

Navy's New Radio Telescope To 'Tune In' Sun, Moon, Stars

The Navy is planning to tune in on the sun, moon and stars with a new 600-inch radio telescope.

The huge affair, looking like a flying saucer, is being installed atop a building at the Naval Research Laboratory at Bellevue.

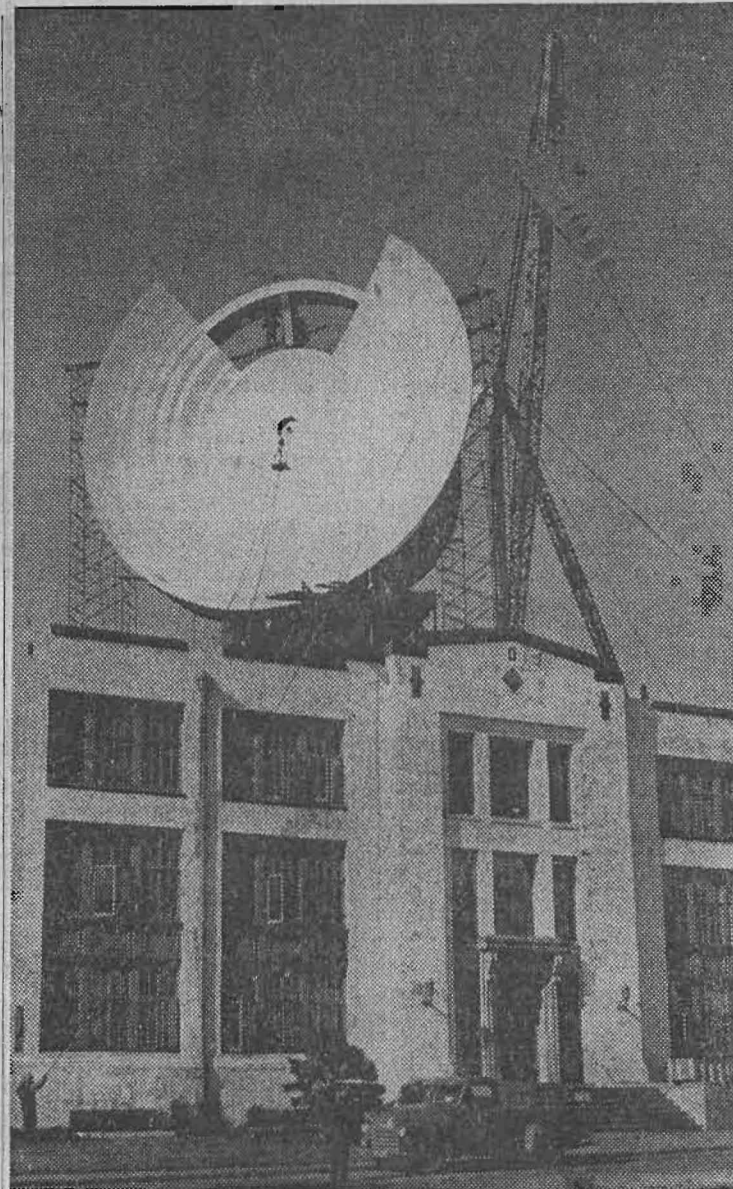
It's the latest advance in a program of radio astronomy begun at the laboratory in 1946, the Navy said.

The telescope consists of a 50-foot diameter aluminum reflector, a turning mount which can aim at any point in the sky and radio receiving equipment for detection and measurement of very short radio waves.

Scientists expect information gathered by the telescope to be of "immediate practical value" in the fields of long-range weather forecasting and radio communications, the Navy said.

The project is under the direction of Dr. John P. Hagen, of Arlington, chief of radio frequency research branch.

The sun, moon, and stars are continually sending out energy waves toward the earth, but our atmosphere permits only a small part of this energy to come through. The new telescope will make the job easier.



A crane hoists one of the 30 aluminum segments of the Navy's new radio telescope into position atop a Naval Research Laboratory building at Bellevue.