



R&D Council Promotes Industry-Academia-State Cooperative Triangle

By James T. Prior, Editor-in-Chief

The 90-member Research & Development Council of New Jersey, Denville, is a nonprofit organization which works effectively to cultivate a healthy environment for R&D activity.

New Jersey is the birthplace of the phonograph, incandescent light bulb, transistor, streptomycin, color TV picture tube and a myriad of other breakthroughs. New Jersey-based pharmaceutical firms made a third of all drugs used around the globe. Ten percent of all jobs in the state are in high tech and 30 of the fastest-growing high-tech firms in the nation are located in the Garden State.

Fighting to ensure these types of achievements continue in our state is the Research & Development Council of New Jersey. For the past 37 years, it has successfully fought for the kind of environment that encourages this tradition of high technology achievement. It is the watchdog on anti-R&D regulatory, administrative and legislative restraints, and it is the champion of building a triangle of cooperation among private industry, academia and government sectors.

The R&D Council's members are among the most highly respected professionals, drawn from the *Fortune* 500 companies. They represent such diverse industries as health care, telecommunications, oil, gas, utilities, banking, chemicals, electronics and manufacturing. It is this group which set in motion the campaign to create Liberty Science Center (LSC) in Jersey City and supported the science high school in Newark's University Heights Science Park. The R&D Council honors scientific achievements and educational accomplishments at an annual Science Technology Dinner at LSC each November. Moreover, it hosts a phalanx of programs, seminars and conferences, which involve the three sectors of that triangle.

The baton of chairman and CEO of the R&D Council passes on July 1 from Dr. Alan Main to Mario M. Casabona, who is the founder, president and CEO of Electro-Radiation, Inc., Fairfield. He will be supported by new Vice Chairman Robert J. Schaffhauser, Ph.D., who is the retired chief technical officer of Engelhard Corporation, Iselin. The two veteran R&D executives have set out a game plan for 2001 in which the Council will focus its considerable influence and expertise on two goals: fostering this industry-academia-government

triad of trust and cooperation to put New Jersey at the center of the research map of the world; and advancing high-tech education to meet the needs of the R&D industry.

Casabona gives the State of New Jersey high marks for recognizing the importance of research as a cornerstone of the economy. He says the state's proposed fiscal year 2002 budget includes \$208 million for research, education and equipment. R&D, he explains, accounts for about 20 percent, or \$41 million, of it. The vast majority of the \$208 million is destined for the Commission on Higher Education.

"This supports the concept of the triangle of cooperation among academia, the private sector and the government," he explains. "We in

R&D Council Chairman Mario M. Casabona (left) and Vice Chairman Robert J. Schaffhauser.



New Jersey really believe in this triangle. These are new jobs in a new economy. We're putting money into research by academia and the private sector. Emerging new technologies support industry and business. We at the Council are exploring ways in which we can advance this triangle of cooperation."

Casabona advises that to bolster this new emphasis on the triangle of cooperation, two members from state government and academia are being added to the executive committee: Dr. John V. Tesoriero, executive director, New Jersey Commission on Science & Technology, Trenton, and Donald Sebastian, vice president for technology development, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark.

He explains that the State of New Jersey has come a long way in a few years and now actively supports research technology education and high-tech job creation.

Dr. Schaffhauser adds that Council members have assisted the other two legs of this three-legged stool with expertise and dollars. "We help with academia's curricula and give them guidance in areas of research," he explains. "When we bring all the resources of our constituency - the major players in the high-tech world - to the table, it is a sizeable contribution."

Schaffhauser says Council members also advise state governmental agencies in all the areas that impact on research, from reviewing applications for grants to assistance with incubator firms in Advanced Technology Centers. It keeps tabs on the need for R&D personnel at all educational levels and supports the School-to-Work initiatives. Where gaps are found between demand and supply in the R&D industry, it recommends appropriate action. Council members aid schools with high tech curricula and guide the faculty.

