

The LRI in Context with Other Research and Testing Activities of the Industry

The chemical industry conducts extensive testing programs to comply with regulatory requirements and to voluntarily provide additional relevant information on its products.

Examples of voluntary initiatives include: the High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals Program, which tests chemicals used in large volumes; and the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP), which seeks better understanding of potential risks to children.

The LRI does *not* perform chemical tests, but does improve the methods by which tests are performed - making them more meaningful, less expensive, and more conservative of animals.

All these programs, including the LRI, are an extension of the Responsible Care commitment, which is the chemical industry's global, voluntary initiative to continuous improvement in environment, health, and safety.

The LRI in Context with Sustainable Chemistry

Chemicals sustain life, including making food and water plentiful and safe for human consumption, putting clothes on our backs, and building and furnishing our homes. However, some chemicals can have unintended adverse effects on humans or the environment that outweigh the benefits.

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The critical need is to understand, as accurately as possible, the risks of chemicals: under predicting risks can have adverse consequences on health, while over prediction denies the public access to a better quality of life. A higher degree of "accuracy" in risk assessments is fundamental to the sustainability of a long and healthy, high quality life. Such accuracy in assessments can

only be achieved through research of the kind performed by the LRI and their partners in governmental and private research organizations worldwide.

For further information, see these websites:

- www.uslri.org
- www.cefic.org/lri
- www.nikkakyo.org

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Understanding The Impact of Chemicals on Health and The Environment

The Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI)



www.landmarks.be

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) provides global coordination of the LRI.

Introduction

Through the Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI), the chemical industry sponsors publicly available research that increases scientific

knowledge of the potential impacts that chemicals may have on human health, wildlife, and the environment. Such knowledge will help governments make risk assessment judgments on the potential impacts of chemicals, and increase certainty about those impacts for the public and chemical manufacturers.

LRI sponsors are ICCA member associations, the American Chemistry Council (ACC), European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA).

LRI goals

The goals of the chemical industry's international LRI are to:

- Extend knowledge worldwide on the health, safety and environmental effects of the chemical industry's products and processes;
- Support informed decision making by providing the scientific data and understanding that are the foundation of good public policy decisions;
- Develop new tools to promote the safe use of chemicals, especially as new questions emerge about the health and environmental effects of chemicals; and,
- Coordinate research of ICCA member associations to achieve international scientific participation in the research process and to create synergy among the research projects.

Principles

The following principles govern the conduct of the LRI and extend the practices of Responsible Care®:

- **Scientific Excellence:** Research will pursue scientific excellence through open, peer-reviewed competition in which the best scientists participate. Advances in scientific understanding are sought, and proposals are selected on their merits;
- **Open Process, Results and Action:** The research process will be open and transparent; results will be made public, and industry will act on the results in a timely fashion;
- **Fair and Unbiased Conduct:** The research process will be conducted in a fair and unbiased manner that prevents conflicts of interest, protects against bias in decision making, and, while balancing fairly the desire for openness and transparency, protects legitimate confidential, proprietary and intellectual property information.
- **Chemical Industry Relevance:** Research needs will be identified and research priorities set with consideration of the relevance of the research to the chemical industry and to meet the overall goal of generating research results that increase scientific understanding of questions about the health and environmental impacts of chemicals.

Areas of Research

Three broad areas of inquiry, rather than chemical-specific testing, frame the research strategy for the LRI and encourage multi-disciplinary approaches. For example, a number of scientific disciplines are brought to bear on increasing understanding of the global endocrine issue and providing science related to the European Union's White Paper on Chemicals.

In 2003 the total research sponsorship by LRI was US\$ 34 million

- **Improved methods:** for evaluating potential risks of chemicals to public health and the environment, such as better test methods for dose-response effects, improved risk assessment methods, and more cost-effective exposure methods;
- **Susceptible populations:** identifying vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly, and understanding the factors that may place them at higher risk;
- **Chemicals in the environment:** understanding the fate of chemicals and their exposure to humans, wildlife, and the environment.

Research Conduct & Publication

Research is performed by third-party investigators who remain independent and are responsible for the design and conduct of the research project, the interpretation of the results, and publication of the results in the peer-reviewed literature.

The chemical industry also partners with governmental and non-governmental organizations sponsoring research so that the combined scientific resources, expertise, and research dollars are spent to the greatest effect.

Funding

LRI is funded by the member companies of the sponsoring associations. In 2003, the \$34 million (U.S. dollars) total research sponsored by LRI was funded by these associations: ACC (\$25 million), Cefic (\$7 million), and JCIA (\$2 million).

