

## Europhysics Notes

The 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to R. Curl and R.E. Smalley (Rice University, Houston) and H. Kroto (University of Sussex) for the discovery, in 1985, of fullerenes. Together with W. Krätschmer and D.R. Huffman, R.E. Smalley and H. Kroto won the 1994 Hewlett-Packard Europhysics Prize for the discovery and the production of fullerenes. The 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to D. Lee and R. Richardson (Cornell University) and D. Osheroff (Stanford University) for the discovery, in 1972, of superfluidity in helium-3, a substance that recently entered the news with announcements by groups in Grenoble and Helsinki of the formation of vortices under neutron irradiation with densities similar to those predicted for cosmic strings formed shortly after the Big Bang.

L. Maiani, the President of Italy's INFN has been elected President of the CERN Council, replacing H. Currien. In response to a German decision to reduce its CERN contribution by 8.5 - 9.3 % in 1997 - 2000, the Council's committee has announced that it is preparing options to be put before Council in December, including the possibility of taking out loans (which would reverse a two-year old Council policy).

The French government, in mandating that public research agencies set aside funds for seven priority themes identified by a committee that included the heads of ministries involved in or affected by research, has provoked criticism that the balance with basic research will be compromised. The decision came shortly after F. de Aubert, the state secretary for research, proposed an across-the-board 1.9 % cut in real terms of funding for research, including a 2 % cut in the CERN contribution. Most cuts will affect industrial research (these may be offset by special initiatives); most increases are for bodies responsible for strategic priorities (e.g., space, nuclear) and for universities.

A parliamentary white paper based on an international committee's evaluation of the central Dutch research funding agency NWO presented by J.M.M. Ritzen, the education, culture and science minister, has recommended that a "substantial portion" of the money received by universities for research should be transferred to the NWO so as to concentrate funding on centres of excellence. More contentious is the minister's proposal to merge NWO institutes and the proposed Top Technology Institutes with academy of science (KNAW) institutes within a new umbrella organization. NWO's internal organization based on managerial boards and 23 foundations should also be streamlined by replacing them with subject-area councils.

In announcing in late-September how the Ariane-5 programme will continue after the explosion on its maiden flight in June, J.M. Luton, the Director General of the European Space Agency, made no mention of proposals for replacing the four Cluster satellites that were destroyed. As the space science programme cannot afford a costly Ariane-5 launch, among the options being studied is a scaled-down replacement mission with an Ariane-4 launch.

A study of a future European Spallation Source has recommended that the next phase comprise a 3-4 year R&D programme involving a consortium of laboratories. Meanwhile, a German committee has recommended that the long-pulse option [EN 26 (1996) 90] be included.

## Beam line scientist

Elettra is a third generation synchrotron light source operated by Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A. and now engaged in user operation. The extremely high quality of the machine and beam lines has set new performance records in its field of operation and is regularly producing results of great scientific interest. The environment is multi-national and multi-disciplinary. Applications are invited from experienced researchers for the position of beam line scientist.

A PhD in physics, chemistry or materials science is required. Ideally, the candidate should have experience of vacuum ultraviolet and/or soft x-ray synchrotron light, ability to work as part of a team, working knowledge of spoken and written English, ability to understand users' needs and to communicate with them, extensive experience of Ultra High Vacuum instrumentation. A working knowledge of Italian would be preferable.

The duties include: development of advanced synchrotron radiation instrumentation, assistance of the ELETTRA users, with opportunities for independent or co-operative research.

The salary will be commensurate to the applicant's seniority and qualifications. Assistance with re-location costs within Europe will be offered. Applications including full curriculum vitae and the names and (electronic mail) addresses, telephone and fax numbers of three referees should reach:

Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A.  
Personnel Department  
Strada Statale 14,  
km. 163.5, Basovizza,  
34012 Trieste, Italy  
by 15.12.96.

The Group CPB, (formerly PCS), Department of Physical Chemistry, the University of Geneva has two

### postdoctoral positions available

(assistant docteur). One is in high resolution optical spectroscopy of rare earth ions and transition metal ions in inorganic solids. The other one in production by MBE and optical properties of thin films.

One post is open now. The other one beginning 1.1.1997.

Conditions according to the laws and regulations of the University.

Application: curriculum vitae, publications list.

Contact address:

Prof. H. Bill, Groupe CPB,

Sciences II

30, quai Ernest-Ansermet

1211 Genève 4, Switzerland,

Phone: +41.22.702.65.31, Fax: +41.22.702.65.18,

E-mail: bill@sc2a.unige.ch

April 2-12, 1997

Geilo, Norway

## NATO Advanced Study Institute

Dynamical properties of unconventional magnetic systems

### Topics of lectures:

- frustrated magnets
- mesoscopic magnetism
- giant- and colossal magnetoresistance
- quantum magnets
- Haldane Gap
- skyrmions
- low-dimensional magnetism
- spin liquids
- magnetic multilayers
- Spin-Peierls gap
- magnetic quantum critical points
- spin solitons
- magnetism in soft matter
- unconventional ground states

Topics will cover both experiments and theory. Open to participants from all countries. Deadline for application: **January 1, 1997.**

Information: Mary Byberg, Dept. of Physics, Institute for Energy Technology, POB 40, N-2007 Kjeller, Norway. Tel.: +47 63 80 60 75, fax +47 63 81 09 20, e-mail: fysikk@ife.no

Information about the NATO ASI and the application form may also be found on World Wide Web address: <http://www.ife.no/physics/ASI97.html>

## PROFESSEUR DE PHYSIQUE THEORIQUE

Université de Neuchâtel, Suisse

Le candidat choisi pour ce poste (full Professor) devra assumer des enseignements en physique théorique, animer un groupe de recherche et participer aux travaux administratifs. Le domaine de recherche souhaité est la théorie des champs quantifiés avec applications en physique de la matière condensée et physique statistique. D'autres sujets de physique théorique peuvent cependant être proposés; ils seront évalués en fonction de leur intérêt scientifique et de leur intégration dans le contexte de l'Institut de physique de Neuchâtel.

Renseignements au directeur de l'Institut de physique, rue A.L. Breguet 1, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Suisse (tél. +38 256 991, fax +38 211 913).

Candidatures avec curriculum vitae, liste de publications, projets de recherche et références, au Service de l'enseignement universitaire, Château, CH-2001 Neuchâtel, Suisse, **jusqu'au 31 janvier 1997.**

Les places mises au concours à l'université de Neuchâtel sont ouvertes indifféremment aux femmes et aux hommes.