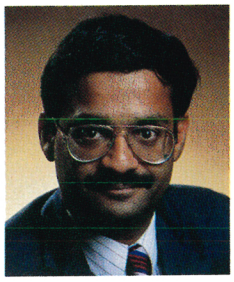
area in which IBM began collaborating with researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi (IIT) about two years ago; software development for mining local data; mobile communications systems; and networking, including electronic security, data transmission and electronic distance learning.

IBM plans to invest about $25 million over five years in the center, which will be housed at IIT. Collaborations with universities, industry and the government will be essential for all projects, says Alok Aggarwal, the center's director, and the company has earmarked an additional $10 million for university research grants.



ALOK AGGARWAL

The center will start out with about 20 scientists and engineers, and the plan is to grow to about 100 by the year 2000. "The [Indian and Pacific Rim] markets are growing rapidly and they have unique problems," says Aggarwal, who has been at IBM for 13 years. "We want to find ways to provide solutions to these problems."

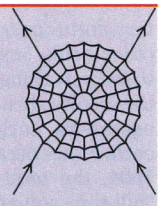
IN BRIEF

The Nicholas Metropolis Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Work in Computational Physics has been established by the American Physical Society. The award honors Metropolis, a senior fellow emeritus in the theoretical division at Los Alamos National Laboratory, for his pioneering work in mathematical physics and applications to computer simulations in physics. The Metropolis algorithm, for Monte Carlo solutions of problems in statistical physics, "is so widely used in computational materials science," says Jerry Brackbill, editor of the *Journal of Computational Physics*, "that it is hard to imagine how the field would have developed in its absence." Endowed by that journal, the $1500 award will be given annually, starting in 1999, for "outstanding quality and achievement in computational physics and to encourage effective written and oral presentation of research results."

In September, Catherine Bréchignac, director of France's National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), proposed new heads for three of the center's seven departments and proposed retaining the heads of the other four; her proposals were given the go-ahead by French science minister Claude Allègre on 1 October. Jean-Paul Pouget, a solid-state physicist who has been at CNRS since 1982, is now in charge of the physical and mathematical sciences department, which Bréchignac ran for two years before becoming CNRS's director in July (see PHYSICS TODAY, September, page 61). Bréchignac also named Jacques Samarut to head up life sciences and Marie-Claude Maurel to head up social sciences. The four department heads staying on are Jean-Claude Bernier (chemical sciences), Claude Detraz (nuclear and particle physics), Jean-Jacques Gagnepain (engineering sciences) and Jean-François Minster (Earth and space sciences).

Awards totaling $10 million for programs that will train graduate students and postdocs in the physical, chemical and computational sciences to work in the biological sciences are being offered by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. With these grants, as with a first round awarded two years ago, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private foundation (with no ties to pharmaceutical giant Glaxo Wellcome) says it aims to "break down traditional barriers at academic institutions" and to bring "different approaches and new ideas into the biological arena." Grants worth $350 000 to $500 000 annually for five years will be given to four to six universities or consortia of universities and research institutes in the US and Canada. For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.bwfund.org; write to Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Interfaces Program, 4709 Creekstone Drive, Suite 100, Durham, NC 27703; send e-mail to info@bwfund.org; or call 919-991-5100. The deadline for submitting preproposals is 2 February 1998. ■

Web Watch



http://www.nsf.gov/od/osti/
The Office of Science and Technology Infrastructure of the National Science Foundation has recently posted solicitations on its Web page for the Major Research Instrumentation Program and the Science Technologies Centers: Integrative Partnerships Program. The MRI Program has a 30 January 1998 deadline and is open to a variety of US institutions, including universities, nonprofit research institutes and research museums. The STC program is open to US academic institutions. Notice of intent to submit a preproposal to STC must be e-mailed by 6 January 1998 to stc@nsf.gov, which is also the address for general inquiries about STC. MRI inquiries should go to mri@nsf.gov. For both programs, proposals must be submitted by way of the NSF's FastLane home page at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/.

http://www.nas.edu/rise/
RISE (Resources for Involving Scientists in Education) has recently launched a Web site to further its goal of helping scientists, engineers and other technical professionals to play an effective role in improving science education from kindergarten to high school. Newcomers to such activities can start by clicking on "roles" to find out which role would suit them best: Working directly with students? With teachers? Developing instructional materials? "Examples" provides descriptions of a diverse array of programs, including BEAMS (Becoming Enthusiastic About Math and Science) at Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility and OPPS (Operation Primary Physical Science). "Background" includes information resources and essays on topics such as "Understanding the Culture of K-12 Schools" and "What Is Systemic Reform?" RISE is a project of the National Research Council's Center for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Education.

http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/starpages.html
StarPages is a large collection of searchable resources related to astronomy and space. It consists primarily of three databases: StarWorlds, a directory of about 6000 organizations, companies and so on connected with astronomy and space sciences; StarBits, a multilingual database of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols, with expansions or meanings for more than 110 000 entries; and StarHeads, with links to the personal Web pages of about 4000 astronomers and space scientists. StarPages is coordinated by André Heck of the Strasbourg Astronomical Observatory.

All links mentioned in Web Watch are included on PHYSICS TODAY's home page, **http://www.aip.org/pt/**. Please e-mail your suggestions for topics or sites to be covered in Web Watch to ptwww@aip.acp.org.

Compiled by **GRAHAM P. COLLINS**