The R&D Council this year is offering 12 new \$1,400 technician scholarships, up from nine the prior year, for students in two-year colleges who are pursuing careers as research technicians. The Council, for many years, has awarded Science/Technology Medals and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards; but, recently, instituted an "Educator-of-the-Year" Award. Its first recipient last year was Dr. Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., former

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president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Casabona says the Council explored the possibility of launching a venture capital fund to finance fledgling firms in the research field; but, in light of its non-profit status and the proliferation of seed money sources, opted not to pursue it. In the past, it devoted a great deal of effort to counter some onerous regulatory and tax policies; but, the relationship between state government and the research committee has improved dramatically, he adds. So, the Council monitors the environmental and regulatory affairs areas. A Facilities Committee meets regularly to exchange information on common problems relating to R&D facilities management. The Legislative Committee closely watches any legislation that might impact the R&D function. Any unfavorable measures are flagged and the Council takes action.

The R&D Council has played a significant role in the State of New Jersey's placement as fourth among the states in total research dollars spent, at \$12 billion. The other three are California, Michigan and New York. If only private-sector research expenditures are counted, New Jersey ranks third, after California and Michigan. In the area of government-backed research expenditures, New Jersey is ninth. Casabona says New Jersey's college/university spending on research is not sufficient to place in the top 10 states.

"But, it is changing," Casabona says. "There is a concentrated effort by our universities and the private sector. We are ahead of Silicon Valley in California and the I-128 Corridor in Massachusetts. We don't have just one valley. We have four or more that are developing along the Route 1 - New Brunswick-Princeton - Corridor; the I-78 Corridor; the I-287 Corridor; and the Garden State Parkway Corridor. We have great potential here."

Schaffhauser adds, "When the forces of government, academia and the private sector come together, they can really sing." ▮

First Union/Wachovia

First Union Corporation, West Trenton has agreed to buy North Carolina rival Wachovia Corporation (pronounced WAK-OVIA) for approximately \$13 billion.

EcoComplex Development Dedicated

The nation's first statewide environmental research/technology development center was recently dedicated in Columbus, Burlington County. The 32,000 square-foot research and education facility will promote economic development in southern New Jersey. The new center was initiated through a joint venture among Rutgers' New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), Stevens Institute of Technology and the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"The New Jersey EcoComplex will accelerate the greening of the state's educational and industrial portfolio," says Dr. Francis L. Lawrence, president of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. "By combining environmental concerns with education and economic development, the center will address such issues as developing the manufacturing abilities of small- and medium-sized New Jersey agricultural and environmental firms, creating new jobs, maintaining the state's competitive edge in the agricultural and environmental industries and improving the skill of workers."

The economic development component of the New Jersey EcoComplex revolves around environmental technology demonstrations. "The EcoComplex conducts scale-up demonstrations for new environmental processes and showcases New Jersey's cutting-edge environmental research and technologies," says Dr. Harry Janes, director of the facility. The New Jersey EcoComplex, which has been in existence as a "soft-walled" research center since 1996, is involved in research of all aspects related to using landfill gas as an energy source. Now a "brick-and-mortar" center, the New Jersey EcoComplex is poised to expand its services to entrepreneurs in the area of agricultural and environmental business plan development.

The building houses a conference center with a 200-seat auditorium that is equipped with distance learning technology. It is available for agribusiness and environmental education programs.

It was designed by Nadaskay Kopelson Architects of Morristown, a firm specializing in designing "green buildings."



NJ's Tallest Residential Building

The Applied Development Company and Panepinto Properties, both of Hoboken, unveil plans to build HarborSpire, a \$140-million complex with 455 apartments in a 55-story tower and 415 apartments in a 50-story tower in Jersey City. It will be the state's tallest residential building. The units will sit atop a six-story base with 20,000 square feet of retail space and an above ground parking deck for 786 vehicles.

David Barry, an Applied principal, says construction of the taller tower is expected to begin in November and be completed in 18 months. There is a 15-year tax abatement on the first building, which the partners will finance. It has a letter of intent with the AFL-CIO Pension Trust Fund for part of the \$80-million financing on this unit.

Monthly rentals are expected to range from \$1,600 for studios to more than \$4,000 for the three-bedroom residences.

