navigational aids, deep sea sonar devices and automatic weather stations." All of the devices in this series were for terrestrial uses in severe environments.

SNAP-9A was under design for use by the Department of Defense in the operational navigational satellites—formerly Transit, which flew in 1961 SNAP-3As. The SNAP-9A, like the 3A, was fueled by plutonium-238 and was designed for a life of five to ten years. It generated 25 watts of electrical power and weighed 27 pounds.

NASA's inquiries about using RTGs for Project Surveyor—the unmanned soft lunar exploration program—had led to work at the AEC on SNAP-11. This devise, to be filled with curium-242, would weigh 30 pounds, and would provide "a minimum of 18.6 watts of power continuously for 90-day lunar missions."

Also under development for the NASA Surveyor mission was the SNAP-13, which would demonstrate the feasibility of using an RTG in a cesium-vapor-thermionic-generator. This generator would produce 12.5 watts, in line with Surveyor requirements.

Under development for a classified mission was a SNAP-15—the smallest generator currently in the total program. It would use plutonium-238 and supply .001 watt of power for a design life of five years.

NASA's interest in RTGs for the Interplanetary Monitoring Probe stimulated work on a unit similar to the 9A but allowing "for easier fabrication and lower system weight." Designed for a satellite to chart the magnetic field between Earth and the Moon, these generators would produce approximately 25 watts and be fueled with plutonium-238.

Finally, the AEC noted that proposals had been invited "for development of an isotopic generator for space using strontium 90 as the fuel," a device to supply electric power for the Medium Altitude Communications Satellite of the Air Force.[20] Contracts for these devices were awarded in November to General Electric and the Martin Company, and provided for conducting the first phase of a program assessing strontium-90 as a fuel for RTGs in space.[21]