

Megachannel Extra-Terrestrial Assay. It is a descendant of Project Sentinel, a 128 000-channel receiving system inaugurated at Harvard-Smithsonian in March 1983 with funding from NASA and the Planetary Society. Horowitz built Sentinel after successfully testing his computerized scanning system, popularly known as "suitcase SETI" because of its portability, at the 1000-ft radiotelescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Horowitz and Stanford University physicists designed the suitcase SETI during a year Horowitz spent at Stanford in 1981-82. The Sentinel system compensated for Earth's spin and orbit but did not correct to reference frames

outside the solar system.

META consists of the radiotelescope at Harvard, a receiver, amplifier and digitizer, a digital filter bank and a custom supercomputer consisting of 144 processors, each containing a Motorola 68000 microprocessor and hardware multiplier. Ivan R. Linscott and colleagues at Stanford designed and built the digital filter bank, which is based on a component in NASA's SETI analyzer, now under development.

The only other continuous search for signals from extraterrestrial civilizations is being conducted by Robert Dixon and John Kraus at Ohio State University.

—WILLIAM SWEET

OSA elects Bridges 1986 vice-president

William B. Bridges of Caltech has been elected to serve as 1986 vice-president of the Optical Society of America. He will succeed to the office of president-elect in 1986 and become president in 1987. The 1986 president of the Optical Society is Jean M. Bennett of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, and the 1986 president-elect is Robert G. Greenler of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Three directors-at-large also have been elected by the OSA membership to serve two-year terms: Jay M. Eastman of Optel Systems Inc in East Rochester, New York; William T. Silfvast of AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey; and George I. Stegeman of the Optical Sciences Center at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Bridges received a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1962, and from 1961 to 1977 he was a member of the research staff at Hughes Aircraft Company. He was senior member of the technical staff from 1965 to 1968, manager of the laser department in 1969-70 and senior scientist from 1968 to 1977. He has been a professor of electrical engineering and applied physics at Caltech since 1977 and he served as the department's executive officer from 1977 to 1981.

An OSA fellow, Bridges is the discoverer of laser oscillation in noble-gas ions, and he spent several years developing high-power visible and uv ion lasers for military uses.

Eastman is president of Optel Systems, a manufacturer mainly of barcode-scanning equipment. He also is an adjunct associate professor at the University of Rochester's Institute of Optics, where he received his PhD in 1974.

Silfvast received a PhD in physics from the University of Utah in 1961



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and has been a member of the technical staff at AT&T Bell Labs since 1967. Much of his research has been on metal-vapor lasers, and he has discovered more than 200 laser transitions in over 30 elements. His current interests are autoionizing states and the use of short-wavelength lasers in physics research.

Stegeman received his PhD in physics from the University of Toronto in 1969 and taught there from 1969 to 1980. He has been a professor of optics at the University of Arizona since 1980. Stegeman's current research involves surface spectroscopy and nonlinear optical interactions at surfaces; he is particularly interested in all-optical signal processing using nonlinear guided-wave devices.

California Regents will renew contracts for labs

At the end of September, the Board of Regents of the University of California voted 19 to 7 to enter negotiations for the renewal of the university's five-

year contract to manage the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore labs. This is regarded as the key vote on the question of whether to remain in association with the labs because successful conclusion of a contract is considered certain.

The university's management of the laboratories has been controversial for many years, but there apparently was less fuss over the renewal of the contract this time than on previous occasions. While much of the impetus for the Strategic Defense Initiative has come from work done at the laboratories, opponents of association with the labs apparently did not make much of an effort to link the contract issue with the Star Wars debate.

Last spring, in a poll of faculty on the Berkeley campus, about 40% responded, and they voted narrowly in favor of continued association with the labs. The Assembly of the Academic Senate, which represents all campuses of the University of California, recommended that oversight responsibility for the labs be given to the Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation at San Diego, but the regents ignored this suggestion.

Dealy is 1986 vice-president of Society of Rheology

John M. Dealy, a professor of chemical engineering at McGill University, has taken office as vice-president of the Society of Rheology. He will be vice-president for two years and will become president of the society at the end of 1987, when Robert F. Landel's term expires. Landel is a senior scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Dealy earned a BS in chemical engineering at the University of Kansas in 1958, a master of science and engineering degree at the University of Michigan in 1959 and a PhD in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan in 1964. He has taught at McGill since 1964. He has done research on

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