AIP, APS AND AAPT BREAK GROUND FOR NEW PHYSICS CENTER NEAR WASHINGTON

On 29 July the American Institute of Physics, the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers ceremonially broke ground for the new American Center for Physics in College Park and Riverdale, Maryland. Work actually began that day, the purchase of the land having been finalized at the end of June.

AIP, APS and AAPT plan to occupy the new building by the end of next year, perhaps as soon as September 1993. The American Association of Physicists in Medicine and the American Vacuum Society, which now are headquartered with AIP and APS in Manhattan, have been invited to relocate to the American Center for Physics; AAPM has declared itself in favor of a Washington-area location, AVS in favor of New York. The other AIP member societies have chosen to maintain current arrangements, at least for the time being.

Kenneth W. Ford, executive director and CEO of AIP, said a primary reason for the move is to "establish a common and highly visible home for physics in the US." Bernard V. Khoury, executive officer of AAPT, said he believed the new quarters would "usher in an exciting new era of cooperation and accomplishment within the physics community." APS executive secretary N. Richard Werthamer said "locating near the nation's capital aids the physics community in its communications with government decision makers."

The new headquarters for AIP, APS and AAPT will cost about $30 million, including $10 million for the 24-acre site. The project will be financed by tax-exempt bonds, which will be issued this September or October.

AIP and APS, both of which currently have headquarters in New York City, will retain their publishing operations on Long Island. AIP will provide substantial relocation assistance to employees of both AIP and APS who are asked to move to the

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Ground-breaking (top) for the new American Center for Physics on 29 July at RiverSide, a development straddling College Park and Riverdale, Maryland. From left: Dennis Murphy of Prince Georges County, AAPT president James H. Stith, AIP executive director Kenneth W. Ford, APS executive secretary N. Richard Werthamer, Nicolaas Bloembergen of Harvard (APS president in 1991), Maryland comptroller Louis Goldstein, William Kirwan (the president of the University of Maryland's College Park campus), AAPT executive officer Bernard V. Khoury and AAPT treasurer Robert Sears. Illustration at bottom shows the architectural design for the south face of the building.

new location, including help with sale and purchase of homes. For AAPT staff, who now are headquartered near the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park, the move to new quarters just two miles away will be a minor inconvenience.

The American Center for Physics will be about a half mile from a new Metro station, which also is expected to be completed by the end of 1993. The Metro will facilitate access to downtown Washington and will make it relatively easy for visitors to reach the center. The new headquarters building will be about 12 miles from downtown Washington, about a half hour by car from Baltimore–Washington International Airport and directly connected by Metro to Washington National Airport.

APS, AAPT and AIP staff

Finalization of the relocation plans ends a chapter that had been quite controversial among leaders of AIP's member societies for nearly a decade and opens a new chapter in the history of physics organizations in the US. "The decision to relocate to the Washington area was very important and was debated at length," says Werthamer. "It will have a substantial impact on physics and on the APS for a long time to come."

Virtually the whole Manhattan and Woodbury staff of APS will move to Maryland, though its journals staff will remain at Ridge, Long Island. APS's public affairs office already has moved into new quarters at the National Press Building near the White House.

AAPT will move its entire staff to the new headquarters, and it hopes to convert part of its current building, which it bought several years ago with the help of a gift from the Homer L. Dodge family, into a national demonstration center for physics teaching. The Dodge name probably will move with AAPT headquarters to the new location but may also remain attached to the teaching demonstration center.

Most of AIP's divisions now based in New York City, including accounting, career planning and placement, history, PHYSICS TODAY, public information, and statistics, will move to Maryland. Advertising, books, exhibits and marketing will stay somewhere in New York. AIP's education division, its senior education fellow, staff for the Society of Physics Students, the magazine–journal *Computers in Physics* and the AIP development office—which until recently were located at the American Geophysical Union's building on Florida Avenue or in a nearby building—will be based in Maryland.

Altogether about 150–160 AIP and APS staff positions will move to the new headquarters.

Special design features

The American Center for Physics will contain roughly 120 000 square feet of floor space, enough to house its three initial member societies, with room for one or two more organizations. Up to 480 000 square feet of building space can be accommodated on the site, so that ample room exists for the founding organizations to expand or for a variety of other organizations to join the center.

The approach to the center will be an elliptical drive of eccentricity 0.54, and the building itself will be located at the far end of the major axis (the northern end). AIP's Niels Bohr Library, a featured element in the design by the firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, will occupy three floors immediately above the entrance.

The first-floor exterior walls and the two ends of the building will be covered with rough limestone, while the exterior of the upper floors will be made of glass and white-painted metal. The upper-floor windows will be floor-to-ceiling and will provide panoramic views of the wooded setting.

Representatives of AIP, APS and AAPT subunits have worked closely with the architects on the design of the sections where they will be located. AIP will occupy the second and third floors, which will have burgundy decor; APS, with green carpets and trim, will be on the fourth floor; and AAPT, on the fifth floor, will have a blue motif.

The first floor will have conference rooms, a day-care facility, a fitness center, a lunch room and a central domed lounge, which is intended as a kind of "living room" for staff and visitors. A wide corridor or "gallery" serving the various first-floor spaces will have a rosy marble floor and wood walls, painted white, with natural cherry wood trim.

The steering committee of the American Center for Physics worked closely with the architects and with consulting engineers to ensure that the building design is energy-efficient to the maximum practical extent. Every effort is being made to preserve trees on the site, and exterior lighting has been designed to minimize light pollution. There will be footpaths in the adjoining woods, and enclosed gardens will flank the building's north entrance.

IBM, SIEMENS AND TOSHIBA TO DEVELOP 256-MEGABIT CHIP

The announcement in mid-summer that IBM, Siemens and Toshiba would jointly develop a 256-megabit chip was surprising on several scores.

Toshiba, known for a hard-nosed corporate culture that expects a quick return on research investment, was not necessarily the company that industry analysts would have expected to ally with an American arch-rival in a risky long-term R&D program.

Siemens, though already working with IBM on development of the 64-megabit dynamic random access chip, had announced just months before that it would not, after all, build a new factory in Germany to produce the DRAMs. Seen especially in the context of Europe's troubled Joint European Submicron Silicon Initiative, Siemens's commitment to the chip business seemed shaky at best.

And IBM itself, having just gone through a period of intense self-scrutiny and corporate reorganization, would not necessarily have been considered capable of winning support from leading competitors abroad for an ambitious R&D program. In fact, given IBM's newly decentralized structure, which seeks to make research more directly answerable to business units and which encourages units to compete among themselves, it is no longer taken for granted that IBM will continue to manufacture all the chips it uses itself.

Above all, at a time of growing economic nationalism in relations between the US, Europe and Japan, the IBM–Siemens–Toshiba agreement represents a striking transnationalism. And it is quite a coup for IBM that most of the R&D will be concentrated at its facility in East Fishkill, New York.

"One of the most important things about this agreement is that it keeps an important technology in the US," IBM's Paul Horn told PHYSICS TODAY. Horn, who used to be in charge of research in the physical sciences at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, now is head of the silicon laboratory.

Horn says research on the 256-megabit chip will be located mainly at the Fishkill facility, and IBM's team