

## news summary

**Report from EPS HQ**

AT ITS MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER IN DUBLIN the Executive Committee received and approved a proposal from the Action Committee on Publications and Scientific Communications regarding an **Electronic Communication and Information Policy and Strategy**.

The proposal addressed the EPS presence on the Web, services which could be provided by the EPS and recommendations for electronic publications. An action plan, which will begin this year with a survey of the opinions of IOMs, was also presented.

The proposal includes the consolidation and improvement of existing EPS Websites, the creation of a network of information providers (national WWW coordinators and technical support) appointed by member societies, an inventory of European electronic archives in physics to be posted on EurophysNet, the development of the PhysDoc facility by encouraging the posting or indexing of hitherto unpublished or new lecture notes, textbooks and monographs.

As part of the recommendations for electronic publishing the EPS encourages free access (at the point of entry) to electronic communication for the scientific community and will participate in international efforts to provide codes of practice and guidelines for scientific information on the Internet.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT ITS MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER in Dublin, received and approved a proposal from the Action Committee on Publications and Scientific Communications regarding the **Criteria for the EPS Recognized Journal Scheme**.

The major change, responding to new demands arising from electronic publications, allows for page charges if: "Journals...are made available entirely free of charge in paper format or by electronic or other means..." Journals that use page charges must ensure that "no discrimination is...exercised against any contributor for submissions otherwise acceptable for publication resulting from the contributor's inability to pay such fees. For this case, there shall be a provision for reducing or waiving such fees." A series of recommendations was also adopted for electronic journals:

1 Integration into search and retrieval networks. The journal should offer an electronic access point for external search engines that allows the retrieving at least bibliographic information on its published documents in an international standard readable format.

2 Archiving full information handed in by au-

thors. The journal should archive for eventual later availability the full scientific information (eg text file, figures, data, programmes) handed in by the author.

3 Copyright agreements and author's rights. The copyright of the author as negotiated with the publisher should allow the author to retain pre-print versions on pre-print servers, with the obligation not to change them after processing started at the publishers (securing the add-on value) and of adding a link to the final document at the publishers site in the e-print.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT ITS MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER in Dublin, received and approved a proposal from Kimmo Kaski, Chairman of the Interdivisional Group on Applied Physics and Physics in Industry (IGAPPI) to change the name to the **Technology Group**.

This change is part of an action plan addressing the structure and actions of the Technology Group in 1999. The structure of the Technology group can be improved through new statutes, a revitalized board and increased participation by Associate Members. The actions that the Technology Group is planning in 1999 include closer co-operation with other EPS divisions in the organization of symposia on physics and technology at EPS conferences, and workshops demonstrating the role of physics in local industry.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO ASK the help of all EPS members and Divisions and Interdivisional Groups in identifying **prospective Associate Members**. Links between the academic and applied aspects of physics are very important in areas such as research funding, public understanding of science and employment opportunities.

DIVISIONS AND INTERDIVISIONAL GROUPS ARE requested to provide written reports on 1998 activities and action plans for 1999 to the Mulhouse Secretariat, **in preparation for Council**. The reports should be about two pages long, and should arrive before 31 January 1999.

EARLIER THIS YEAR members, Divisions and Interdivisional Groups were invited to suggest possible prizes to be awarded by the EPS. Many responses were received, which included the following proposals currently under examination by the Executive Committee:

A **book award** for the best physics book, to be sponsored by a consortium of publishers. Any type of book related to physics would be eligible (text book, essay, monograph, history, biography, general interest etc). A small commit-

tee together with expert reviewers would recommend the award.

The **Fresnel Prize** suggested by the EPS Quantum Electronics and Optics Division for physicists under the age of 35 who have made noteworthy contributions to optics, quantum electronics or quantum optics.

The **Hanes Alfin Prize** recommended by the Plasma Physics Division for outstanding contributions to plasma physics.

AS ANNOUNCED AT THE 1998 COUNCIL MEETING the Executive Committee will propose an **increase in unit fee** at the 1999 Council Meeting to be held in Mulhouse on April 9 and 10 1999. The increase (approximately 6%) is motivated by a series of actions that the EPS would like to undertake but would need additional funding for. The increase would be effective for membership fees for the year beginning January 2000.

The last increase in unit fee was January, 1994. In 1996 the currency used to express the unit fee was changed from Swiss Francs to ECU.

THE EPS EUROPEAN MOBILITY SCHEME for Physics Students (EMSPS) is a network open to all European universities and equivalent institutions that grant a degree in physics or a physics related discipline. Established in 1992 the EMSPS provides about 20 **annual grants to physics students** from Eastern and Central Europe to spend a term in another participating university. The Secretariat for the EMSPS will move to the EPS office in Budapest mid-January 1999. The EPS would like to thank Mrs. Anne Petit (Universiteit Gent) for the friendly and efficient administration of the past two years.

THE FUTURE OF PHYSICS ACTION GROUP PRESENTED a proposal for a series of actions to be undertaken by the EPS for the **public understanding of science**. These include: comparing and communicating the experiences in different European countries (activities, successes, difficulties) of the public understanding of physics; preparing a guide for physicists who are involved in the public understanding of science; preparing a series of documents explaining the role of physics in "wealth creation" and its relation to society, as well as biographies of physicists suitable for schools.

THE CONDENSED MATTER DIVISION HAS APPROVED the creation of a **new section** called Structural and Dynamical Properties of Solids to stimulate scientific work and contacts between scientists in this field. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Ted Janssen [ted@sci.kun.nl](mailto:ted@sci.kun.nl).

**Do you have something for the noticeboard?  
Email [eneditor@univ-mulhouse.fr](mailto:eneditor@univ-mulhouse.fr) if you do.**