

ing, subscription rates, bibliographies, ownership, abstracts and geographical distribution. All important data are compared and percentage results given. For example, although US journals have the lowest percentage of scientific articles per journal (85% as compared with 99% in Indian and Dutch journals), the number of scientific articles published in the US is one third the world total. Total number of major journals in each country is: US (22), Great Britain (20), Germany (15), USSR (10), France (8), Japan (7), India (4), Netherlands (4). The book gives proof to the so-called "age of journals": Each year three new journals appear in mathematics and physics. A copy of the book, entitled *Some Characteristics of Primary Periodicals in the Domain of Physical Sciences*, can be obtained by sending \$5.00 to ICSU Abstracting Board, 17 rue Mirabeau, Paris 16, France.

AEC May Support Fusion Work at General Atomic

The General Atomic fusion program, one of the major private thermonuclear projects in the US, has lost its primary backer and is seeking Atomic Energy Commission support. For the past ten years, a private utility group, the Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation, has provided substantial support to the General Atomic fusion program, several times renewing its contract with the company. But on 1 May this support came to an end. Sources indicate that the utility group had hoped that the GA fusion project might transfer to Texas.

The AEC told PHYSICS TODAY they are particularly concerned that the GA fusion work not founder. "We have already had some talks with General Atomic on the matter," said AEC fusion chief Amasa Bishop. "Exactly how this is going to resolve itself is not clear. We have told GA we would be willing to provide interim support for two general areas of interest to us, their theoretical as well as their toroidal-multipole work. It all depends on the core of the staff that GA will be able to keep."

Thus far four key scientists have left the GA fusion program to return to academic work: Marshall Rosenbluth, who has been named professor of plasma physics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Norman Rostoker, who will become head of the applied physics department at Cornell University, Charles Wharton, who will be professor of electrical engineering at Cornell and Robert Scott, who will assume the post of professor of physics at the University of Tennessee.

But GA officials point out that their leaving is part of a normal turnover among the GA plasma and fusion staff of 40, including 22 physicists. "GA fully intends to carry on in the fusion field," said company president Frederic DeHoffmann.

Theoretical areas that GA has recently worked in are light scattering by plasmas, plasma energy loss by synchrotron radiation, universal instability due to spatial inhomogeneities, and weak turbulence. Their toroidal-multipole operation provided experimental demonstration of magnetohydrodynamic stability and reduction of plasma noise level to 1% of the electron temperature. GA physicists have controlled instabilities in the toroidal field by shaping the field and have also shown that mechanical supports within the toroidal multipole could be magnetically shielded to decrease their effect on the plasma.

With the ending of the Texas utilities contract, General Electric remains the only company having a major fusion project that is wholly privately supported. AEC noted, however, that it has already discussed partial assistance with GE.

Congress Acts to Tighten Federal Science Planning

Despite misgivings from many in the academic and scientific communities, the House of Representatives is slowly but inexorably converging on tighter coordination for government science and technology. The Military Operations Subcommittee, headed by Rep. Chet Holifield (D-Cal.), has taken the first steps to strengthen policymaking functions of the President's Office of Science and Technology. Meanwhile the House recently passed by a vote of 391-22 the National Science Founda-

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