Nuclear Security Administration, chief scientist Maureen McCarthy has asked the department's 17 national laboratories to "compile a list of their top five or 10 areas of expertise." If the labs can't "respond to this war on terrorism, we probably shouldn't be in business," she says, adding that the attacks have given the labs "a unifying sense of mission" unseen since the end of the Cold War.

At the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is "accelerating" work on smallpox vaccines and drugs, says director Anthony Fauci (*Science*, 19 October, p. 498). It is launching studies to see if a five- or 10-fold dilution of the country's limited supply of smallpox vaccine would still raise a robust immune response. The institute has also ramped up efforts to test a new anthrax vaccine in clinical trials. "We have a meeting every morning on these issues," says Fauci.

NSF officials are already seeing the preliminary results of some of nearly two dozen grants of $15,000 to $40,000 each the agency made soon after the 11 September attacks. Video of a University of South Florida robot probing the smoking Trade Center ruins, for instance, was featured at the 11 October meeting of the National Science Board, which oversees the agency. NSF-funded engineering studies of the Trade Center collapses, including steel analysis conducted by Abolhassan Astaneh-Asl and colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley, will be discussed at a mid-December workshop in New York City. And this week, Tom Smith and Ken Rasinski of the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center released the preliminary results of an agency-funded, nationwide psychological survey that compared how Americans responded to the 11 September attacks and the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In general, the survey of 2100 people found that people were angrier, but less psychologically shaken, by the terrorist assaults than by the president's death.

Deciding where such studies might fit into a comprehensive antiterrorism research agenda will be the job of an NAS task force expected to issue its first findings by next March. NAS officials expect to recruit up to 20 panelists for the study, to be led by biologist Richard Klausner, former head of the National Cancer Institute, and Lewis Branscomb, a science policy expert at Harvard University. The effort is expected to become a major conduit for advice from the academic community to the White House on how scientists might contribute to the global battle against terror.

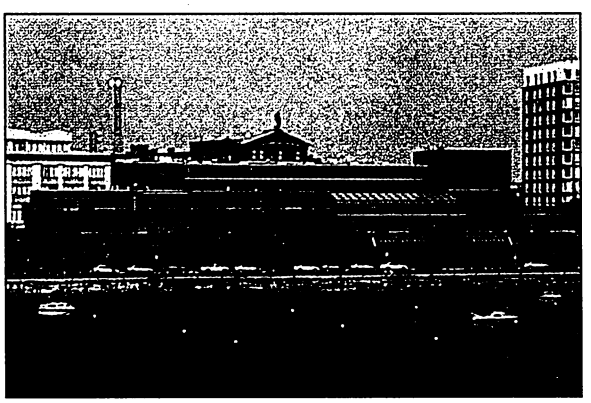
–DAVID MALAKOFF AND ROBERT KOENIG

With reporting by Jocelyn Kaiser.

UNIVERSITIES

Family Moves to Give Institute to Harvard

BOSTON—A small but prestigious institute on the banks of the Charles River, the legacy of Polaroid founder Edwin Land, may soon become part of Harvard University. The Land family has offered the Rowland Institute for Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the university as a gift, according to several sources familiar with the negotiations. If the deal pans out, the institute —and its endowment—will be incorporated into Harvard's arts and sciences program. The offer is a coup for the university, given its severe shortage of space and the prime location of the institute just a few kilometers from the main campus. But the change could spell the demise of the institute's novel line of basic research.



Harvard bound? Researchers worry that the unique Rowland Institute will lose its identity if it is transferred to Harvard.

Land, inventor of instant photography, set up the institute in 1980 to conduct a wide range of basic research in physics, chemistry, and biology. Rowland has an annual budget of $7.5 million, more than two dozen researchers, and an endowment between $50 million and $100 million, according to Michael Burns, the institute's research director. Housed in a 10,000-square-meter building, the institute employs about 70 people. Sources close to the talks say that members of the Land family—who declined to discuss the issue—have decided the institute is too expensive to maintain.

