tablishing a strong space committee to better coordinate and regulate government policy.

In France as in the US, there always has been a very considerable hostility in science circles to expensive manned space activities. But over and above that, Hermes has come under particularly sharp criticism in recent years as projected costs have climbed (especially after safety features were added following the Challenger disaster) and capabilities have been scaled back. Moreover, as the development schedule for Hermes has been stretched out, the technology itself has come to seem increasingly old-fashioned, and alternative proposals have seemed more attractive. A Future European Space Transportation Investigation Program was given a go-ahead at Granada to look into alternatives.

ESA remains fully committed to development of Ariane V, to be completed by 1995, at which time the agency's budgetary situation will be somewhat eased. In the meantime the agency is to thoroughly reevaluate plans for Hermes in light of Russian capabilities. Overall, ESA's project spending for 1993–2000 was cut about 5%; only telecommunications and space science—not counting microgravity work—came out unscathed.

Research on the global environment and climate now ranks higher than ever in ESA's priorities. The Granada meeting gave full support to Envisat-1, a remote-sensing mission dedicated to environmental processes; to Metop-1, a polar-orbiting meteorological satellite, which is a new element in the Eumetsat program; and to development of a second-generation Meteosat, a geosynchronous meteorological satellite system. (EUMETSAT, based in Darmstadt, Germany, operates satellites for European meteorological organizations.)

France has been a partner with NASA on Topex–Poseidon, an ocean-observing satellite launched on 10 August 1992. But US space scientists complain that NASA has not been doing much to encourage US cooperation with Russia and that funds for university-based space science in the US are being cut sharply. An exception in this respect is an x-ray polarimeter experiment, developed by scientists at Columbia University, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, the Marshall Space Flight Center and two Italian institutes. The experiment will be placed on the Spectrum–Roentgen–Gamma satellite scheduled for launch by the Russians in mid-1995. —WILLIAM SWEET

FRAUENFELDER AND FORD TO RETIRE; SCHMITT SLATED TO HEAD AIP BOARD

Kenneth W. Ford, the executive director and CEO of the American Institute of Physics, and Hans Frauenfelder, the chair of AIP's governing board, announced in recent months their intentions to retire in 1993. A search currently is in progress for a successor to Ford, who plans to leave AIP on 31 October, around the time of the organization's relocation to College Park, Maryland. The designated new chair of the governing board, Roland Schmitt, is the current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Ford has been the head of AIP since March 1987, when H. William Koch retired as executive director (see PHYSICS TODAY, December 1986, page 67). Frauenfelder, an emeritus professor of physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign, succeeded Norman Ramsey of Harvard University as governing board chairman in spring 1986 (see PHYSICS TODAY, April 1986, page 57). An important AIP development that occured during the Frauenfelder–Ford stewardship was the decision to relocate the organization to the vicinity of Washington, DC. Ford credits Frauenfelder with having "worked hard and patiently to achieve a consensus in the board" in favor of the move.

Schmitt was recommended by a search committee headed by Eugen Merzbacher of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the recommendation was accepted by the AIP governing board at a meeting held in October in conjunction with the Corporate Associates meeting in Palo Alto. It is expected that the board will formally ratify the selection at its March meeting. Schmitt will retire as RPI president at the end of June and will be free to devote a significant proportion of his time to AIP affairs during the crucial transition to the Washington, DC, area.

As a former research chief at General Electric and a former chair of the National Science Board (the National Science Foundation's statutory governing body), Schmitt is conversant with the Washington scene and has especially strong views on applied research and industrial policy, matters of key concern to the incoming Clinton Administration. "I feel confident I can bring a perspective into the board of AIP and into the member societies that will be helpful to them," Schmitt says. "The Clinton Administration is going to be heavily oriented toward technology, and they are interested in the whole issue of competitiveness. . . . What you sense is that they feel that the support of basic research is in good shape now, and that their main interest and thrust will be in technology and in getting the impact of technology into the economy."

Schmitt notes that some of his public policy positions have not always been totally in line with those of some prominent members of the physics community and that he discussed this quite thoroughly with the search committee. "But I think that [because of] my knowledge of the Washington scene and involvement with policy issues, I can foster the cause of physics, both by helping the community itself address things that the nation thinks are important and by convincing the nation that physics is an important contributor. So I think I can help on both sides of that equation."

