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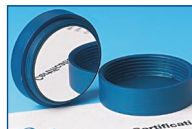
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the National Science Foundation, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation," says Richard Ellis, a Caltech astronomer and leader in the drive to build a TMT. "There's nothing like funding to move a project ahead." **TF**

Element 110 named. Darmstadtium, Ds in shorthand, is how element 110 will now be known, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) agreed in August. The name recognizes Darmstadt, Germany, where, in 1994, the element was first created by a team led by physicist Sigurd Hofmann at the Laboratory for Heavy Ion Research (GSI; see PHYSICS TODAY, January 1995, page 19).

The heaviest element found in nature is uranium, which has 92 protons. Intense competition to artificially create heavier elements—chiefly by bombarding heavy nuclei with lighter nuclei—is ongoing at the GSI; at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia; at the RIKEN accelerator laboratory near Tokyo; and by a team of scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of California, Berkeley. Six isotopes of darmstadtium have been created to date, with half-lives ranging from 180 microseconds for Ds-269 (whose nucleus consists of 110 protons and 159 neutrons) to 66 seconds for Ds-281 (110 protons and 171 neutrons).

Element 111 was also created at

the GSI in 1994. It has been officially recognized by IUPAC, but not yet named. And, says Hofmann, elements 112–118 have been glimpsed in either Darmstadt or Dubna, but more data are needed before their creation can be confidently claimed. **TF**

Arecibo director. On 29 September, Sixto Gonzalez became director of the world's largest radio telescope, the 305-meter Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. He was appointed by Cornell University's National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center, which manages the observatory.

Gonzalez, the first Puerto Rico native at the helm, has been affiliated with the observatory for nearly 10 years and, for the past two years, served as its assistant director of space and atmospheric sciences. He succeeds Daniel Altschuler, who, after 12 years as director, now heads the observatory's new office for the public understanding of science, which was created to focus on outreach to the local Hispanic community.

Arecibo Observatory is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month. **TF** ■



Gonzalez

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WEB WATCH

<http://www.aip.org/history/mod>

Moments of Discovery is the latest online exhibit from AIP's Center for History of Physics. Two discoveries are featured: nuclear fission and pulsed optical emission from the Crab nebula. The Crab discovery is especially illuminating. On the night of the discovery, 15 January 1969, a tape recorder captured the conversation among the three discoverers, John Cocke, Michael Disney, and John McCallister. You can listen to those conversations at the exhibit.



<http://stommel.tamu.edu/~baum/paleo/ocean>

Oceanographer Steven Baum of Texas A&M University has compiled an online **Glossary of Physical Oceanography and Related Disciplines**. A work in progress, the glossary contains more than 4300 entries—from "AABW" (an abbreviation for "Antarctic Bottom Water") to "Zoppritz, Karl" (a pioneering German fluid dynamicist).



<http://webbook.nist.gov>

The **NIST Chemistry WebBook** is an extensive repository of physical chemistry data. Among its holdings are thermochemical data for over 7000 organic and small inorganic compounds, infrared spectra for over 16 000 compounds, mass spectra for over 15 000 compounds, and thermophysical data for 34 fluids.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>.

Compiled and edited by Charles Day