Opinion

Industry ties in the 1980's

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These liaison relationships are new in nature, which is very important to us. They facilitate member companies' contact with work in progress at MIT and at the same time they provide a means by which faculty stay informed about developments in industry and about industrial problems and needs.

Third, the Institute offers several series of intensive "short" courses each year, both by lecturers on and off-campus and by videotape, designed for professionals in industry. During the past year, more than 2,400 professionals participated in 67 of these courses. Most of those people are employed in industry. MIT's video short courses, offered by the Center for Advanced Engineering Study, are designed for professional engineers, scientists, and technical managers who wish to continue their education on a self-study, in-plant, non-credit basis and are sent to users around the world. More than 30 subjects - consisting of over 700 videotaped lectures, study guides, and textbooks and ranging from foundational courses to graduate level subjects - are available. Of special importance are several new courses dealing with microprocessor technology and its impact on industry. About 20,000 persons per year - again, primarily professionals in industry - take these videotaped courses. We are actively seeking ways to expand our relationship with industry - particularly Massachusetts industry - through our existing mechanisms of industrial liaison, short courses, and video courses. We have been engaged in discussions with many companies concerning these programs, and hope to work closely with industry on developing ideas that have resulted from these contacts.

Fourth, there is a significant level of industrial participation in, and support of, research programs at the Institute. This trend is evident in the recently announced study of combustion of carbonaceous fuels, funded by Exxon; in the industry-supported study of particulate emissions in diesel engines; in the Polymer Laboratory for Computer Science; and in the Regional Economic Impact Study, a major innovator in LSI Test Equipment.

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