

the areas of research based on creativity and originality. CRI emphasizes a high level of flexibility in research to enhance creativity. A total of 51 projects have been funded at a cost of US\$ 600,000 per project. The government plans to make a general evaluation of the CRI in 2003, six years after its implementation, following which the future direction of the CRI will be decided.

**The National Research Laboratory (NRL)**, launched in 1999, aims to explore and foster research centers of excellence, which will play a pivotal role in improving technological competitiveness. The government will annually fund US\$ 250,000 per laboratory for a maximum of five years, with a special emphasis on strengthening core technology in relevant fields. It has funded over 300 NRLs across the nation so far, including 150 in academia, 90 in research institutes and 60 in industry. About 450 NRLs are expected to be supported by 2002.

**The Biotechnology Development Program** aims to make Korea a high-level biotechnology power on the international scale to the same level as Korea's IT economy. The government declared 2001 as "The Year of Biotechnology" and plans to put available S&T resources together toward building "B-Korea". MOST plans to revise and complement "Biotech 2000" with a reflection of recent trends and changes in biotechnology. The government is also organizing a "Biotechnology and Industry Committee" under the National Science and Technology Council, which will significantly contribute to coordinating national biotechnological policy among the ministries involved. The ministries will invest a total of US\$ 270 million in the areas of genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics and continue to closely work together with potential overseas partners, including the sharing of useful information technology, and even manpower, among the participants. The National Genome Centre is to be established in 2002.

**The Space and Aeronautics Program**, initiated in 1990, aims to acquire core and fundamental technologies in key areas of national defense and aeronautics. The government has successfully launched three scientific satellites, one multi-purpose satellite and three geostationary communication satellites under the program. The national strategy also includes the construction of a space science center and launch facility along the southern coast of the country. They expect to launch their first satellite from this center in 2005 utilizing an indigenous launch vehicle. According to the National Long-Term Space Development Plan, which was revised in 2000, 17 satellites including 4 communication satellites, 7 multi-purpose satellites, and 6 scientific satellites will be launched by the year 2015. The government has also announced that it wishes to compete in the global aeronautics industry through a series of aviation projects. One goal is to develop Korea's aviation industry to the same level as its automotive industry before 2025.

**Nano Technology (NT) Development Program:** is being launched with 2002 as being designated the "Year of nano-biotechnology". An amount of US\$ 84 million has been allocated for the research and development of nano-technologies. The government has also established a Nano-Engineering Centre to be opened in 2002 and a 5,300 sq. m. Comprehensive Nano Fabrication Center which will be completed in 2003. The program will work on core research in nanomaterials, electronic devices based on the miniaturization technology, computer memories and molecular-logic devices. This remarkable increase in funding (183%) over the previous year was a result of the Korean government's recognition of the importance of next generation growth technologies (biotechnology and nanotechnology). Korea hopes to be one of top five nano technology players in the world by 2005.

**Energy R&D Program** of Korea has been budgeted US\$ 147.8 million by the government in