

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS FORM CO-ORDINATING BODY

Sixty of Britain's independent research and development organisations, whose combined turnover exceeds £140 million and who together employ over 10,000 of the country's leading scientists, engineers and support staff, have formed a single co-ordinating group – CoGro – to represent their common interests.

The independent research organisations constitute a major part of the nation's R & D capability and it has been felt for some time that the establishment of a single point of contact would strengthen the ROs interface with UK Government Agencies and with the European Commission.

Hitherto, the independent research organisations in the UK have largely been represented by two trade associations: AICRO (the Association of Independent Contract-Research Organisations) and CDRA (the Committee of Directors of Research Organisations), and it is these associations which have been instrumental in the setting up of the new co-ordinating group.

CoGro membership, which comprises six directors appointed from the research organisations, provides equal representation for the AICRO and CDRA parent bodies.

The Group has already commenced its activities by opening a dialogue with the Department of Trade and Industry and contributing to the recent DTI review of research organisations.

CoGro's member companies also enjoy extremely close relations with industry, from which the greater part of their income is derived. Their work demands disciplines similar to those of university-based research teams including an intimate knowledge of their respective technical fields worldwide.

Information on CoGro's current activities is available from the Group's secretary Dr. A. W. Rudge, Managing Director and Chief Executive of ERA Technology Ltd, one of the CoGro research and development organisations based at Leatherhead, Surrey. Dr. Rudge's telephone number is Leatherhead (0372) 374151.