INSTITUTE OF SOUND AND VIBRATION RESEARCH

In modern life the use of ever-increasing quantities of power in industry, transport and the home brings increased levels of noise and vibration. Already noise and vibration are among the most important factors in the design of engines and structures for commercial aircraft. Noise and vibration from traffic is a major problem in urban areas. In factories, noise and vibration may impair the health and productivity of workers and be a nuisance to the surrounding community. Modern building structures, although economic in cost and materials, are unfortunately also good transmitters of noise and vibration.

In all these fields noise and vibration problems have become significant elements in planning and design, often having decisive economic consequences. Taken together with the long-established role of acoustics in communications, these developments underline the need for an expansion of research, study and technological progress in applied acoustics.

To assist in meeting this need, Southampton University, with the generous co-operation of government and industry, has established the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, to come into being officially on 1st October 1963.

The aim of the Institute is to serve as a centre for study and research in both fundamental and applied acoustics as an engineering science. Within the University the Institute is interdepartmental in character. Co-operative research will be encouraged. Close links will be maintained with industrial and governmental research and development groups, both by collaborating in research and testing programmes and by providing members of these groups with facilities for individual study and research.

The Institute takes over from the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics the extensive and unique facilities for noise and vibration work developed there during the past decade. In addition, a new building will be constructed containing an anechoic room, reverberant rooms, and associated laboratories. These rooms will provide high-quality conventional acoustic facilities. They will also be specially equipped for the study of flow and combustion noise, and for high-intensity combined noise and vibration work.

In order that the Institute can serve as an international centre for study and research, staff exchange arrangements will be welcomed with other research groups in industry, government research establishments, colleges of technology, technical universities, and universities in all parts of the world. Appointments are available for several post-doctoral Research Fellows as well as for pre-doctoral Research Fellows, Research Assistants, and Research Students. A rapid expansion of staff numbers is envisaged.

The Institute conducts courses of instruction for postgraduate students of the University. Courses for undergraduates will be initiated in the future. At present postgraduate students may register for courses and programmes of study leading to the degrees of M.Sc.(Eng.) and Ph.D., and to the Diploma in Noise and Vibration Studies.

In the community, the Institute provides information on sound and vibration to professional groups and members of the public. This is achieved through conferences, special courses, extra-mural lectures, publications and private consultations.

Requests for further information about the work of the Institute and its facilities should be addressed to the Director.