The same issue of Computers in Physics contains a very interesting article by Paul Ginsparg from the Los Alamos National Laboratory describing the development of LANL's 14 world-famous electronic preprint servers.

### Springer Online Preview Service

Springer-Verlag has joined the growing number of publishers who offer a contents alerting service by Internet. The Springer Journals Preview Service makes available the tables of contents (TOCs) and bibliographies/abstracts of about 50 Springer journals (including Zeit. f"ur Physik). Files are stored in standard ASCII and tagged according to BRS Medline conventions to allow browsing and importing into personal files. TOCs are free of charge and will be automatically downloaded as they become available (to subscribe, send an email to em-helpdesk@springer.de with "SUBSCRIBE TOC code" as the message) while the TOC code refers to a particular journal (the list is available by sending the message "LISTJOURNALS"). To obtain Biblio-Abstracts one needs to register using a form available by sending the message "ORDERFORM"; payment is by credit card. Telephone +48-6221-48 73 03 or email em-helpdesk@springer.de for information.

### New Journals

- **Photons Science News** has been launched by Gordon and Breach.
- International Journal of Optics published by Taylor & Francis has absorbed Optical Computing & Processing and changed format.

### EC DATABASES

**Access Simplified**

With the specific R. & D. programmes in the European Union's 4th Framework in the process of being launched, it is perhaps the time to start thinking about accessing the relevant information on-line. The procedures have become much easier.

**General Information:** The EC's Host Organzation (ECHO) on-line services is now described in several pages on the World-Wide Web at [http://www.echo.lu](http://www.echo.lu) where echo.lu = 139.168.64.2. But do not expect too much: there is little detailed information and no direct access to the databases. (Phone +352 34 98 12 01 for the ECHO Help Desk).

**Database access:** To make life much easier, since 1 September ECHO provides full access to the nine CORDIS (Community Research and Development Information Service) databases. The RTD-NEWS, RTD-PROGRAMMES and RTD-PROJECTS databases contain a large amount of information about the specific programmes (announcements of calls for proposals, deadlines, work programmes, etc.).

**Registration:** To access the CORDIS databases you need to be registered. This can now be done directly by Internet in addition to the original dial-up and network options. Here are the details:

- **Internet:** telnet to echo.lu (echo.lu = 139.64.1.51) and at the prompt, if you are not yet registered type the public access code "ECHO" and follow the prompts to register using the on-line registration form. When it is complete you will be immediately provided with a password (documented will be sent

### EC FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

#### First Notice of BRITE/EURAM Call

Following the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the specific programme for materials and technological development in the field of industrial and materials technologies (BRITE/EURAM III) on 27 July, the European Commission has announced a first notice of calls for proposals. Information on preparing proposals can be sought, but proposals should be sent after the official call on 15 December 1994 (the deadline 15 March 1995). For a detailed information package, contact: ECHO, DG-XII/C, 200, rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels; fax: +32-2-295 23 45; fax: +32-2-295 80 46.

#### Institutional Fellows Call

The last selection round for institutional fellows in the 3rd Framework's Human Capital and Mobility programme has been announced. The EC invites young scientists to apply for mainly postdoc fellowships at institutions listed in the Off. J. S. 177 of 15 September 1994. The institutes themselves must send their choices to the EC by 15 December for a first selection. There will be further selections until all the places are filled. For information, contact J. Vogelgesang, EC, DG-XX/G-1, Brussels (fax: +32-2-296 32 70. The list is currently available by Internet at [ftp://ftp.cordis.euro-ope.com/pub/erc](ftp://ftp.cordis.euro-ope.com/pub/erc).

**Comments**

- Direct dialling via a modem: use a terminal emulator, dial +352420347 and proceed as above at the prompt.
- Via packet switching data networks (PSDN/PPS/PAD) which may be cheaper than direct dialing: NUA = 270448112 (with prefix 0 except in UK where it is 9) and proceed as above at the prompt.

### On-line Commission Directory

A new on-line database called IDEA (International Directory of European Administrations) is being set up. It includes very useful details of European technological activities (i.e., the Directory of the European Commission which can be ordered from EUR-OP sales agents - telephone +325 499 28 45 for information). In its pilot phase, IDEA will be available on the ECHO host (see above) free of charge for a few months (probably under a new the rubric on the ECHO Main Menu.) It will then move to the commercially oriented EUROBASES host which charges for access. (Telephone +32-2-295 00 01 for the EUROBASES Help Desk).

### JOBS POSITIONS BY INTERNET

In following up on the listing of databases on Internet offering details of job positions (August 1994), we have not yet been able to make a thorough survey of national as opposed to international databases. For example, Manuel Ansar writes to say that the essentially Italian Sporletti Giovani database of jobs and fellowships (which was supported as an accompanying measure by the European Union) can now be accessed by telnet at infng-ge.infn.it with username = "giovanii".