to the Chicago Operations Office of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, which administers the program. A preponderance of the contracts, which are negotiated with universities, colleges, research institutions, and laboratories throughout the country, are unclassified and are aimed to support fundamental research in nuclear science.

The pattern of unclassified basic research programs carried out under contract has been modified, according to the Commission, in order to bring these long-term studies in the physical sciences into closer association with program problems of the entire atomic energy project. Working through scientists who have been investigated and cleared, the Commission has kept them informed of research work in AEC laboratories and has encouraged them to use this information as guidance in selecting areas for their own research and in giving direction to other unclassified work in their institutions. Scientists having security clearance have been asked to submit proposals for research when they felt their contribution to the program needed financial support.

The Commission has also announced that it plans to decrease its general fellowship program, and eventually to liquidate it, except in some specialized fields. The AEC recognizes the great need for this type of training, according to a statement in its tenth semiannual report to the Congress (U. S. Government Printing Office, July, 1951. $0.35), but feels that the type of training it previously sponsored might best be administered by an organization such as the National Science Foundation.

Astrophysics and Astronomy

ONR Basic Research Contracts Available

The Office of Naval Research has announced that it again intends to make available limited funds for the support of pure research in astronomy and astrophysics for the year June 1952–June 1953. At the request of ONR, the National Research Council has appointed an advisory committee of astronomers to recommend specific projects for support by ONR. The Committee has suggested that the average cost per project should be about $3,000, with a maximum not appreciably in excess of $5,000. It is understood that if a proposal is selected for support by ONR, negotiations will be entered into for a contract between the U. S. Navy and the institution at which the research will be conducted. The committee has recommended that for these relatively small contracts the maximum overhead charges should not be in excess of 10 percent, but all legitimate expenses in connection with the project will be chargeable to the contract. Applications for the support of projects to be considered this winter should be received at the Office of Naval Research *on or before December 10, 1951*. These should be addressed to Chief of Naval Research, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: Dr. Mina Rees, Director, Mathematical Sciences Division. Each applicant is requested to submit *ten* copies of all application material (legible carbon copies on thin paper acceptable). Each application should contain a full description of the project, accompanied by a cost breakdown and, if possible, a letter of approval from the institution(s) at which the work will be performed. Letters of recommendation will be helpful to the members of the Advisory Committee in making their appraisal and should be sent by the writer directly to the above address, also by December 10th.

Under the suggested arrangements, the ONR announcement stated, it will not be possible to pay for the cost of publication of the results of the research. It is, however, understood that research results may be published freely through the usual channels.

Scientific Equipment

SAMA Reports Increase in Sales

Sale of industrial and laboratory instruments and apparatus for the first half of 1951 was 44.5 percent over the corresponding period a year ago, according to figures released by the Scientific Apparatus Makers Association, the industry's national organization. Sales reported for the first two quarters totaled $90,113,292, according to Kenneth Andersen, executive vice president of the Association. Figures are for the Laboratory Apparatus, Laboratory Equipment, Optical, and Industrial Instrument Sections of SAMA, he said, and do not include the Recorder-Controller Section whose companies do not report sales figures, nor the Nautical, Aeronautical, and Military Section whose members cannot report them. Increase in sales is general throughout the industry, according to Andersen, and while part of it is accounted for by the spurt in production brought about by the Korean War and rearmament program, he pointed out that a large percentage of the increase comes from growing emphasis on research and development and on growing use of instrumentation in industry.

Diet of Scientists

The Science Council of Japan

The president of the Science Council of Japan, Naoto Kameyama, formerly dean of engineering at Tokyo University and director of the University Institute of Science and Technology, has been a recent visitor in the United States, according to information from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Kameyama, who came to this country to attend the International Congress on Pure and Applied Chemistry in New York last month, also compared notes on problems of national science agency operation with NSF director Alan T. Waterman and with the Foundation's assistant director, Harry C. Kelley, who was formerly in charge of scientific matters for the occupying powers in Japan.

Only slightly older than the U. S. National Science Foundation, the Science Council of Japan was established by Japanese scientists early in 1949 as part of the nation's reconstruction program. At the close of the war, Japanese scientists, seriously depressed by the war's economic aftermath, conceived the idea of or-