

orities should be established, OTA's Board selected six major areas of investigation: food, energy, the oceans, materials resources, the bioequivalence of drugs, and urban mass transit.

The Board has also considered several specific projects within each assessment area. For each project approved by the Board, an ad hoc Advisory Panel will be appointed and a small multidisciplinary project team established within OTA. The project team, with the assistance of its Advisory Panel, will supervise all of the work required for the assessment, including review of existing assessments, activities of the Executive Branch, and studies under contract.

Projects under consideration in FY 1974 include the following:

An assessment of the technological issues affecting the Nation's food supply and the adequacy of the present agriculture information systems for sound planning;

An assessment of our present and future utilization of the oil and gas resources of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf;

A project design providing for:

- (1) the development of a continuing energy assessment capability.
- (2) the assessment of specific energy options, such as coal, solar energy, oil shale, and nuclear energy,
- (3) the development of an energy information system for congressional committees;

A project design providing a framework for a materials resources information system;

A review of the existing technical capability for determining the bioequivalence of drugs through a contract with an independent group of scientific experts; and

An assessment of urban mass transit systems, with emphasis on automatic train control technology.

All of these projects will be performed by contract with outside groups. After these projects are well underway, OTA plans to further develop its in-house assessment capability.

V. BUDGET

On March 7, 1974, the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations held its first hearing on the Office of Technology Assessment. OTA submitted a request for \$5 million for fiscal year 1975, compared to the FY 1974 partial-year budget of \$2 million.

The estimated increase of \$3 million more than the amount appropriated in FY 1974 resulted primarily from:

annualization of pay and benefits from a partial year in 1974 to a full year cost in 1975 (\$1.4 million) ; and provision for added technology assessment effort.

The proposed budget for FY 1975 breaks down roughly as follows:

\$3.5 million for assessment contracts, advisory panels and consultants

\$1 million for OTA project teams

\$500,000 for other OTA operating costs

\$5 million total

The total OTA budget and position classification for FY 1974 and 1975 are listed as follows:

[In thousands of dollars]

	1974 estimate	1975 estimate	Change 1974 to 1975
Personnel compensation:			
Permanent positions.....	\$413	\$1,441	+\$1,028
Positions other than permanent.....	100	323	+223
Total personnel compensation.....	513	1,764	+1,251
Personnel benefits: Civilian employees.....	35	160	+125
Travel and transportation of persons.....	193	450	+257
Transportation of things.....	5	8	+3
Rent, communications, and utilities.....	12	20	+8
Printing and reproduction.....	27	50	+23
Other services.....	1,105	2,500	+1,395
Supplies and materials.....	10	18	+8
Equipment.....	100	30	-70
Total obligations	2,000	5,000	+3,000

Note: An explanation of our fund requirements by object classification follows:

Permanent Positions.—This estimate covers the salary costs for 68 permanent positions in fiscal year 1975. The increase shown for this object provides for our first full year of operation, with details concerning positions shown below.

PERMANENT POSITIONS

Area	Number of positions ¹	
	Fiscal year 1974	Fiscal year 1975
Office of director.....	7	9
Program operations.....	31	50
Administrative support.....	4	9
Total.....	42	68

¹ Estimated as of June 30.

² Includes 29 professional and 13 secretarial technical support positions.

³ Includes 49 professional and 19 secretarial technical support positions.