The proposed merger is "an imaginative concept from the Rowland, which has an impressive history of fostering new cross-disciplinary research," says Jeremy Knowles, dean of Harvard's faculty of arts and sciences. Knowles adds that the merger could strengthen the Rowland Institute while providing "new opportunities for scientific research and teaching at Harvard." But the fate of Rowland's researchers and their work is unclear. "We have absolutely no idea what's going on," says institute microbiologist Diane Schaak. "We're not very happy, and we worry about the big machinery of Harvard taking over."

A team of Harvard researchers recently reviewed the institute. The Rowland scientists "are eclectic and interested in high-risk and high-return research," says Harvard biologist Markus Meister, who participated. The team recently submitted a paper to Knowles on the institute's future should Harvard assume control. One suggestion was to convert it to the neuroscience center now in the planning stage (*Science*, 24 August, p. 1419). Meister, who declined to discuss the report in detail, concedes that the Charles River facility "is not the ideal location," as the goal of the neuroscience center is to encourage interdisciplinary work among Harvard departments.

The Land family is reportedly eager to complete the deal soon, and Knowles says that both sides will work on the details in the coming weeks. As for the Rowland researchers, "we all have our CVs ready," says Schaak.

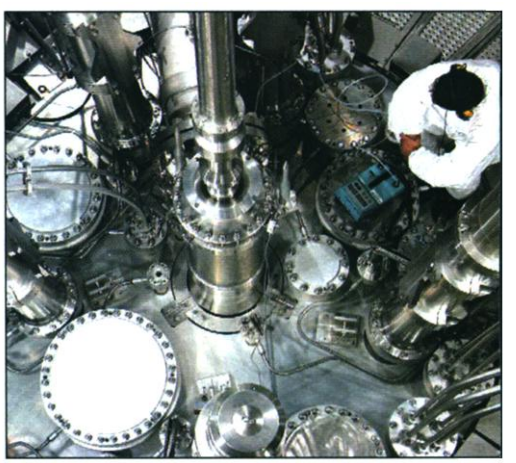
–ANDREW LAWLER

NEUTRON SOURCES

Compromise Lifts Hopes For German Reactor

BERLIN—A reactor designed to produce neutrons for research cleared a political log-jam this week and moved one step closer to beginning operations. Feuding politicians said they had reached a compromise that could allow researchers to power up the FRM-II facility in Garching, outside Munich, although it will likely be several months before studies can begin. The com-

CREDITS: (TOP TO BOTTOM) ROWLAND INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE; FRM-II



Ready to go. The long-delayed FRM-II reactor may finally get the green light.

promise is welcome news to scientists who had worried that the reactor might lie dormant until after Germany's national elections in September 2002.

Construction of the $500 million FRM-II neutron source was completed on schedule this summer. But the federal government in Berlin, led by a coalition of Social Democrats and the Green Party—a vocal opponent of nuclear energy—has delayed giving the reactor final permission to start. The reason: The reactor will use highly enriched uranium fuel, a potential ingredient in nuclear weapons. The federal government announced in March that it wanted the reactor to switch to medium-enriched uranium by 2006 (*Science*, 30 March, p. 2527), but FRM-II researchers and the Bavarian state ministry of science said such a rapid switch was technically infeasible, leading to a deadlock.

Now the two sides have reached a compromise. On 17 October, Wolf-Michael Catenhusen, the federal government's parliamentary secretary for research and education, and Bavaria's science minister, Hans Zehetmair, agreed that the reactor would switch to medium-enriched uranium after 10 years. The 10-year timetable is realistic, says physicist Winfried Petry of Technical University in Munich, and the agreement signals that "there is a political will to take the thing into operation."

The reactor still faces one more hurdle, however: The environment minister, Jürgen Trittin, a member of the Green Party, must give his approval. Trittin told *Science* this week that he will do so as soon as FRM-II officials present an acceptable plan for dealing with the reactor's radioactive waste. That requirement is standard for new reactors, but it could lead to more delays if the facility becomes caught in ongoing national controversies over nuclear waste storage in Germany. Trittin is also waiting for a final recommendation on FRM-II from the national radiation protection commission, which is not scheduled to meet until December. Zehetmair says he is optimistic that the environment ministry will not delay further. "Based on our recent talks, we expect the ministry to give permission early next year," he told *Science*.

