

europhysics news

November/December 1995

Vol. 26, No. 6

features

EXTRASOLAR PLANETS

Jupiter-like Planet Discovered 123

The Heliosphere and its Neighbourhood 124

high energy physics conference

Seeking a Comprehensive Understanding 125

physics and society

Polish Society Celebrates its 75th Year 128

INTERNATIONAL USER FACILITIES

Wroclaw's High Fields at Low Temperatures 128

SCIENCE IN POLAND

A Broader Backdrop 129

europhysics notes

Organizations; European Commission;
Sociology of Science; Research reactors;
CERN; Publications; Personalities 131

information to eps members

A Broad Range of Activities 132

EPS CONSTITUTION: Proposed Amendments 133

Executive Committee Decisions 133

1996 HPE Prize: Opening the Door to Bright Prospects 134

PhysDoc Index Search 135

Quantum Electronics Prize 135

High-Energy and Particle Physics Board 135

EPS Sponsored & Organized Conferences 135

europhysics meetings list

Conferences 1996 136

Schools 1996 142

letters to the editor

European Physical Society[©]

Europhysics News is the bulletin of the European Physical Society, published at least six times each year. Subscription price: SFR 135.– p. a.

President: H. Schopper, CERN

Sec. Gen.: G. Thomas

Editorial Board

P. Bochsler, Bern University

S. Ciliberto, ENS, Lyon

J.-P. Connerade, Imperial Coll., London

A.-J. Dianoux, ILL, Grenoble

H. Ferdinande, Gent University

K. Ilakovac, Zagreb University

T. Jarlborg, Geneva University

Chairman: M. Siegrist, EPFL, Lausanne

M.-C. Lemaire, CE Saclay

A.G. Petrov, Sofia University

R. Poerschke, Springer-Verlag

J. Schacher, Bern University

A.M. Stoneham, AEA, Harwell

O. Svelto, Politecnico di Milano

Editor: P.G. Boswell

Editorial and Advertising

EPS Secretariat, P.O. Box 69

CH-1213 Petit-Lancy 2, Geneva

Telephone: +41 (22) 793 11 30

Telefax: +41 (22) 793 13 17

E-mail: peter.boswell@cern.ch

Subscriptions and EPS Fees

SBS Geneva; Acc. No. 164.899

Swiss PO Acc.: CCP 12-19107-4

German Post Office Acc.: Postbank

Karlsruhe 1801-30-754

Advertising

Deadline for advertising orders: first week of month of publication.

Advertising is charged according to space on a sliding scale ranging from SFR 2700.– for a full page to SFR 700.– for a one-sixth page. Rates for colour and cover advertising and for series insertions on request. Special rates for EPS members and for positions vacant.

Cover illustration

A column of gas and dust is slowly eroded away by light from nearby hot stars leaving small globules of dense gas (Evaporating Gaseous Globules). The shadows of the EGGs protect the gas behind them, resulting in finger-like projections at the top of the cloud. Forming inside the EGGs are embryonic stars that abruptly stop growing when the EGGs are uncovered. Eventually, stars emerge from EGGs as the EGGs themselves succumb to photoevaporation. Radiative stripping in a different context may explain the origin of the first extrasolar planetary system to be discovered (p. 123). Photo courtesy of the Hubble Space Telescope.

More Discrimination

Satisfying readers occupies most publications no matter what the format. The Editorial Board of *Europhysics News* has discussed for some time the need for a readership survey. It was discouraged by the undiscriminating results of surveys carried out by similar publications showing that 25% of readers agreed with everything one did. Moreover, the context was rapidly evolving with the distribution to national society members as from last January, expansion of the Board to reflect the enlarged EPS membership, and the collaboration with Springer-Verlag that sees the company taking over the production and distribution of *Europhysics News* as from the next issue.

Perhaps a more stable situation, a possible move of the EPS Secretariat to Mulhouse notwithstanding (p. 133), will make a readership survey worthwhile and indeed advisable. A recent survey by the Finnish Physical Society (FPS) of 400 of its some 1000 members indicates that there is now some hope that the results would reflect greater discrimination.

Of the (representative) 25% who replied, 98% and 73% read the FPS bulletin and *Europhysics News*, respectively, 86% read the scholarly publication (published in collaboration with the Finnish Mathematical Society), and 25% regularly consulted the FPS WWW server for information. So the level of interest was very high and variety much appreciated. Moreover, while some items in the bulletin were read by over 70% of readers, others only interested some 20%.

It would be jumping to conclusions to say that the greater appreciation of a variety of formats and content stems from the emergence of electronic publications and information sources which emphasise the value of traditional forms by offering new ones. But something has changed in reader awareness.

Tracking changing tastes via surveys seems feasible; tracking publications themselves will become more difficult. The Society has recently taken some first steps by launching under its EurophysNet umbrella a service called *PhysDoc* that generates a searchable index of electronic documents (p. 135). The aim is to tune the system to find and point to the location of accessible documents, and not simply references, and to extend index building beyond physics departments in European universities. Such efforts are, of course, largely voluntary, with EPS providing the indispensable continuity that is often forgotten in the rush to something new in the electronic world.

P.G. Boswell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Editorial Board and the Editor wish to take this opportunity to thank Pflirter Frères SA who have produced *Europhysics News* for the last 15 years for their exemplary service. The company — a family run enterprise — continually adapted its technology to meet the highest standards while reducing costs.