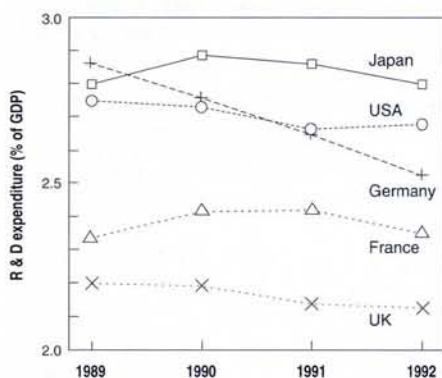


OECD Spending Stabilising



R & D expenditure. Source: OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the latest issue of its six-monthly *Basic Science and Technology Statistics* has published data showing that the main trends are an OECD-wide drop in overall spending on research and development during the recent recession and a continuing increase in the amount industry spends as compared to government. Industry's cut-backs were responsible for the faltering spending in Japan whereas in the USA both government and industry spending declined. The good news is that the decline in overall spending seems to have halted in some countries in 1992 (see figure), at least in terms of the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) spent on R & D, with industry being largely responsible.

Sources Need Structures

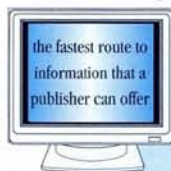
The OECD's Megascience Forum met for the fifth time in early July following expert meetings on particle physics and on neutron beams and synchrotron radiation sources. Regarding the latter, the Forum endorsed the experts' conclusions that although both types of facilities share much in common, neutron sources need a regional mechanism to reduce the number of small and generally fairly old national sources. It should operate within the context of a strategic plan to build new, world-class sources. In order to preserve the increasing complementarity with synchrotron sources, the next generation of large neutron sources could proceed in a staggered manner if institutionalised international collaborations are not feasible. The Forum felt that global scientific bodies equivalent to the International Committee on Future Accelerators might be necessary to help planning. It welcomed an invitation by the USA to host an international meeting on neutron sources in November in view of the proposal to the US Department of Energy to build a M\$3000.- Advanced Neutron Source offering a significantly higher flux than the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble. (The refurbished ILL high-flux reactor was ready to start up at the end of July but government approval is pending following a routine public enquiry which ended in June). Meanwhile, the three world-class synchrotron sources (ESRF, SPring-8 and APS) provide models of international cooperation that should be adapted by national synchrotron sources (there are six European proposals - see page 133).

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NORDITA, Copenhagen

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

NORDITA, the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics, expects to have an opening for an assistant professor starting in September 1995, or some other date to be agreed upon. The position is in frontier areas of subatomic physics, which includes particle physics, and the physics of hadrons and nuclei. Among areas of especial interest are the interface between particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology, and phenomenological approaches to particle physics, but the position has not been earmarked specifically for these areas.

NORDITA is supported by the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Research at the institute, which is located on the premises of the Niels Bohr Institute of Copenhagen University, is at present carried out mainly in astrophysics and cosmology, complex systems (including neural nets), condensed matter physics, particle physics, and the physics of hadrons and nuclei. There are thus good opportunities to carry out cross-disciplinary studies. Members of the institute interact with scientists at the various departments of the Niels Bohr Institute for Astrophysics, Physics and Geophysics (the physics department of the University of Copenhagen), at the newly established Theoretical Astrophysics Centre, and at other scientific centres in the Nordic countries.

The scientific staff includes six positions as permanent professors, four positions as assistant professors, and a number of 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 possibilities 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 250,000 - 350,000 Danish Kroner depending on experience, plus a possible relocation allowance.

Those interested in the appointment should send a *curriculum vitae*, a list of publications and the names of three referees **before November 30, 1994**, to:

The Director, NORDITA, Blegdamsvej 17, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.
Telephone: +45-3532 5200. Telefax: +45-3138 9157. 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.