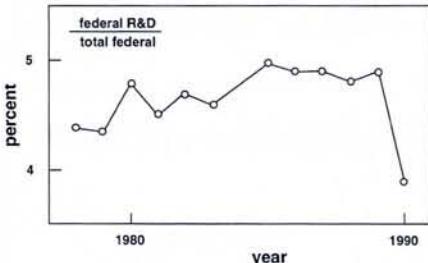


German Science Policies Unsettling

Germany's science policies came under the spotlight at the EPS/German Physical Society (GPS) condensed matter/solid-state physics conference in Regensburg on 1 April. With as background a much reduced federal R&D spending (see figure), H. Schopper, the GPS President, in his address to the 3800 participants felt ministerial actions were disquieting. The aim to focus on accelerating technology transfer to applications could be short-sighted as there may soon be little to transfer; a new government commission to examine science and the economy appears not to include a physicist; the strategy to improve coordination of German labs at the European-level may be a way to disguise shifting the financial burden from the federal government. The recent decision of the federal funding agency for research (the BMFT) to transfer the roughly 100 MDM per annum federal support for young scientists at large facilities to the Lander (states) was not even agreed with the Lander. Part of the problem may be that without its own industry, the contribution physics makes to the economy is not recognised. Professor Schopper felt that to reverse trends, science must agree on priorities and adopt a fairly long-term vision.



Federal spending in Germany on R&D as a percentage of the total federal budget (Source: BMFT)

Targeting Research Spending

Following the recommendations of a 1990/1 evaluation of physics research in Austria, a Commission reporting to the Minister of Science and Research will propose appropriate research fields and structures. One hope is that universities will have greater flexibility by being able to hire a few staff members on short-term contracts, linked probably to targeted research fields. Such contracts are now arranged with the National Science Foundation as part of strictly defined budgets.

Finland is also seeking to target its research resources by establishing a centres-of-excellence policy. The Ministry of Education, instead of distributing research funds fairly uniformly to the country's 19 science-oriented universities, will concentrate support at 10-11 centres. This will presumably be coordinated with another ministry (Industry and Foreign Trade) which funds applied research.

In The Netherlands, government funds for strategic research areas have recently been channelled via special programmes. Corresponding to a mere 1% increase in R&D spending, the 1993 budget for education and

science sees a change whereby the overall policy for these two areas is brought more directly into line with technological and industrial policies. The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) will be given a more prominent rôle and the universities have agreed that up to 3% of their research funding can be used to promote strategic areas, thus confirming the 1980-91 trend to reduce basic research.

The internationalisation of research means that the stimulation of international facilities will be organized differently. The International Equipment Scheme is transferred to the NWO in 1994, when 20 MHFL will be budgeted for participation in international facilities abroad and for the construction of new ones at home. The IES's remaining 17 MHFL is for

the national equipment scheme (university centres and medium-sized equipment).

Spallation Source Study Launched

A two-year site independent Study Project for a future European Spallation Source (ESS) has been set up by T. Springer (KFA Jülich) and P. Williams (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot), with their two centres as the leading laboratories. A Science Coordinator (J.L. Finney, RAL) will head a study of user aspects while the Project Leader, H. Lengler from CERN, will lead a technical study aiming at a 10-50 Hz, 5 MW, 3 µs pulse length beam corresponding to roughly the same average flux of thermalised neutrons as the ILL's High Flux Reactor, but with much higher peak neutron fluxes. The formation of



Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität
Frankfurt am Main

An der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main ist unter den Bedingungen des S 39a HUG im Fachbereich Physik am Physikalischen Institut zum Sommersemester 1994 eine

Professor (C4) Experimentelle Physik

wieder zu besetzen. Das Arbeitsgebiet des jetzigen Stelleninhabers, Prof. Martienssen, ist Experimentalphysik, in Anwendung insbesondere auf Festkörperphysik, Quantenoptik und nichtlineare Dynamik. Von den Bewerberinnen und Bewerbern wird erwartet, dass sie bereit sind, wenigstens eines der genannten Gebiete in Forschung und Lehre zu pflegen. Sie sollen sich ferner für die allgemeinen Lehraufgaben des Fachbereichs einsetzen und sich an der universitären Selbstverwaltung beteiligen. Eine Mitarbeit in den Sonderforschungsbereichen "Nichtlineare Dynamik" oder "Elektronisch hochkorrelierte metallische Materialien" ist erwünscht.

Schwerbehinderte Bewerberinnen und Bewerber werden im Rahmen der geltenden gesetzlichen Bestimmungen bevorzugt behandelt bei der Stellenbesetzung.

Die Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main strebt die Erhöhung des Anteils von Frauen am wissenschaftlichen Personal an und fordert daher Frauen nachdrücklich auf, sich zu bewerben.

