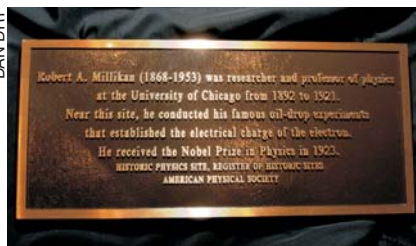


stage, the LMT can point and track, but to become fully functional, the reflector surface needs to be finished, the surface panels need to be aligned, and other subsystems need to be commissioned. "It will be a couple of years of fooling around before it's ready for scientific work," says Peter Schloerb of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Mexico's partner in the project. The aim is to start up in 2008, but the timing depends on raising roughly \$30 million to finish construction. So far, the telescope has cost about \$120 million, of which some \$40 million for hardware came from the US.

The LMT's wavelength range is 1-4 mm. One key area of research will be galaxy formation and evolution. Thanks to an array of bolometers in the focal plane, the telescope can map the sky quickly. "We should be able to point the telescope to any place on the sky and discover a new object in one second," says Schloerb. "The potential is to do mapping experiments and surveys and find interesting stuff" and then do high-resolution observations with ALMA, the Atacama Large Millimeter Array under construction in Chile. TF

Historic Chicago. Robert Millikan's oil drop experiment and other research he conducted at the University of Chicago have earned the university the designation of historic physics site. Millikan was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923. On 30 November, the university became the 11th site to be thus honored by

DAN DRY



the American Physical Society (see PHYSICS TODAY, May 2005, page 35).

The historic physics site designation is "part of our broader efforts to reach the public with a positive message about physics," says Alan Chodos, associate executive officer of APS. TF

Schwinger Foundation. Physics research for which other sources of money are scant is the focus of the new Julian Schwinger Foundation. Schwinger, who shared the 1965 physics Nobel Prize, died in 1994. His

widow, Clarice Schwinger, set up the foundation according to his wishes and serves as its president.

Although the foundation will fund any area of physics research, priority will go to theoretical and experimental research on highly nonlinear processes giving rise to energy-concentrating phenomena—sonoluminescence is one example—which was of special interest to Schwinger. "We would like to help those people whose research is promising but not mainstream," says the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Jack Ng, who studied under Schwinger and is the foundation's secretary. The foundation also supports workshops, summer schools, and the like. The first grant, awarded last fall, went to a conference on elementary particles, astrophysics, and cosmology.

Initially, grants will be up to \$25 000; this limit may eventually be lifted. TF ■



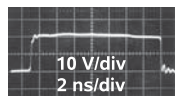
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