

## **Simon Ramo, co-founder of TRW, to speak at high-tech dedication of UCSD Engineering Building**

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### TRW FOUNDER TO SPEAK AT HIGH-TECH DEDICATION OF UCSD ENGINEERING BUILDING

Scientist and businessman Simon Ramo, co-founder of TRW, Inc., will be the keynote speaker at ceremonies October 14 marking the dedication of the new \$46 million Engineering Building at the University of California, San Diego.

Instead of the traditional ribbon-cutting, the dedication ceremony will have a high-tech flavor when laser beams and superconducting materials will be used to trigger the release of balloons and mark the opening of the eight-story structure.

Ramo's talk, "Real Life Engineering," will follow remarks by UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson and Dean of Engineering M. Lea Rudee.

"This is a very important building for the development of engineering at UCSD," said Atkinson. "It is remarkable to note that this is the first building constructed at UCSD with state funds since 1977. Clearly, the State of California has not been paying attention to the teaching and research needs of the University of California and, in turn, the needs of the people of California."

Some 200 members of the local engineering and business community have been invited to attend the 2 p.m. ceremony to be held on the plaza facing the south side of the new building, the largest structure on the UCSD campus and the first to be built with state funds in more than 10 years.

Ramo, who founded the company which eventually became TRW in 1953, is one of the nation's most distinguished scientists and business entrepreneurs. After earning his doctoral degree from the California Institute of Technology at 23, Ramo achieved world-wide recognition as an expert in microwaves. By the time he was 30, he had accumulated 30 patents.

Prior to starting TRW, Ramo organized Hughes Aircraft Company's electronics and missile operations, eventually becoming vice-president for operations.

During his lengthy career Ramo has been a scientific adviser to the government, a fellow of several leading professional societies, and the holder of honorary degrees from several major universities. He has won the Presidential Medal of Freedom and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences as well as a founder of the National Academy of Engineering.

The new structure, which includes \$8 million in state-of-the-art equipment, will provide much-needed relief for the rapidly growing Division of Engineering at UCSD. Engineering is one of the most popular majors at UCSD, with around 3,000 students, or 23 percent of the student body, currently enrolled.

"What we have is a whole series of state-of-the-art laboratories inside one building," said Rudee, "What's really unusual is that the building is designed for them to co-exist."

"Normally, the electronics labs that we have are separate from the mechanical testing labs, and one of the hopes for this building is that by having our faculty from a variety of disciplines together, we will get some productive, symbiotic interactions from faculty of differing backgrounds," Rudee added.

The 215,000 gross-square-foot building, designed by the San Diego architectural firm of Buss, Silvers, Hughes and Associates, is built on a 15-acre site east of the Central Library and north of the Center for Magnetic Recording Research.

It has 128,700 net-square-feet of space and provides teaching and research space for most of the programs of two academic departments within the Division of Engineering: Applied Mechanics and Engineering Sciences (AMES) and Electrical and Computer Science (ECS).

The building, constructed of reinforced concrete and glass, is eight stories tall, but is stepped back in a series of terraces to give the illusion that the structure is less massive than it really is. It is divided into two separate parts with laboratories located on the north in an air-conditioned section and most offices in the south portion.

In addition, the building is divided so that vibration sensitive laboratories are isolated in an eastern portion of the structure. Walkways connect the offices and laboratory corridors at the third floor and above.

Construction of the building was approved by the UC Board of Regents at their November 1984 meeting and marked the first building at UCSD to be built with state funds since Third College Step II. Hensel, Phelps Construction Co., began construction in June 1986.

The official groundbreaking ceremony was held October 24, 1986, during which a variety of high-tech items were placed in a time capsule, and sealed until the year 2060, the 100th anniversary of the founding of UCSD.

The first engineering courses on campus were offered in 1964. In 1982, the Division of Engineering was established with Rudee named dean following a nationwide search.

Since that time the Division of Engineering has grown to include two major research facilities: the Center for Magnetic Recording Research (CMRR), and the Charles Lee Powell Structural Systems Laboratory.

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