

- f) training of industrial technologists in new technologies
- g) a data bank (BCT) service which answers inquiries from industry on particular technologies
- h) an industrial relations committee (CRIM) in which hundreds of researchers and people from industry jointly conduct analyses to develop strategies for new technologies
- i) a network of "chargés de mission" for industrial liaison located in each of the regions. In addition, it has a directorate for scientific and industrial information which produces publications, audio-visual aids, and exhibitions to put across information about new technologies.

- ANVAR (*Agence nationale de la valorisation de la recherche*)

ANVAR is a national agency with independent economic status, and reports directly to the Minister of Research and Industry. It has 350 employees in 24 regions. It carries out its role by:

- a) providing information to promote and encourage innovation
 - b) helping to develop and commercialize inventions arising from research carried out in government and private research establishments and industry
 - c) giving advice on public financial assistance
 - d) giving direct financial assistance for research and innovation.
- COFACE (*Compagnie Française D'Assurance Pour le Commerce Exterieur*)
- COFACE in collaboration with ANVAR, offers financial assistance of up to 75% of the cost of market research, to enable companies to

assess the market for their innovations. It usually covers all marketing expenditures, including exhibitions, use of consultants, transportation and production of samples.

Other important organizations include l'Institut National d'Etudes et de Recherches Médicales (INSERM), l'Institut Français de Recherche sur les Technologies de la Mer (IFREMER), l'Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique (INFRIA), l'Institut National de Recherche en Agronomie (INFRA) and the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA).

KEY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The most important programs having an international dimension include the following:

- EUREKA (*excluding the JESSI Program*)

France is participating in 127 out of a total of 297 projects under the EUREKA program. Total funding for the EUREKA program so far is 5.5 billion ECUS, including 4.1 billion ECUS for projects with French participation. These projects with French participation are in the following areas:

- biotechnology/biomedical
- robotics/advanced manufacturing (CAD/CAM)
- informatics
- microelectronics
- communications
- new materials
- energy
- lasers
- transportation
- oceanology/environment