

In addition to Wisconsin industry, the mobile laboratory made trips to five neighboring States—Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan.

The State Technical Services Act authorizes allocation of 20 percent of our total appropriation for special-merit programs. However, due to the demands of State programs for the limited funds available thus far, we have restricted our special-merit programs to less than 10 percent.

REFERRAL SERVICES

The State Technical Services Act provides for referral services to assist and guide the States in the development and operation of the most effective referral and information services, taking into consideration those functions that can be best performed at State, regional, and national levels.

One of our major objectives is to provide a quick-switching referral service to all major sources of scientific and technical information through a single contact point in each State or region.

Significant progress is underway through a regional pilot program in the southeastern area of the United States in conjunction with the National Referral Center for Science and Technology.

A second major objective is to assist State program personnel in their field counseling and referral activities through regional seminars where they may learn of the most effective ways of dealing with the complex function of technology transfer.

The first such seminar is scheduled this summer. While primary emphasis is on the techniques of—and barriers to—technology transfer, information-technology developments which include elements of system design and operation are also included.

Since the State programs together will represent a major national effort in technology transfer, the third of our major objectives is to reflect the requirements of this effort and the lessons learned as an important contribution to planning for a national information system.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

The State Technical Services program deals with scientific and technical information generated by others and operates through direct cooperation with all Federal, regional, and State technology and information resources.

Through this large, decentralized system of participating institutions, the program is in a unique position to detect and eliminate duplication of effort.

Accordingly, we have initiated cooperative arrangements with other Federal agencies which include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Referral Center for Science and Technology, the Science Information Exchange, the Small Business Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

In less than 2 years since the beginning of projects under the act, 14 States—one-quarter of the States and eligible territories—are al-