

Ehrenreich to head study group on solar photovoltaics

Henry Ehrenreich (Harvard University) has been named chairman of The American Physical Society's study group on solar photovoltaic energy conversion. The study will undertake an objective analysis of photovoltaic technology to provide information to federal and industrial program planners and to the research community.

The other members of the study group are David DeWitt (IBM), Jerry P. Gollub (Haverford College), Robert N. Hall (General Electric), Charles H. Henry (Bell Labs), J. J. Hopfield (Princeton University), Thomas C. McGill Jr. (Caltech), Albert Rose (RCA), Jan Tauc (Brown University), Robb Thomson (National Bureau of Standards) and Mark S. Wrighton (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). John Martin (Harvard) serves as assistant to Ehrenreich for the study group's work and J. A. Burton as the APS liaison.

The study will take advantage, wherever possible, of previous studies and of the expertise already developed in this field. It will recognize the fact that the government has included photovoltaic conversion as a national mission and has defined specific technical goals and timetables.

While the prospects for immediate major contributions to the country's electrical energy needs from solar photovoltaics are slim, the possibility exists that a substantial fraction of these energy needs will be met from such sources in the future. Overall solar research strategy must, therefore, be designed with the long-range demand for electricity in mind. Photovoltaic production of solar electrical energy is currently limited by economic considerations. The study group will examine long-range research and development needs in this area, and, in particular, will delineate its problems and promises.

The proposal for the study arose out of discussions Herman Feshbach (MIT), then chairman of the APS Panel on Public Affairs, had with members of the staff of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the spring of 1977. During the summer, POPA recommended the appointment of Ehrenreich as study group leader, guided the development of the proposal's outline and considered



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nominations for study-group members. The final version of the proposal was presented by Ehrenreich to POPA at its meeting at MIT in early November and to the APS executive committee and council for approval in late November. (The sequence of events and the time scale noted above, required for thoughtful consideration and development of a study topic, are representative of those followed by most of the previous APS studies. See the "Revised POPA Study Guidelines," *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, January 1978).

Members of the study group have been meeting monthly for two-day briefing sessions and will meet continuously during the month of August to complete the major part of the study. The final version of the report will be prepared during the Fall and should be completed by the first of the year.

Feshbach is the chairman of the review panel that will monitor the technical progress of the study, review its conclusions and verify the technical soundness of the final report. The other members of the panel are N. Bruce Hannay (Bell Labs), Robert M. Noyce (INTEL Corporation) and J. Robert Schrieffer (University of Pennsylvania).

The APS council, after having received the recommendations of the review panel

and the advice of POPA (at present chaired by Richard Garwin of IBM) will arrange for public presentation of the results of the study and for its publication.

Subscription rates rise for two APS journals

The constant attention given to improving the efficiency of publication production has enabled The American Physical Society to maintain member journal subscription prices at constant levels for some years (\$15 per section for *Physical Review* since 1969, \$20 for *Physical Review Letters* since 1970, and \$10 for *Reviews of Modern Physics* since 1973). However, office economies and improved production efficiency are no longer adequate to offset inflation. J. A. Burton, APS treasurer, reported to Council at its meeting in San Francisco that the incremental costs for paper, mailing and subscription fulfillment could no longer be covered by the member subscription price. Council then voted that, for fiscal year 1979, member subscription rates for *PRL* be increased to \$25 and that the rate for a section of *PR* be increased to \$20. The member price for *RMP* will remain the same. □