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Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Winfrith Heath

Mr DW Fry

In 1956 the Atomic Energy Authority decided to build a new establishment of its Research Group. A site was chosen at Winfrith Heath in Dorset, and, after a public inquiry, the Authority was given permission to use it in 1957. Work is advancing rapidly on this new establishment, and the Authority has announced the appointment of Mr DW Fry as the person responsible to the director of the Research Group for its development and the initiation of the programme.

Donald William Fry, who was born at Weymouth in 1910, was educated at Weymouth Grammar School and King's College, London. He worked in the General Electric Company's research laboratories for four years before moving to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in 1936. There he took part in the development of very high-frequency communication equipment for RAF Fighter Command. During 1940-45 he served in the Telecommunications Research Establishment on the development of microwave radar. Fry, and several of his colleagues, joined the staff of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in 1946. This group, working in Malvern, demonstrated the practicability of the high-current linear accelerator and the electron synchrotron. Fry was awarded the Duddell Medal of the Physical Society in 1950. He became head of the General Physics Division at Harwell in 1950. The main work of the Division has been in the high energy accelerator and thermonuclear fields. Fry was appointed chief physicist of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in August 1954 and promoted to be a deputy director of the Establishment in February 1958.

Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell

The following staff changes at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, are announced by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority:

Dr JV Dunworth, formerly head of the Reactor Division, has been appointed assistant director (reactor research policy). In this post he will be special adviser to the director of Harwell. He is succeeded as head of the Reactor Division by Mr TM Fry, who has been a deputy head of the Reactor Division.

Dr Peter Thonemann, head of the Controlled Thermonuclear Reaction (Fusion) Division at Harwell, has been granted study leave for one year from March 1959. He will be going to the Institute of Advanced Studies in the University of Princeton, where he will work on plasma physics. In Dr Thonemann's absence the Harwell fusion programme will be carried forward by his deputy, Mr RS Pease, under the supervision of Mr DW Fry, who is deputy director of Harwell with special responsibility for this work (see also preceding note). Dr Thonemann will be available for consultation.