Regarding the main business of AIP, Schmitt says he is well aware of the problems associated with the rising cost of scientific journals, and he

APS Creates Rahman Prize

During the 1960s and 1970s Aneesur Rahman was one of the first to make use of computers for solving problems in molecular spectroscopy. In honor of his pioneering work, the American Physical Society has established the Aneesur Rahman Prize, which will recognize contributions to computational physics.

A native of India, Rahman earned a DSc in physics at Louvain University in Belgium in 1953. He then returned to India, where he worked at Osmania University and the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research. In 1960 he moved to Argonne National Laboratory, where he remained for the next 25 years. In 1985 he became a physics professor at the University of Minnesota and a fellow of the Supercomputer Institute there. Rahman died in June 1987.

The annual prize, sponsored by IBM, consists of $5000 and a travel allowance. It is open to scientists of any nationality. The first Rahman Prize will be awarded in June 1993 during the annual meeting of the APS division of computational physics in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The chair of the nominating committee is Jay Boris of the Naval Research Laboratory.

Roland Schmitt

is very interested in finding solutions. At the same time, he says he comes in with an open mind, without a lot of detailed knowledge about journal publishing.

Born in Texas in 1923, Schmitt earned BA and BS degrees at the University of Texas in 1947 and a PhD in physics at Rice University in 1951. He joined the General Electric Research Laboratory that year and, apart from one year at the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University, remained at GE until 1988, when he became president of RPI.

Schmitt worked at GE as a research associate, manager of the materials studies section, manager of the Metals and Ceramics Lab, R&D manager for physics, science and engineering, and vice president and senior vice president for corporate research and development.

In addition to being chair of the NSB from 1984 to 1988, Schmitt has served on numerous advisory committees to government, corporations and universities.

PATEL IS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF APS FOR 1993

The American Physical Society has elected a new vice president, C. Kumar N. Patel of AT&T Bell Laboratories. Patel succeeds Burton Richter, director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, who is the 1993 president-elect. Patel will become president-elect in 1994 and president in 1995. The current APS president is Donald Langenberg, chancellor of the University of Maryland; officers began their one-year terms on 1 January.

After earning a PhD in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1961, Patel joined the technical staff of Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. He held a number of research management positions there before becoming executive director of the materials science, engineering and academic affairs division in 1987. In March Patel will join the University of California, Los Angeles, as its vice chancellor of research.

Patel's research in lasers and spectroscopy includes the invention of the CO_2 laser in 1964. In the late 1960s Patel and colleagues developed the spin-flip Raman laser. In more recent work Patel applied an optoacoustic method that he had developed in the 1970s to measure small optical absorptions in liquids, solids, thin films and powders.

In his candidate's statement, Patel said APS should make efforts to attract more young people into physics, increase the demand for physicists in the job market, and communicate the value of physics research to society. He also stressed the "need to build alliances across disciplines in science."

In other results of the election, Paul C. Martin was chosen chair-elect of the nominating committee. Martin is dean of the division of applied sciences of Harvard University and the John Hasbrouck Van Vleck Professor of Pure and Applied Physics there. The nominating committee selects the slate of candidates for vice president, general councillors and its own chair-elect. The committee's choices are then voted on by APS members.

APS also elected three new general councillors: Arthur Bienenstock of Stanford University, Jolie A. Cizewski of Rutgers University and Miles V. Klein of the University of Illinois. General councillors are chosen by the entire APS membership and represent the organization as a whole; unlike division councillors, they do not speak for any particular subunit. The newly elected general councillors began their four-year terms on 1 January.

C. Kumar N. Patel

Two revisions to the constitution were approved by APS members. The first allows the most recent past president of APS to vote as a member of the executive board. The second specifies that a councillor's term ends should he or she be elected as an APS officer.

ADMAN IS ELECTED ACA VICE PRESIDENT

Elinor T. Adman of the University of Washington has been elected vice president of the American Crystallographic Association for 1993. She began her one-year term on 1 January, succeeding Richard E. Marsh of Caltech, who is now president.

As ACA vice president Adman says she will look for ways to "expand public awareness of the need for and the rewards of basic research." She would also like to see ACA enhance its educational role.

KAREN GALT

Elinor T. Adman

After earning a PhD in physical chemistry from Brandeis University in 1967, Adman joined the faculty of the University of Washington. She is currently a research professor in the department of biological structure. Her research has primarily dealt with macromolecular structure, in particular metalloproteins—ferredoxins, cupredoxins and nitrite reductase—involved in electron transfer and denitrification. ■