

HAUTE AUTORITE

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SECRETARIAT GENERAL

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LUXEMBOURG
2, PLACE DE METZ
TEL. 288-31 à 49

PORTE-PAROLE

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COMMUNITY AID FOR RESEARCH INTO METHODS OF MODERNIZATION IN THE COAL AND STEEL INDUSTRIES

The High Authority decided on October 10 1962 after consulting the Council of Ministers to contribute to a series of important projects for research into means of modernization in Community industries. This decision was made on the basis of article 55 of the Treaty and in accordance with objectives laid down in a document prepared by the High Authority in 1961. The document, which was prepared for the European Parliament, the ECSC Consultative Committee and the ECSC Council of Ministers, pointed out the necessity of promoting scientific and technical research on means of constantly improving or even completely overhauling production methods used in Community industries.

For coal such research would principally cover methods of valorisation of coal products and means of lowering costs so as to allow mines to remain competitive in the energy market.

For steel research would concentrate on the means of production, and in particular on problems raised by automation.

The research projects recently approved by the High Authority are as follows:

1. The sum of 266,000 dollars was allotted to a project for research into methods of automation in reversing mills (blooming) to be carried out in Belgium. This project is related to two others already being carried out in France and Germany: total funds provided by the High Authority for research projects on reversible mills amount to 1,526,000 dollars covering a period of five or six years.
2. The sum of 525,000 dollars was allotted to research on improvements in the working of blast furnaces. This program will ensure the continuation of internationally conducted research, carried out since 1957 at Ougrée (Belgium) on a low-shaft furnace, and for which the High Authority has already provided financial aid to a total of 2.95 million dollars.

3. The sum of 497,100 dollars was allotted for research into means of increasing the use of pulverized coal in blast furnaces.
4. A contribution of 135,749 dollars was allotted to research on the methods of setting up a pulverized-fuel fired package water-tube boiler. This research could provide means for the wider use of coal in small installations with automatic fuel-feed and combustion control.
5. The sum of 192,050 dollars was allotted for physico-chemical experiments at laboratory level as well as at a semi-industrial level on means of desulphurising smoke from coal fires.
6. The sum of 50,000 dollars was allotted for research on the use of a continuous miner for high-speed roadway drivage in iron-ore mines.

At the same meeting the Council also gave its approval to a project for research on sudden outbursts of fire-damp in Dutch mines. The High Authority will provide a total of 102,490 dollars for this project, which is connected to other research on security in mines and on the elimination of fire-damp and toxic gases.