

On the other hand, there are also instances where a laboratory could be transferred from one agency to another when the laboratory mission is no longer considered vital or when a new agency requires a rapid capability to satisfy a new national goal. A case in point is the space program.

The Space Act was signed into law on July 29, 1958, and thus NASA was created. The DOD transferred Project Vanguard from ONR to NASA on October 1, 1958, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, on December 3, 1958. On October 21, 1959, President Eisenhower approved a plan submitted by Secretary of Defense McElroy and T. Keith Glennan, Administrator of NASA, to have part of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency transferred to NASA.

These two examples certainly represent two of a number of options available to us in assuring the full utilization of laboratories. Some consideration should also be given to a different way of handling the phasing down or closure of a Federal laboratory. When a laboratory has lost its purpose or the priority of its work has diminished or disappeared, we should offer to transfer it to another agency or at least consider assigning to it other agency work if it has retained the required level of quality. I know that some people would have reservations about such a step. Their approach would be to close it down because once the laboratory has lost its purpose, it generally loses its best people first. Something can be said on both sides. There is really no magic formula. I believe one must examine this question on a case-by-case basis.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

I also believe that we have a moral, if not a legal responsibility, to assure to the degree possible the transfer of defense-developed technology to other agencies and to new programs.

Of course, one of the best technology transfer agents we have is people. Although there are a number of major technology transfer programs within the Government, one of the simplest approaches is to motivate the mobility of people. In fact, I can cite a number of cases to illustrate my point.

Dr. E. M. Reilley, the Assistant Director for Research in my office, left us recently to become the Director of Research and Development of the Post Office Department. He brings to that position all of his background in solid state and nuclear physics, computer technology, electronics and R. & D. management which he developed both at Fort Monmouth and in OSD. What is almost as important is that he knows the on-going programs of the DOD and knows the laboratories and the people who can provide knowledge and inputs to important Post Office Department R. & D. problems.

In a similar vein, Mr. T. F. Rogers, the former Deputy Director of Electronics and Information Systems in OSD has taken the position of Director of Research and Planning in HUD. His experience at the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory, Lincoln Laboratory and in OSD will provide HUD the benefit of a great deal of available technology and methodology which will be directly applicable to the technical solution of urban development problems.