Nach S 39a HUG wird für die Besetzung von Professoren pädagogische Eignung sowie in der Regel die Habilitation vorausgesetzt. In Ausnahmefällen kann diese durch den Nachweis gleichwertiger wissenschaftlicher Leistungen ersetzt werden. Ein Textauszug des S 39a HUG wird auf Anforderung übersandt.

Bewerbungen sind innerhalb von sechs Wochen nach Erscheinen dieser Anzeige mit den üblichen Unterlagen an den

Präsidenten der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main,
Postfach 11 19 32,
6000 Frankfurt am Main 11,
zu richten.

an *ad hoc* CEC working group is being discussed with Brussels.

ILL Agreement Signed

The protocol to officially extend until 2003 the agreement between France, Germany and the UK covering the Institut Laue-Langevin, Grenoble, was signed in Paris on 25 March. This completes formal arrangements for operation, scheduled to start in mid-1994, of the ILL's High Flux Reactor after refurbishment.

ESRF Users' Meeting

The ESRF in Grenoble will hold a Users' Meeting on 24-25 September 1993 to give prospective users the information they require to make proposals for scientific experiments on eight of the first beamlines. For information, contact Mrs. R. Mason, ESRF, BP 220, F-38043 Grenoble [tel./fax: +33 (0) 76 88 20 14 / 76 88 21 60; mason @ ill.fr].

Four beamlines are already operating, and the decision to instrument 11 more on the part of the experimental floor which has been treated for vibrations by injecting grout will be taken at the end of April. The ESRF Council has approved installations proposed by four Cooperating Research Groups and Y. Petroff, the new ESRF Director, who took over from R. Haensel when his term-of-office ended on 31 December, reports that applications for three more CRG's are expected shortly. The ESRF synchrotron is operating to specifications at 100 mA and 6 GeV with a beam lifetime time of 10 hours. If the decision on the floor is favourable, regular user operation begins in autumn 1994 with the eight lines, implying that there is only a 3-4 months delay relative to the

date at which it was originally planned to have this number of lines available.

Physique en Herbe 93

The 10th *Physique en Herbe* conference for young physicists takes place at the Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires in Saclay near Paris on 28 June-2 July 1993. Contact: Oliver Beckers, PCM, Université de la Vallée de Marne, 2, allée Jean-Renoir, F-93160 Noisy-le-Grand (tel./fax: +33-1-49 32 60 92 / 44 27 52 33).

EPS-9 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Florence 14-17 September 1993

Deadline for registration at reduced rates:
15 May 1993

Contact for registration: Cong. Secretariat,
OIC, Via La Marmora, 24
I-50121 Florence
Tel./fax: +39 (55) 500 06 31 / 500 19 12

Armenia and Bosnia

Armenian physicists are presently working under terrible conditions and help is urgently needed to maintain some semblance of professional life. Roger Balian, the Editor-in-Chief of *Europheysics Letters*, has launched an appeal that aims to collect funds to cover the travel expenses of Armenian physicists collaborating with physicists elsewhere in Europe. Help to pay the membership fees to EPS and to participate in EPS activities is also envisaged as the Armenian Physical Society was admitted as an EPS member by Council on 26 March.

Donations should be sent either as cheques made out in French francs to Professor R. Balian, 36, rue Ernest Renan, F-92190 Meudon, or as postal transfers to Post Office account number CCP 286-79 D Paris, giving as reference "Armenia Appeal".

The French Physical Society's Human Rights Commission has launched an "*aide de première urgence*" scheme for physicists from Bosnia. A foreign currency bank account has been opened in Zagreb and two members of the Society based there are distributing small grants directly to recipients. The scheme started with significant donation to the French Physical Society, to which others are now being added.

Further donations are most welcome. They can be sent either as cheques made out in French francs to Bosnia Appeal, c/o Human Rights Commission, Société Francaise de Physique, 33, rue Croulebarbe, F-75013 Paris, or as postal transfers to Post Office account number CCP 227-92 E 020 Paris, giving as reference "Bosnia Appeal".

Those interested in establishing similar schemes from other countries might wish to obtain information from F. Laloe, Laboratoire de Spectroscopie Hertzienne de l'ENS, 24, rue Lhomond, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05. Tel.: +33 (1) 47 07 54 13; fax: +33 (1) 45 35 00 76; email: laloe @ physique.ens.fr

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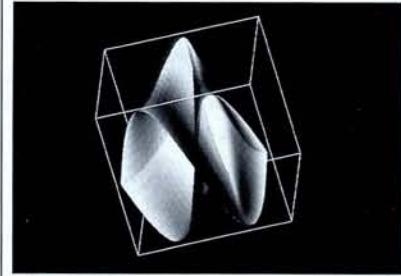
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