PALO ALTO, Calif., Mar. 3 -- Hewlett-Packard Company has announced the consolidation of its advanced research and development activities into a new organization known as HP Laboratories.

Located at the company's administrative headquarters in Stanford Industrial Park, Palo Alto, HP Laboratories is headed by Dr. Bernard M. Oliver, vice president of research and development.

Dr. Oliver described the new organization as "a central corporate staff engaged in several advanced research activities directed at Hewlett-Packard's primary fields of interest -- electronic, medical and chemical instrumentation."

He pointed out that HP now has 16 product divisions, each with its own line of instruments and supported by its own product development group.

"A primary objective of HP Laboratories is to provide these groups with a reservoir of advanced scientific knowledge and techniques," Dr. Oliver said. "In conjunction with this, we will be developing new materials, processes and devices useful to HP in both its current and future areas of activity."

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"When appropriate, HP Laboratories also will make its research capabilities available to outside agencies."

The new organization comprises four major sections, each headed by a manager with several years of experience in Hewlett-Packard's R&D activity. The sections and their managers include solid-state physics, John M. Atalla; physical electronics, Donald L. Hammond; electronics research, Paul E. Stoft; and medical and chemical instrumentation research, John M. Cage.

Within the next few months these sections will be consolidated into an 80,000-square-foot building in HP's Stanford Industrial Park complex.

HP Laboratories' current employment is approximately 150, including some 85 graduate engineers and scientists. Dr. Oliver said he expects considerable growth in staff and facilities over the next few years "to keep pace with Hewlett-Packard's expanding activity in various fields of instrumentation."

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