liver transplant patients (*Science*, 1 July 1983, p. 40). Committee sources say that pressure for revival of the proposal to change the law is building. Testimonials from physicians who endorse the drug's efficacy and appeals from patients who ask that Medicare and Medicaid pay for the drug are rolling in. It is conceiveable that in the full committee vote on the bill, scheduled for 25 March, or in later action, cyclosporine could suppress the congressional rejection syndrome.

—JOHN WALSH

West Germany Plans Major Technology Investment

Following the examples set by Britain, France, and, most recently the commission of the European Economic Community in Brussels, the West German government has approved a $1.2-billion, 5-year plan to boost research and development in microelectronics, advanced computers, and communications technologies.

Announcing the plan in Bonn, the West German minister for research and technology, Heinz Riesenhüber, said that several of Germany's major electronics companies had agreed to cooperate with the government program, adding funds of their own to turn research results into commercial products. Riesenhüber added that he is also taking various steps to increase contacts between federal ministries, industry, and universities.

The plan includes a number of indirect measures which are aimed at making the German computer industry more competitive with those in Japan and the United States. These include the development of a long-term communications strategy, moves to encourage the creation of venture capital, and additional training places in a range of high technology fields.

Government officials in Bonn say that the development of information technology is now their "highest priority" in the research field. Of the total amount of money being made available by the federal government, almost $200 million will be spent on research into microchip memories, and $240 million on advanced computer systems.

The German government's decision comes soon after it had lifted previous reservations and agreed to support a 5-year, $1.5-billion program of research into the same type of areas financed jointly by the EEC in Brussels and 12 major European electronics companies—the European Strategic Program for Research and Development in Information Technology (16 March, p. 1159).

In addition Siemens, one of the world's largest manufacturers of electronics components and whose annual R & D budget is almost $1.4 billion, has recently opened a basic research laboratory near its headquarters in Munich with two other major companies—Bull of France and International Computers Ltd. of Britain.

Last week, the 12 companies involved in the European strategic program took a step further toward the creation of an integrated European marketplace, considered one of the main long-term goals of the research program, by agreeing to accept common standards for data transmissions in order to allow their hardware to communicate more easily.

The companies have asked the ten member countries of the EEC to endorse the standards, which they intend to introduce next year, and to agree that they will be used as the basis of all future government purchases.—DAVID DICKSON

Delaware Bay on the Rebound

In contrast to the documented decline of many American estuaries, a recent progress report* on Delaware Bay is cautiously upbeat. By the common indicators, the Delaware River and its bay have made a comeback from seriously polluted conditions.

One of the findings of the 3-year study, for example, is that a marked increase in dissolved oxygen levels has occurred in the upper estuary at Philadelphia, which was the most heavily polluted area of the system. Credit for the turnaround is accorded a cleanup effort extending over three decades in which federal, state, and local authorities cooperated. The success is mainly attributed to the obvious—improved sewage treatment plants and tougher controls on industrial effluents.

The Delaware also enjoys some natural advantages that facilitated recovery. Delaware Bay differs hydrographically from the neighboring and larger Chesapeake Bay which is currently considered to be on the environmental degradation serious list. The Chesapeake has a deep channel running for much of its length, contributing to temperature stratification of bay waters and relatively slow flushing. The resulting buildup of phosphorus and nitrogen nutrients increases algal production that leads to oxygen depletion and the decline of aquatic vegetation and fauna. Delaware Bay is relatively shallow and flushes itself in about 100 days, an estimated three to four times faster than the Chesapeake.

Major impetus for the cleanup in the 1970's has come from the interstate Delaware River Basin Commission with federal support, particularly funding for sewer treatment facilities under the Clean Water Act passed in the early 1970's.

Although the estuary has evidently rallied, the new study, carried out by researchers of the Delaware and New Jersey Sea Grant programs, emphasizes that all the problems are not yet solved nor are all the questions about the estuary answered. Jonathan H. Sharp, the University of Delaware oceanographer who managed the study, notes, for example, that the reasons for the sharp declines in fisheries yields in the bay since the turn of the century are not fully understood. It has been assumed that overfishing and a decline in water quality were to blame. But Sharp says that, while fish population overall now seems to be steady, some important species continue to decline and it is necessary to seek a better understanding of the relation of water quality to fisheries.

Among the other phenomena which the report notes need watching are the continued high nutrient levels in the estuary and the buildup of trace metals in bay sediments and the contamination of tributaries with toxic organic compounds. So, while the bay is on the rebound, close vigilance, continued research, and careful management are prescribed.—JOHN WALSH

**The Delaware Estuary.* Study sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Delaware River and Bay Authority.