

Themis Grant goes to AMES

September 28, 1967

A three-year, \$600,000 Project Themis Grant from the Department of Defense has been awarded to faculty members of the Department of the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Sciences (AMES) at the University of California, San Diego, it has been announced by Chancellor John S. Galbraith and AMES Chairman Dr. S.S. Penner.

The Themis program was established this year in order to support new centers of excellence at universities throughout the country which are conducting research that may be of interest to the various agencies of the Department of Defense. Initial awards were made to only 50 of the 480 university organizations which applied for the grants and the grant to AMES at UCSD is the only award given this year to research workers in the State of California.

The \$600,000 grant is the maximum allowable level given to any institution for the three-year period.

Dr. Penner, Professor of Engineering Physics as well as Chairman of AMES, will serve as principal investigator for the grant. Other participating faculty members are Professors Carl H. Gibson, Paul A. Libby, S.C. Lin, David R. Miller, Daniel B. Olfe, Charles W. Van Atta, and Forman A. Williams.

According to Dr. Penner, the Themis funds will be used to supplement and expand current departmental basic research activities which are being performed under existing federal contracts and grants. The total non-state funded departmental research budgets now amount to about \$1,500,000 per year, with the bulk of the funds being used to support graduate students and to develop new experimental facilities.

Basic research areas which will be stressed at UCSD under the Themis program are the following: combustion and propulsion research, studies in fluid mechanics relating to high-speed atmospheric entry, the development of gas-dynamic lasers, and various laser-interaction studies with turbulent gases, liquids and solids.