

# The First MURIs: 1986



## NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

**PLEASE NOTE DATE**

FOR RELEASE AT  
4:00 p.m. EDT

June 26, 1986

No. 315-86  
(202) 695-0192 (Info.)  
(202) 697-3189 (Copies)  
(202) 697-5737 (Public/Industry)

### DOD SELECTS ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger announced today the 70 academic institutions selected in the Department of Defense's (DoD) technical competition for the new University Research Initiative (URI). Subject to the successful completion of negotiations between DoD and these institutions and subject to the availability of FY87 funds for URI, approximately \$110 million in FY86/87 funds are expected to be awarded to the 70 institutions for 86 research programs. Programs are expected to range between \$170,000 and \$3 million.

In announcing the selectees, Mr. Weinberger noted, "DoD received almost 1,000 URI proposals from 175 universities. These proposals requested nearly \$6 billion in research funding over the three-to-five-year duration of the proposed efforts. The URI selection process was highly competitive and I wish that we were able to fund more of the many outstanding proposals that we received."

This is the first year of the University Research Initiative. URI is designed to strengthen the ability of universities to conduct research and educate scientists and engineers in ten technologies important to national defense.

The proposals selected today were principally for interdisciplinary research programs. Interdisciplinary research is an innovative approach to university-based research. An interdisciplinary URI program focuses on a single technological area of interest to DoD but brings together scientists and engineers from relevant disciplines to work on the research.

This team approach to research with cross-fertilization among disciplines will stimulate the growth of newly emerging technologies which are based on more than one of the traditional academic disciplines. By including both scientific and engineering disciplines, interdisciplinary URI programs should also smooth the transition of scientific research discoveries to their practical application in defense systems or commercial spinoffs.

(more)