

## LEST Moves Ahead

Apart from the much smaller (0.9 m) THEMIS telescope of a fairly old design being built by France on Tenerife, LEST is the only new ground-based solar observation facility for the optical region in preparation. The cost of the four-year construction phase is estimated in the 1990 *Addendum to the LEST Design Report* as 87 MDM, which includes 48 MDM for the core telescope and 27 MDM for work packages for detector development, data handling, adaptive optics, etc. The scale implies that solar physicists must create their first truly international project instead of relying on national and bilateral initiatives. Professor O. Engvold, the LEST Project Director who heads the LEST Project Group charged with conceptual and detailed manufacturing designs, reports that the meeting of OECD science ministers in Spain in October 1991

adopted LEST as the only large-scale solar physics project.

The LEST Foundation's Council, whose President is Professor J.O. Stenflo of the Astronomy Institute, Zurich, plans to have two delegates from each member country. Among larger European countries, the UK's SERC indicated in *The Ground Based Plan* for astronomy and planetary science issued in 1990 that it preferred association rather than full membership. The BMFT is the logical German partner but as it has a two-year moratorium on capital investment, a formal decision to invest a roughly 30% share is pending; a decision by Italy is also sought. From east and central Europe, only Russia has so far shown interest in joining. The formula for deciding participation in the investment cost is under discussion, the likelihood being a negotiated share with GNP as a starting point and a limit of 33.3%. It is also

likely that the tendering procedure for industrial contacts will incorporate *juste retour* similar to the principle adopted by the European Space Agency.

Annual operating costs are estimated at about 2 MDM and the aim is to have a small directorate based in a member country and an efficient operating group, which is responsible to users and includes an on-site operations facility. If all goes to plan, LEST will eventually provide research opportunities to some 100 students each year.

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## NORDITA Copenhagen ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ASTROPHYSICS

NORDITA, the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics, located at the Niels Bohr Institute of Copenhagen University, expects to have an opening for an assistant professor in theoretical astrophysics starting in September 1993, or some other date to be agreed upon.

NORDITA is supported by the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Research at the institute is at present carried out mainly in astrophysics and cosmology, complex systems (including neural nets), condensed matter physics, high energy physics and nuclear physics. There are thus good opportunities to carry out cross-disciplinary studies. Staff members working in astrophysics are K. Enqvist, B. Pagel and C.J. Pethick. In addition I.D. Novikov is an adjoint professor. Their main interests are in cosmology, the chemical evolution and dynamics of galaxies, high energy astrophysics, and neutron stars. Astrophysicists at NORDITA have close contacts with those at the Niels Bohr Institute, the Danish Space Research Institute, the Copenhagen University Observatory and other institutes in the Nordic area. There are also opportunities for observing at the European Southern Observatory and the Nordic Optical Telescope, among other facilities.

The scientific staff includes six positions as permanent professors, four positions as assistant professors, and Nordic assistant professors. In addition there is a fellowship programme for Nordic graduate students and postdocs. The institute's activities include an extensive visitor programme for scientists from all over the world, and symposia and summer schools arranged either by NORDITA itself or in cooperation with other Nordic institutes.

The successful applicant is expected to guide fellows at roughly the postdoctoral level, to interact with colleagues at NORDITA and elsewhere in the Nordic countries and to take an active part in the organization of meetings and courses. The position provides excellent opportunities to pursue original research and to have contact with a wide range of developments in theoretical physics. There are good facilities for travelling to other institutes and to meetings, and the assistant professor will be encouraged to invite guest scientists to visit NORDITA.

The initial appointment will be for three years, with the possibility of renewal up to a total of six years. The annual salary will be in the range of 240 000 – 310 000 Danish Kroner depending on experience.

Those interested in the appointment should send a *curriculum vitae*, a list of publications and the names of three referees **before December 31, 1992**, to:

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Email: nordita @ nordita.dk.

There is no restriction on the nationality of the applicant. Those wishing to recommend suitable candidates are urged to contact the Director.