

Experts tune into the stars

BRITAIN has joined the search for E.T., the Extra Terrestrial.

For the first time we are taking part in the quest for life in outer space, but scientists are hoping that E.T. will call us.

Project SETI, the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence, is under way at the Jodrell Bank radio observatory in Cheshire.

A team of United States astrono-

By DEREK HORNBY

mers, working with the world's most sophisticated radio receiver, are eagerly listening for The Call.

And British experts believe the new equipment could lead to dramatic discoveries.

It is thought that the team could pick up signals that left another planet less than 10 years ago.

Previously, the best anyone hoped for was a delay of 25 years.

The bid to make contact with an ET type intelligence follows a United States government decision to revive the search for life in space.

The Americans have the million-dollar backing of the National Space Agency, NASA, and are also to use a new 42ft radio telescope at Jodrell Bank.

They may also be allocated time on the station's giant 250ft telescope.

The American's receiver enables 65,000 radio channels to be monitored in the search for intelligent signals from space. Eventually, it is hoped to extend it to one million channels.

American astronomer George Downes and his team of three are to listen for at least the next two months.