Collaboration with the APS

Discussions on collaboration with the American Physical Society were opened in 1981 by the EPS President of that time, Professor A.R. Mackintosh and since then a number of measures have been taken to consolidate the mutual interests of the two Societies. The APS is, of course, a much bigger organisation and is of longer standing. It is also a single monolithic society whereas the EPS is in part a federation of different national societies and academies which makes exact reciprocity a little difficult.

The first step was to arrange for a full exchange of information on planned conferences to avoid overlap as far as possible and APS became a co-sponsor of the Symposium on International Facilities for Physics Research which was held in Copenhagen and Risa in March 1983. Meanwhile at its meeting in April 1982 Council had modified the EPS Constitution to admit a fourth category of member — 4d) — namely members of a society that Council approved as a Collaborating Society. The first such society was the APS, and we have a growing list of 4d) members from the United States.

Now the APS has agreed to extend to EPS members the right to attend EPS conferences on the same terms as APS members, to pay the same registration fee, and to present papers at national meetings without sponsorship. In addition EPS is now offering to APS members the possibility of subscribing to EPS journals for their personal use at the same rate as that charged to members of other societies within the American Institute of Physics (which includes the APS but not exclusively). This works out to be the rate to APS members plus the EPS membership dues.

In return, EPS extends to APS members the same rights as EPS members in regard to the presentation of papers at EPS meetings and to pay the same registration fee as that charged to the members of our member societies (referred to as mbrs 4b in our lists of meetings). APS members will also be able to receive Europhysics Letters for the run-on price of SwFr. 55. — by becoming 4d) members: i.e. for a total subscription of SwFr. 110. — which also entitles them to all other benefits of Individual Ordinary Membership.

Continuing the precedent established in Copenhagen, a significant participation from the USA is expected at the Seminar on International Research Facilities that is being held in London 17-19 March 1985 in conjunction with the next Council meeting (which representatives of the Japanese Physical Society will also attend). In addition, EPS will have representatives at a similar EPS meeting that is to take place in the USA one month later.

Europhysics Letters

Final preparations are complete for the publication starting 1 Jan. 1986 of Europhysics Letters, the European letters journal which is supported by the physical societies of Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK and the Ruder Boskovic Institute.

Initial enquiries are favourable and it seems that the journal will have a very healthy circulation from the beginning. The crucial factor is, of course, contributions. These are now flowing in, but how many physicists will be ruled by their innate timidity and will want to 'wait and see' before submitting their own letters to the journal? Europhysics Letters is a challenge to the physicists of Europe to be initiators in this joint enterprise and not just followers-on.