

# Project for an EPS periodical

Whilst fully conscious of the problem posed by the growing number of publications in the world, the EPS believes that it should launch a new periodical to provide physicists in Europe with their own means of communication and forum for discussion. The first issue should possibly appear early 1971.

Europhysics News is a provisional bulletin concerned essentially with activities of the EPS and its member Societies. The periodical, the name of which has yet to be considered, would be a much more comprehensive and ambitious publication.

The working group set up by the Council under the Chairmanship of N.R. Nilsson of Stockholm has considered a number of possibilities and is anxious to obtain the reactions of physicists and learn to what extent physicists are prepared to participate in the project. The specification recommended is the following:

1. It is addressed to an audience made up of the Individual Members of the EPS and Members of its affiliated Societies — i.e. physicists
2. The level of presentation should be such that a scientific background, but no specialization in the subject under discussion, is assumed
3. The periodical should be published monthly in English
4. Typical contents should consist of:
  - News and comments on matters affecting physicists
  - Discussions on science policy
  - Review articles on topics of great or growing interest
  - News on EPS activities
  - Reports from the EPS Divisions
  - Physics in Industry
  - Reports on regional activities
  - Digest of recent discoveries
  - Thinking on science and society at large
 Occasionally
  - "Physics made simple" articles
  - Articles on Education
 Additionally, a strong correspondence section.

5. The broad policy should be controlled by the EPS but the administration of the periodical should be independent and its administrative structure set up accordingly. Advertisements should be a major source of revenue.
6. The editor should have all freedom required by his responsibilities.

Three principal methods of management have been mooted:

1. A national Society has offered to take responsibility
2. A commercial publishing house could be chosen as agent
3. The EPS itself could establish its own publishing company.

## Participation of Physicists

Particularly if method 3 above is adopted, there is a problem of initial capital. The tentative suggestion that has been made is that the member

Societies of the EPS and the physicists of Europe should be shareholders in a joint venture — sharing the risks and the profits.

Therefore without asking for any commitment, Europhysics News is appealing to Society Members, and more generally to all physicists interested in EPS, to express their opinion of this idea of direct involvement in the project.

In general outline, what is proposed, is that a new company be formed to publish a journal based on the principles outlined above. A minimum and maximum holding for any shareholder would be established and the profits would be divided between the shareholders and the EPS.

Readers of Europhysics News are asked kindly to send their comments to the Secretariat as soon as possible, on the accompanying form or, if that is not at hand, along the lines set out below.

## Questionnaire on the new EPS periodical

When completed please return to: European Physical Society  
P.O.Box  
CH-1227 Carouge-Geneva  
SWITZERLAND

Name:

First Name:

Address:

Are you an Individual Ordinary Member of the EPS? Yes  No

Are you a member of a national physical society or other grouping of physicists? Yes  No

If yes, which society or group?

Are you in favour of a periodical for the EPS? Yes  No

Do you in general terms approve the specification? (Please add detailed comments at the end) Yes  No

Do you in general terms approve the idea of a physicists company? Yes  No

What limits (in Sw.frs.) would you wish set for an individual shareholder?

maximum \_\_\_\_\_ minimum \_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider buying shares yourself? Yes  No

Roughly to what value, near the minimum

near the maximum

in between

How would you recommend sharing the profits?

50 % to shareholders 50 % to EPS Yes  No

3 % to shareholders then 50/50 with EPS Yes  No

6 % to shareholders rest to EPS Yes  No

other \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed comments on contents: