scientist from each CERN Member State).

Professor Feshbach thinks possible extremes are a IUPAP body or what he calls "a new paradigm" based on a working group of scientists and administrators appointed by the OECD (such working groups will be decided upon by the OECD next September as a follow-on to its Megascience Forum — see above). He believes physical societies would naturally be responsible for appointing scientific members, a role that is fully endorsed by Renato Ricci who chairs the EPS Nuclear Physics Division. National bodies related to the societies and to specific institutions could provide useful interfaces through channels such as NuPECC and the EPS Nuclear Physics Division Board. It seems that this would be very important for generating concrete and efficient East-West relationships — an issue that will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board during the 15th Divisional Conference *Low-Energy Nuclear Dynamics (LEND'95)* in St. Petersburg on 18-22 April 1995.

AARHUS UNIVERSITET, DENMARK

Professorship in Experimental Solid-State Physics (Reference No.: 211/5-8)

Owing to a delay for advertising in *Europhysics News*, the closing date for applications for the above position has been extended to twelve noon, **1 August 1995**. The position was originally advertised in the January/February 1995 issue of *Europhysics News*.

NATO Advanced Study Institute

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FACILITIES IN PHYSICS: *A Users Directory*

The EPS is carrying out a survey of users facilities in physics with financial support from the European Commission and in collaboration with the OECD Megascience Forum. Some 60% of questionnaires sent out in February have been returned so far. Preliminary results indicate, for instance, that the percentage of external users is proportional to the total number of users for large facilities. Facilities which have not yet replied are being contacted again. The survey is being carried out by E.W.A. Lingeman (tel. +31-20-592 21 17; e-mail: ed@nikhef.nl).

The forthcoming deadline for applicants for magnet time allocation (September 1995 to February 1996) at the

GRENOBLE HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LABORATORY

is **26 May 1995**.

Scientists from European Union countries are entitled to apply under the "Access to research under high-magnetic fields" programme. Application forms are available on request.

Please contact: J.C. VALLIER
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THE NETHERLANDS

Pressure On Research from Several Sides

Huub Eggen of the Dutch funding agency FOM reports on factors affecting physics research in The Netherlands, including financial cuts.

The Dutch Prime Minister who came into office last August is well known for his outspoken views on education and research. While basic education is considered vital, higher education has less support and research is sometimes viewed as an overhead. His government decided to cut funding for the higher education system (universities, polytechnics and schools of higher education) by an amount rising to 500 MHFL starting in 1998. This aroused much concern and massive student protests. After fierce negotiations and parliamentary debate it was decided in February that higher education will only have to bear one-half of the proposed cut, that a part will be postponed until after the year 2000, and that another part can be avoided through increasing efficiency and improving curicula so that students spend less time in the system. A part of the cut will be covered by increasing the fee students pay each year.

According to a recent report of a government review panel, **university spending** on physics research was about 205 MHFL in 1993. Teaching staff carry out research in Holland so research will be affected by the cuts in the university budget. There will also be a shift of students from universities to polytechnics, which are cheaper (for students). Combined with demographic changes, university student numbers will probably decrease by 10% in 1995/6. Overall, university expenditure on physics research is expected to go down by 5% in 1994-99.

Regarding **non-university spending**, FOM (the principle funding agency for physics) receives about 90 MHFL from the science and technology funding agency NWO for running costs and about 7 MHFL for investments. There are also funds from other sources giving a total of about 130 MHFL in 1995, which is roughly the same as last year (35-40% is spent on research in universities). But the amount will decrease by about 2 MHFL *p.a.* in the coming years owing to adjustments within NWO. Parliament has resisted the cabinet's proposal to reduce the funds for agencies such as NWO so it is unclear if the overall NWO budget will decrease.

The NWO runs programmes of its own, including several physics projects giving a total NWO expenditure for physics research of about 145 HFL in 1995. This is a lower limit since physics research is also funded from outside NWO.

One concludes that non-university government funding for physics research will decrease by several percent in the years to come.

Government and industry together spend about 11000 MHFL each year on R&D (where government spending is 4900 MHFL in 1995). In terms of GNP, **industry spending** was 1.0% in 1993, down from 1.2% in 1987, while government spent 0.8% and 1%, respectively. So the reduction in government support for research *via* the universities and funding agencies comes at a time when industry is cutting its spending.

Reflecting an international trend, there is also increasing political pressure on the academic system (institutes and universities) to do research which answers the **needs** of society in general and of industry in particular. The government will try to find ways for the universities and industry to collaborate. How this will done is unclear. Financial rewards are being considered and the economics ministry already has a fiscal model to reduce income taxes for employees involved in R&D. Organizations such FOM would be able to profit from such measures.

The country's shift towards special, **strategic R&D** programmes continues. A government-funded (30 MHFL for five years) high-performance computing programme was launched in 1994 and the NWO funds a 10 MHFL companion programme (run by FOM) dealing with the scientific aspects. Materials research is receiving more attention with in addition to NWO's own programme of 2 MHFL *p.a.*, a programme of some 25 MHFL over five years to be funded by the NWO and by the ministries of economic affairs and education.