

National Academy of Sciences names UCSD to form new association

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The University of California, San Diego is one of 48 U.S. universities selected by the National Academy of Sciences to form a new association for the advancement of space research, an academy spokesman announced today.

Called the Universities Space Research Association (USRA), the new consortium "expects to acquire, plan, construct and operate laboratories and other facilities for research, development and education associated with space science and technology," the spokesman said.

Dr. Frederick T. Wall, UCSD vice chancellor for graduate studies and research, is chairman of the board of trustees and executive officer of the USRA, a nonprofit corporation.

USRA has submitted a proposal to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for management of the Lunar Science Institute in Houston, now directed by the National Academy of Sciences. The institute will provide, among its projects, facilities for university scientists visiting Houston to work on lunar samples brought back by Apollo 11 astronauts. At least two of five UCSD scientists involved in the lunar-sample program will use the institute's facilities for studies of short-lived phenomena which must be examined soon after the lunar materials arrive. They are Dr. James R. Arnold, professor of chemistry, and Dr. Harold C. Urey, professor of chemistry at large.

Included with UCSD as members of the new association's Pacific region are Stanford University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of California Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses.