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GROUP RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS REPORT - JULY 1985

The plan to restructure Group R&D such that the Group Research Programme is in future carried out between the five C.A.C. Laboratories and Southampton, the latter becoming part of BATUKE, is now being implemented. Mr. A. L. Heard reporting to Mr. E.A.A. Bruell, is responsible for co-ordinating these activities.

GR&DC Southampton

A review of activities including meetings with C.A.C. Research Directors has led to certain projects being, albeit gradually, transferred to individual C.A.C. Laboratories and others being, at least for the present, abandoned.

In consequence GR&DC staff numbers will fall, as previously indicated to C.P.C., from 285 to 166 by mid-1987. In practice 75% of this reduction will be complete by January 1986 and it is at this point that we envisage transferring management of the Laboratory to BATUKE. Steps are now being taken to communicate the changes within BATCo Operating Companies and to establish satisfactory channels for ensuring that the Southampton Laboratory meets their technical requirements.

Although not finalised Budget forecasts for 1986 and 1987 remain closely in line with those predicted in March 1985, i.e. they indicate an annual saving in 1985 terms of £2.5 million by 1987.

Group Research

It is inevitable that whilst the run-down of activities at GR&DC in line with the new arrangements can (and from a management standpoint should) be rapid, the ability to develop the appropriate projects and to obtain resources in the C.A.C. Laboratories will take several years.

At the Group Research Conference planned for November, a Group Research Programme assembled from the individual Laboratories will be reviewed. This will include externally contracted research which is expected to grow in the future and, by agreement, will be co-ordinated on an international basis by BATCo.

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