- ▶ computer packaging, including investigating new technologies for chip fabrication
- ▶ software technology, including computer-assisted programming and new ways to exploit circuitry
- ▶ computer-aided design and computer-assisted electronics manufacture.

The twelve member companies are: Advanced Micro Devices, Allied Corp, Control Data Corp, Digital Equipment Corp, Harris Corp, Honeywell Inc, Mostek, National Semiconductor, NCR, Sperry Rand Corp, and RCA. In exchange for their support, each member company will get one seat on the Board of Directors and be kept informed about the new technology coming out of the labs. Ultimately, Inman said, they hope to develop the results commercially and, via licensing arrangements, to disburse the profits among the twelve companies and back into the consortium.

Inman, who told us he hopes to have research underway by 1 January, said that his highest priority now is finding a chief scientist to head the research operation. —JC

OSA and IEEE start Journal of Lightwave Technology

The Optical Society of America and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers have started the *Journal of Lightwave Technology*. It will cover all aspects of guided wave technology from basic research to applications: optical

fibers and fabrication, transmission lines and fiber-optic components, sensors, and planar waveguides and devices. IEEE and OSA intend the journal to be the principal forum for describing lightwave technology. They are referring articles on it submitted to their other journals to the new one.

Thomas Giallorenzi (Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC) is the editor. The journal will be published quarterly during 1983 and bimonthly thereafter, at IEEE publications facilities. It is to include about 600 pages this year. Subscriptions, \$8 per year for members of OSA and IEEE and \$67 for others, can be ordered from either society.

American Astronomical Society elects Schmidt and Cowley

Maarten Schmidt is the new president-elect of the American Astronomical Society. He will succeed the current president, Arthur D. Code (University of Wisconsin), for a two-year term beginning in June 1984. Anne P. Cowley is the new vice-president. Serving a two-year term that began June 1983, she joins the Society's other vice-president, Michael J. S. Belton (Kitt Peak National Observatory).

Schmidt was educated at the University of Groningen (BSc 1949) and the University of Leiden (PhD 1956). He was scientific officer at the Leiden Observatory until 1959, when he came to Caltech to become associate professor of astronomy and member of the staff of the Hale Observatory. He has been professor since 1964. He was director of the Observatory from 1978 to 1980, chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy at Caltech between 1972 and 1975 and member of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory between 1970 and 1978. His research has concerned the struc-

ture, dynamics and evolution of the galaxy; radio astronomy and red shifts; and cosmic distribution of quasars.

Cowley studied at Wellesley (BA 1959) and the University of Michigan (MA 1961 and PhD in astronomy 1963). From 1963 to 1968 she was associate astronomer at the Yerkes Observatory. From 1968 until this spring she was at the University of Michigan, where she most recently worked as a research scientist. She is now professor of astronomy at Arizona State University at Tempe. She has done research on stellar spectroscopy and x-ray sources.

Also elected were Arlo Landolt (Louisiana State University) to another term as secretary of the Society and three new councilors: Peter S. Conti (University of Colorado), Morton S. Roberts (National Radio Astronomy Observatory) and Sidney C. Wolfe (University of Hawaii).

Society of Physics Students reelects Eidson president

The Society of Physics Students elected William W. Eidson, professor of physics at Drexel University, to his second two-year term as president of the SPS Council. Also reelected to the Council were Bernard D. Kern (University of Kentucky) and George K. Miner (University of Dayton). Two new councilors are Robert N. Winter (Shippensburg State College) and William S. Bickel (University of Arizona). Raymond F. Askew (Auburn University) has been appointed to a three-year term as at-large member of the Executive Committee of the Council.

White is new president of Engineering Academy

A widely known Washington hand for the past two decades, Robert M. White, the first head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has been chosen president of the National Academy of Engineering. His term began 1 July when he left the presidency of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, a consortium of 50 universities that operates the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. White's election last March as NAE president was unopposed. As the sixth president of the 19-year-old NAE, White succeeds Courtland D. Perkins, who had been asked by the NAE council to stay on another year after his term expired in 1982 while the search committee continued its work.

Along with White's election, NAE announced it had re-elected three members of its council. They are Solomon J. Buchsbaum, executive vice

SCHMIDT

