In the Laboratories

■ The Du Pont Company has announced that its new isocyanates plant at Deepwater Point, N.J., is now in production. The facility can produce 25 million pounds of organic isocyanates a year. These chemicals, used in combination with other compounds, form rubberlike or plasticlike materials with potentially wide use in such fields as building, transportation, upholstery, and insulation.

■ The Vitro Corporation of America, New York, has announced that it has obtained a preliminary study contract from the Government of India for a large heavy water and nitrogen fertilizer plant to be built in the Bhakra-Nangal area of North India on the Sutlej River. This is the corporation's first foreign nuclear contract.

■ Corning Glass Works has announced the establishment of two new departments in its Research and Development Division. Raymond O. Voss has been appointed manager of the newly created ceramic research department, which will be devoted to the development of new ceramic materials.

Jean P. Williams has been named manager of the new technical services department. Primary responsibility of this group will be analysis and interpretation of the physical and chemical characteristics of glass and its ingredients.

■ The Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation of Los Angeles, Calif., has announced plans for the erection of an electronics manufacturing plant in Littleton, Colo., near Denver. The firm has purchased a 640-acre tract on which ground will be broken in May or June for the first structure of 172,000 square feet. The new facility, if utilized to full capacity, will accommodate 1500 employees.

Initially the Colorado factory will produce electronic systems for the military, such as fire control systems for military aircraft, radar systems, electronic computers, or advanced communications equipment. Later, the company also expects to produce automation and data processing equipment for commercial clients.

■ A reactor development laboratory has been completed at Battelle Institute, Columbus, Ohio. The laboratory is the second major unit in the institute's new Atomic Energy Center and is the first private installation of its kind available for direct research on atomic power plants.

The new unit is a critical assembly laboratory that will be used to study the design and construction of reactors for electrical power plants. It will be used also for research on atomic engines, for aircraft, ships, and other means of aerial, land, and water transport. The facility is expected to be particularly useful to industry in making full-scale models of experimental reactor designs.

■ Formation of the Ultrasonic Manufacturers Association has been announced. Representatives of 22 manufacturers in this new field organized the association to promote dissemination of sound and accurate information about ultrasonic equipment and its applications.

UMA will assist the industry to adopt ethical practices in sales, publicity, and advertising. In addition, UMA will aid its members to secure clear rulings from Government agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission. Officers of the Association are: pres., W. C. Potthoff of Aeroprojects, Inc.; v. pres., Stanley R. Rich of the General Ultrasonics Company; sec., Norman Branson of Branson Instruments, Inc., and treas., Jack Welch of the Sheffield Corporation.

■ Simplified procedures for the distribution of stable isotopes and rare earths produced by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission have been announced. Under the revised procedures, neither domestic nor foreign applicants will be required to file and obtain commission approval of applications before purchasing the materials. Requests and purchase orders will be negotiated directly by the user and the AEC facility supplying the materials.

Electromagnetically concentrated stable isotopes will be available for sale to domestic users; they were previously available only on a loan basis. Reports of results of experiments using the materials will not be required from either U.S. or foreign applicants.

The AEC will establish annual or special quotas of the total quantity of each item to be distributed and the maximum amount that will be available to any one person, firm, or institution without special approval. Samples of rare and expensive items may be loaned, provided that they will not be diluted or contaminated during use. The AEC will distribute only those materials that are not available commercially, unless the applicant certifies that the commercial product does not meet the purity or quantity specifications required for his research.

Stable isotopes currently available include deuterium, helium-3, boron-10 and 11, oxygen-18, argon-38, and the electromagnetically concentrated isotopes of approximately 80 elements. The rare earths included in the distribution program are those in the Lanthanide Series. Other items may be added to the list as they become available.

Miscellaneous

■ U.S. Civil Service Commission has announced that there is an urgent need for chemists, mathematicians, metallurgists, physicists, and electronic scientists in the Washington, D.C., area. Vacancies are in various Federal agencies and pay salaries ranging from $4345 to $11,610 a year. Further information and application forms may be obtained at many post offices throughout the country, or by writing to the U.S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D.C. Applicants should ask for announcement No. 46(B).

■ In revising their book *Punched Cards: Their Application to Science and Industry,* the editors are anxious to provide a thorough bibliography of papers and publications on the development and use of mechanical and electronic aids to documentation. Please send reprints or bibliographic references to Mr. James W. Perry, Center for Documentation and Communication Research, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, Cleveland 6, Ohio. If a research worker's use of punched cards or similar devices has not been written up previously, he may wish to prepare a brief account for inclusion in the forthcoming second edition of this book.

■ A review of the existing knowledge of artificial rainmaking possibilities, experiments, and techniques is contained in a new report by a group from the Commission for Aerology of the World Meteorological Organization: F. H. Ludlam (United Kingdom), chairman, L. Dufour (Belgium), Ferguson Hall (United States), and E. J. Smith (Australia). *WMO Technical Note No. 13, Artificial Control of Clouds and Hydrometeors,* which was published recently in Geneva, takes the view that, although small-scale experiments in cloud seeding have led to precipitation, at least several more years of investigation are required for a reliable assessment of the economic potential. In their conclusion the authors point out that a net increase of precipitation has not been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt in any seeding operations yet described in the scientific literature and in other publications, and that at least most of the claims made in newspapers have not had adequate foundation.

■ The Office of Ordnance Research has initiated an application form for use in submitting proposals for research funds. Persons who wish to undertake projects in basic ordnance research may obtain these applications by requesting Form CS-51 from the Office of Ordnance Research, U. S. Army, Box CM, Duke Station, Durham, N.C.