

Inter-University Cooperative Research Centres

Basically such a centre would consist of a small nucleus of scientists in a given University working in a given area and responsible for arranging periodical workshops with colleagues from other Universities. These periodical meetings might last two or three days during the school year and possibly two to three weeks during the summer months. An optimal size might consist of three or four universities or Government research establishments being involved and a total of maybe eight research scientists with a dozen graduate students or so and a minimum of technicians (plus the odd special guest). For such a scheme to be efficient and viable one of the scientists at the host University should be made responsible for carefully planning out these workshops and making sure that all the physical facilities required will be made available.

Advantages of such Centres

After careful planning, including the instrumental and technical side (outside scientists could bring their own specialized equipment), a concerted effort over a few days or weeks can prove more fruitful to all concerned than their isolated efforts over much longer periods of time. This would result from a pooling of both brains and equipment since the individual laboratories cannot afford all the equipment and technical help needed to carry out simultaneously the study of the various parameters that such a cooperative research centre would tackle. The participation of the graduate students would give the latter