LEST Moves Ahead

Apart from the much smaller (0.9 m) THEMI 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. Sterlin 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 BMIT 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%.

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 L.D. Novikov is an assistant professor.

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 240000 - 310000 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:

Professor C.J. Pethick, Director,
NORDITA,
Blegdamsvej 17,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.
Telephone: +45-31 42 16 46; telefax: +45-31 38 91 57;
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.