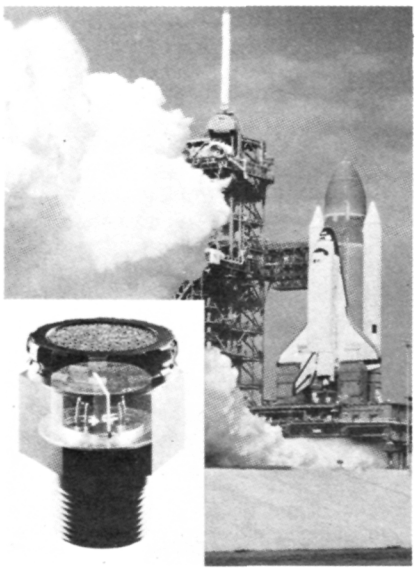

During two recent test firings of the Challenger space shuttle, a hydrogen leak developed in one of the three main rocket engines. Launch team technicians using 17 small sensors were able to pinpoint the location of the leak before hydrogen reached explosive concentrations.

The operation of the combustible-gas sensor is based on the Wheatstone bridge principle. One of the two elements in the sensor (seen at left) is treated with a Pt catalyst. When hydrogen gas comes in contact with the heated elements, it is oxidized at the catalyst-treated element, thereby generating an additional amount of heat and causing a change in resistance in the Wheatstone bridge. The sensor, measuring 2 × 1½ in., is manufactured by Rexnord, Electronic Products Division, Sunnyvale, Calif.

don, U.K. *Contact: G. C. Young, SIMA, Leicester House, 8 Leicester St., London WC2H 7BN, U.K.*

■ **1983 Pacific Conference on Chemistry and Spectroscopy.** Oct. 26–28. Pasadena, Calif. *Contact: David L. Toppen, program chairman (ACS), Department of Chemistry, California State University, Northridge, Calif. 91330, 213-885-2064 or Robert Obremski, program chairman (SAS), Beckman Scientific Instrument Division, Campus and Jamboree, Irvine, Calif. 92713; 714-833-0751. April, p. 537 A*

■ **Eighth International Symposium on Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons.** Oct. 26–28. Columbus, Ohio. *Contact: Denise Cooley, Battelle, 505 King Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201*

For Your Information

CAL—Computer Applications in the Laboratory was introduced by Huethig Publishing Company at this year's Pittsburgh Conference. The new journal includes articles on applications of microcomputers in the laboratory, languages, programming, interfacing, and hardware and software reviews. Subscriptions for 1983 (four issues) are $35. For more information contact Huethig Publishing Company, 611 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10012.

Adsorption Science and Technology is a new quarterly journal scheduled to begin publication in October. It will contain original research papers, correspondence, and critical review articles concerning the science and applications of adsorption and desorption processes. Subscription information may be obtained from Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 88, Oxford OX2 0EL, U.K.

ChemSpec, a new instrument company, produces **small monochromators and spectrographs** for general-purpose use in spectral analysis. The first product to be released is a monochromator that can be operated over the wavelength range 180 nm to 1.5 μm. For more information, contact Thomas Mikes, ChemSpec, P.O. Box 712, Harvard, Mass. 01451; 617-263-2542.

General Ionex Corporation, a firm specializing in ion beam instrumentation for research and industry, and **Charles Evans & Associates** have opened a **Center for MeV Ion Beam Technology** in San Mateo, Calif. The center provides analytical services and promotes the use of Rutherford backscattering spectrometry and related MeV ion beam techniques. For more information contact Mike Stratham, Charles Evans & Associates, 1672 South Amphleft Blvd., Suite 120, San Mateo, Calif. 94402, 415-572-1601 or Alan Schwartz, General Ionex Corporation, 19 Graf Rd., Newburyport, Mass. 01950; 617-462-7147.