

Summit meeting in physics

The listing under October in the most recent calendar—"AIP Corporate Associates Meeting, Albuquerque, NM"—fails utterly to communicate the importance of the event. What in fact will take place in mid October at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque is the most significant gathering of research managers in physics to be held during the year.

Although the term "Corporate Associates" may suggest a membership limited to companies in industry, AIP's invitation to apply for Corporate Associate Membership extends to all organizations involved in physics, including academic departments, government and nonprofit institutions and laboratories, as well as industrial groups. The role of the Corporate Associates program is to assist AIP in performing its primary function—the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of the science of physics and its applications to human welfare. One of the main ways Corporate Associates fulfill their mission is through participation in the annual meeting.

This meeting, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, has evolved to become the annual "summit meeting" for the leadership of the physics community. This invitational meeting, usually hosted by a Corporate Associate Member (the most recent sites, for example, were the National Academy of Sciences, Bell Labs, GE Research, Battelle Memorial Institute, IBM Research San Jose and GM Research), gathers together several hundred laboratory directors, department heads and program managers from academia, industry and government. This unique assemblage, representing the broad spectrum of physics at the management level, provides an invaluable setting to review issues and problems that confront the physics community as a whole. Thus this year's agenda includes sessions on national science policy and on basic research as a source of industrial innovation as well as sessions on frontiers in physics research and research at Sandia. The meeting format provides ample opportunity for cross discussion at the sessions and for private "corridor" conversations.

We urge those who regularly attend the Corporate Associates Meeting to think of how the opportunities provided by this occasion can be even more profitably exploited.

We point out to those managers not yet acquainted with the meeting that having your organization represented at the annual Corporate Associates Meeting is *the way* to keep in touch with the physics community.

Harold L. Davis