

partners is underway, and one may hope that this will stimulate development in the Russian Federation of a network of comparatively small enterprises. These enterprises would produce research-intensive goods which rely on "high technology" and which will close the gap, so characteristic of our country, between "big" science and "big" industry.

Serious attention is being paid to planning the utilization of capacities resulting from the conversion of defence sectors in industry. A number of major Branch developments (technology for obtaining ultra-dispersed diamonds, a series of highly effective catalysts, and others) are already in industrial implementation. For this reason, we should not limit ourselves to partial solutions: what is needed are programs for large-scale interaction between academic science and restructured sectors. A joint proposal by the Siberian Branch and the USSR Ministry of the Nuclear Power Industry concerning organization of an Eastern Scientific Production Complex "Mikroelektronika" could serve as a model. The purpose of the complex would be to develop and produce extremely pure substances and microelectronic components based on advanced materials, as well as automatic design systems and equipment for producing integrated circuits, computer hardware, instruments and robotic systems. Realization of this proposal is important not only from the point of view of accelerating the utilization of the existing scientific surplus but also as a step on the road to instituting competitive elements in this most important sphere of scientific and technical progress.

Plans call for further growth in the role of the Siberian Branch in formulating scientifically sound regional development forecasts and plans based