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Helen Pool of the National Bureau of Standards X-ray Physics Division is at the controls of a 1,400 kilovolt x-ray generator in 1947. The generator was being used to investigate the penetration of x-rays through concrete.

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In 1967 Joan Calvert of the National Bureau of Standards Metallurgy Division helped develop a fast-recording ellipsometer technique to observe the growth of corrosion-resistant films on iron within tenths of a second after formation. The technique was used to improve methods for preventing or reducing corrosion in metals.

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