

establishing 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 occurred 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.