

The chemical and petrochemical industries do perform R&D activities in Singapore, however, these industries have not been regarded as "priority" areas to receive R&D funds. Nevertheless, two recent projects, involving two Exxon-related companies, Energy Chemicals and Fuels Technology Center, are concentrating on the development of specialty chemicals for the oil industry and fuel additives & lubricants respectively.

R&D PROMOTION SCHEMES

The main tool used by the government to promote R&D is the Research and Development Assistance Scheme (RDAS), administered by the National Science and Technology Board (NSTB), formerly the Science Council of Singapore. Beginning in 1988, the second phase of RDAS was given S\$50 million for 5 years to assist companies carrying out R&D activities which have met with government approval. The ultimate objective of the scheme is to enhance the global competitiveness of Singapore-made products and services. Under this phase, the following 4 types of ventures will be eligible to receive RDAS assistance:

- Local companies and joint-ventures between local & foreign firms
 - University/industry collaboration
 - Public sector/industry collaboration
 - Foreign companies and multinationals operating in Singapore
- (Annual Report, Science Council of Singapore, 1988/89).

The difference between the first and second phases of this scheme is that while the first phase primarily targeted private companies, the second phase includes the public sector.