# [***RESEARCH SPENDING GOING UP;***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KV-JMB0-0027-X019-00000-00&context=1516831) [***UD, Delphi among those with fattened budgets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KV-JMB0-0027-X019-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** MONEY IS MOTHER OF INVENTION

**Body**

DAYTON - A tiny ***cell phone*** mounted in your wristwatch? Perhaps in five years, says the head of the University of Dayton Research Institute.

Autopilot cars that do the vacation driving while you snooze? Scientists at Delphi Corp. are working on it.

Computers that scan airport crowds for terrorists? The government is spending big bucks to make it happen.

The Dick Tracy wristwatch and technology to combat terrorism are coming fast as university and corporate research departments pencil in fattened budgets for 2003.

Total research expenditures in the United States this year are forecasted to rise 3.4 percent to nearly $302 billion, according to a joint survey by Battelle, a Columbus-based research firm, and R&D Magazine , a trade publication.

Federal spending on research and development, including money for homeland defense, is estimated at $89 billion, a jump of 10.5 percent.

Industrial spending on R&D in 2003 is forecasted to be virtually flat at $194 billion, up less than 1 percent. Nevertheless, corporate research continues to dwarf government-sponsored R&D.

Universities and other nonprofit organizations are projected to spend more than $18 billion of their own funds on R&D, an increase of 7 percent over last year, according to the study.

Battelle said two factors last year - the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the corporate accounting scandals - have deeply affected funding for scientific research.

The misbehavior by some corporations has caused many companies to be overly cautious on funding for long-term research, noted Michael "Mickey" McCabe, director of the UD Research Institute. Companies are more focused on quick results, McCabe said.

"There is a real emphasis on, 'You better deliver what you say you can deliver tomorrow, or we're going to be in the newspaper.' There is a very clear environment like that in business today," McCabe said.

The federal government is spending heavily on communications, intelligence, surveillance, smarter weaponry, better intelligence gathering and interpretation and improved responses to chemical and biological warfare, said Jules Duga, the Battelle survey's author and a senior research leader.

"Given the far-reaching impacts of some actions and events of the past two years, it is safe to say that we have witnessed a sea change in the manner in which all types of activities will be altered," Duga said.

"Although there are historic precedents that help us deal with some of the perturbations of the system, a 'return to normalcy' is not expected in the near term."

But one wild card - a war in Iraq or elsewhere - could quickly drain away government spending on non-military applications, cautioned UD's McCabe. He said the government will start shifting money from nonessential programs when armed conflict begins.

"Our biggest supplier of research money at the university comes from the Department of Defense," McCabe said. "We are especially vulnerable."

If war is avoided, UD and its Research Institute are on track to have their best year for sponsored research. R&D for 2003 will top $50 million, up 8 percent from last year, McCabe said.

At Wright State University, total corporate research for 2003 is estimated at $4.7 million, up from $3.7 million last year, said Bill Sellers, director of Research and Sponsored Programs.

For example, he said the School of Medicine has a $75,000 contract to help develop a treatment for anemia in children.

Auto-parts maker Delphi Corp. plans to spend 6 percent of sales, or about $1.8 billion, on research and advanced engineering this year, up from $1.6 billion in 2002.

"The company's focus is on electronics and electronically-enhanced components," said spokeswoman Kelly Sorice in Troy, Mich.

Research includes work on devices that permit cruise control to slow a car if a vehicle ahead draws too close, sensors that awaken a driver if he starts to doze, and an autopilot that lets the car follow a magnetic strip in the road, Sorice said.

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**Graphic**

PHOTO, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON, RESEARCHER ROBERT KAUFFMAN works on jet fuel tank ignition testing at the University of Dayton's Research Institute.

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