Project leaders have warned that if the standoff lasts much longer, they fear a mass exodus of talented researchers. Already at least 15 of 100 researchers involved in the project have left, in part because of the uncertainty, Petry says: "It is more than disappointing to do nothing but sit and wait for a commission that will not even meet until December. All the instrumentation is ready, and we are waiting." —GRETCHEN VOGEL

CREDIT: D. NORMILE

JAPAN

Summit Seeks Boost For Life Sciences

TOKYO—A powerful group of biotechnology industry leaders gave the Japanese government a wish list this week: better coordination of government spending in the life sciences and increased emphasis on commercializing the results.

The proposals, drawn up by the Japan Association of Bioindustries Executives (JABEX), represent an unusual effort by industry to affect academic research. They were released at a Life Science Summit here involving some 600 industry, academic, and political leaders. The proposals are expected to get a sympathetic hearing, thanks to the group's political connections and the administration's policy of emphasizing research with a potential economic payoff.

Looking for direction. Katsuhiro Utada heads a Japanese industry group that wants better coordination in the life sciences.

Katsuhiro Utada, chair of the major food processor Ajinomoto Ltd. and also head of JABEX, says that life science research in Japan is not generating the same social and economic returns as in the United States and Europe. The group argues that current efforts are hamstrung by the diffusion of government support for the field, which is divided among five ministries and several public corporations. More importantly, Utada says, "there is no strategy for the smooth and speedy commercialization and industrialization of basic life science research results."

JABEX wants the government to establish a task force, chaired by the prime minister, to develop and oversee a comprehensive strategy for everything from basic research to industrial biotechnology processes. It also urges the creation of a committee to review existing programs, with funding linked to the evaluations and the panel's priorities.

Researchers are intrigued by some aspects of the proposals. Michio Oishi, a molecular biologist who heads the Kazusa DNA Research Institute in Chiba, says that applying the same review criteria to all life science projects could benefit university researchers. They now compete for smaller awards and typically have their work scrutinized more closely than do their colleagues at national research institutes. "I think professors at universities would welcome this move," he says.

Less welcome would be any move to re-

ScienceScope

Synergy Paper Misconduct The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) last week announced scientific misconduct findings against a former Tulane University scientist who co-authored an influential—but later withdrawn—*Science* paper on gender-bending chemicals. According to experiments done by Steven Arnold in John McLachlan's lab, certain pollutants became up to 1000 times more reactive when mixed together in a cell assay for estrogenic activity (*Science*, 7 June 1996, p. 1489). The findings fanned public concern about endocrine disrupters as Congress was passing new legislation to require testing for them. McLachlan later withdrew the paper after other researchers failed to replicate the results.

A Tulane investigation cleared McLachlan of misdeeds but found that Arnold "provided insufficient data to support" the paper (*Science*, 18 June 1999, p. 1932). Now PHS, whose Office of Research Integrity reviewed the matter because Arnold had National Institutes of Health funding, has found "no original data or other corroborating evidence" for the paper and that Arnold "provided falsified and fabricated materials" to Tulane investigators. Arnold has admitted his wrongdoing and is barred from receiving PHS grants for 5 years.

Biotech Bounty France's ailing biotech industry is slated to get a big shot in the arm next year. The finance ministry announced on 18 October that its 2002 budget will include $133 million for biotech start-ups: $53 million in seed money and $80 million in guaranteed loans.

The industry group France Biotech celebrated the news. "We are very satisfied," says president Philippe Pouletty. The commitment, the group notes, may also help convince the European Investment Bank to add more funds to the pot, which could be used for everything from starting new companies to obtaining patents and capitalizing acquisitions.

The organization has long decried France's ranking behind Germany and the United Kingdom in European biotech investment. Germany vaulted to the lead in the late 1990s after the government upped its stake. The new French program, Pouletty predicts, will allow French biotech investment to "reach first place [by] 2006."

Contributors: David Malakoff, Jocelyn Kaiser, Michael Balter