Energy research and development funds boosted

A $40-million increase in energy research and development (R&D) funding for fiscal year 1982-83, has been announced by Energy Minister Marc Lalonde

The increase brings to $288.8 million the total federal energy R&D budget for 1982-83. This is the second increment planned under the National Energy Program. The first was $35 million in 1981-82.

"These increases are designed to ensure a sound basis for Canadian technology to support the policies of the National Energy Program," said Mr. Lalonde. "The work to be undertaken is diverse in nature and will assist Canada in attaining its energy goals."

The minister noted that the increases continue to fulfil the government's commitment to raising national expenditures on R&D in the natural sciences to 1.5 per cent of the gross national product by 1985. They are also in line with last year's recommendations of the Special Committee on Alternative Energy and Oil Substitution.

Of the total $75-million increase allotted to date under the National Energy Program, $59.8 million will be used to continue projects started in 1981-82. The remaining $15.2 million will be used for new projects.

"Once again, we are using this opportunity to stimulate the private sector through continued involvement in these projects," the minister said. "It is our hope that these activities will encourage reciprocal activity in the private sector."

This year's increment for new initiatives includes a $1.8-million expansion of federal energy conservation R&D, plus an additional $5 million to the industrial energy R&D program, which is cost-shared with industry. It is designed to stimulate energy efficiency and generate increased industrial activity in this area.

Areas affected

An amount of $2.5 million has been earmarked for hydrogen and electrochemical research. Work in electrochemistry is the key to the large-scale use of hydrogen and the development of related systems.

Two major environmental concerns — the effect of producing and using new liquid fuels and the effect of an expanded use of coal — will be studied with an additional $1.2 million. As well, an increase of $1.6 million has been approved, principally for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to examine marine and Arctic environmental problems associated with developing hydrocarbon resources in the Canada Lands.

An allocation of $600 000 has been approved for research and development in enhanced light oil recovery. According to the National Energy Board publication, *Canadian Energy Supply and Demand, 1980-2000,* this will be an important component of production from conventional oil fields over the next 15 years.

A further $600 000 has been allocated for the development of technologies for the use of tritium, a fuel for fusion reactors, and for the development of fusion reactor materials. This is the second step in the "awareness program" for fusion research. Construction of a reactor research facility at Varennes, Quebec, announced in 1981 by the National Research Council, was the first step.

For the development of cells to convert solar energy to electricity, $600 000 has been approved. The objective of this program is to establish a competitive Canadian industrial capacity in an area of considerable technological promise.

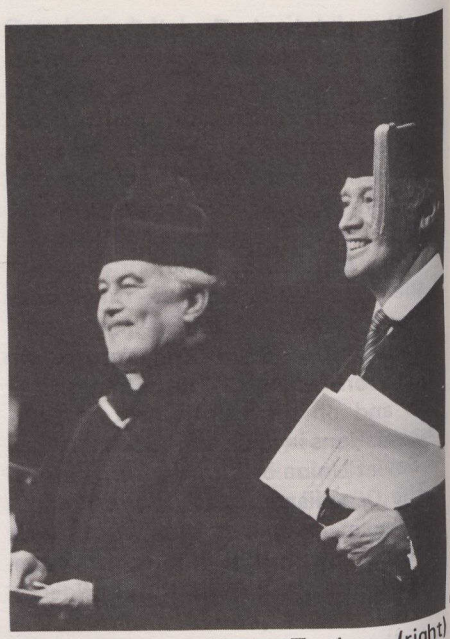
Natural gas as vehicle fuel

Canada's abundance of natural gas has led the government to begin studies on the conversion of natural gas to liquid transportation fuels. With an increase of $1.3 million, Transport Canada's program to fuel vehicles with alcohols from either natural gas, coal or biomass, will be expanded. Further studies will be carried out on the modification of conventional engines to accept non-conventional fuels.

A project to develop a pilot-scale plant to gasify wood — a first step towards methanol production — will receive a total of $5 million, of which $1.5 million will be provided in 1982-83. These funds represent a third of the project's total cost; the balance is being put forward by Nouveler, a Quebec Crown corporation, and Canertech — the federal Crown corporation responsible for commercializing conservation and renewable energy technologies. The two organizations have formed a consortium named Biosyn to manage the project.

The federal government is also supporting development of a pilot plant to produce ethanol from biomass. A sum of $5 million in federal funds will be given over a three-year period.

PM addresses U.S. university



Bob Cooper

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (right) *stands with Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, at the university's recent convocation at South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Trudeau spoke to the 13 000 graduates and guests in attendance at the ceremonies on the subject of East-West relations.*

Tourism conference in Saskatchewan

Tourcan '82, a three-day marketplace designed to increase the availability and sale of Canadian package tours, will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, from August 30 through September 1, 1982.

Tourcan '82 will provide an opportunity for "buyers" of tourism products and services from across Canada to meet in business sessions with "sellers" of tourism products and services from Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Well supported

Tourcan '82 is being sponsored by the federal government in conjunction with the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as the city of Saskatoon. Considerable support for the event is also expected from the tourism industry, including airlines, hotels and other retailers of tourism products and services.

Preliminary estimates from the first Tourcan marketplace, held last April in Moncton, New Brunswick (on behalf of the Atlantic provinces), indicated gross sales of approximately $4 million. It is hoped that this figure will be surpassed.