

News

- **Strategies Unlimited** of Mountain View, California has recently published a directory of some 143 companies and their respective involvement in genetic engineering.
 - The significance of the commercial interest surrounding genetic engineering was recently confirmed by the announcement by **Stanford** that 73 firms signed on to a licensing agreement based on the *Cohen-Boyer* patent. The **University of California** and **Stanford** will share royalties equally after deducting fees for licensing administration.
 - Biotechnology is also getting more than a passing interest from **Japan**. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry announced funding of “next generation” technology in engineering ceramics, semiconductors, superfunction polymers, new metallic compounds, and biotechnology. Fourteen institutions are expected to be involved, including research activities of commercial firms.
 - **Japan** also confirmed further its interest in biotechnology with a consortium of financial and academic institutions investing \$4.5MM in **Genentech**, one of the leading startup companies developing biotechnology.
 - **G. D. Searle** will be the first with a recombinant DNA pilot plant with the near completion of the facility in High Wycombe, **United Kingdom**.
 - Relationships between business, research institutes, and universities continue to evolve:
 - Whitehead Institute** for biomedical research has been funded by **Edwin C. Whitehead**, founder of **Technicon**, and will be affiliated with **MIT**.
 - Philips Petroleum** invested \$10 million in the **Salk Institute Biotechnology Corporation**, yielding a 37% interest. The corporation had been a wholly owned subsidiary of the **Salk Institute** of La Jolla, California.
 - Rutgers University** is setting up a center for molecular genetics and biotechnology building off the **Waksman Institute of Microbiology**. Rutgers is currently discussing possible “arrangements” with nearby pharmaceutical and chemical companies.
 - North Carolina** government is also in the act by setting up the **North Carolina Biotechnology Center** that acts as a catalyst between industry and universities. Specific programs will be developed and proposed to the Governor, **James B. Hunt** during the next year.
- Several relationships have not worked as originally conceived:
- Dr. Ray Valentine** was blocked by the **University of California**, Davis, from receiving \$2.5 million from **Allied Corporation**.

—**Harvard** declined to form a coventure with a private venture capitalist that would have raised conflict-of-interest questions between **Harvard** researchers who would also be involved in the venture company.