

New from Amptek

PMT Digital Tube Base



Use with Your Scintillator or Photomultiplier Tube

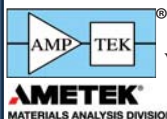
Includes

- Digital pulse processor with charge sensitive preamplifier, and MCA
- All power supplies (low voltage and high voltage)
- Interface hardware and PC software
- 14 pin photomultiplier tube base

Features

- Compatible with standard scintillation spectrometers
- USB or Ethernet (10T-PoE) for control and power
- Flexible architecture for tailoring interfaces
- For OEMs and custom users
- Includes pulse height acquisition, MCS, SCA, and List Modes. Supports pulse shape discrimination.
- Optional gamma-ray spectrum analysis software and software development kit with examples

OEM's #1 Choice



AMPTEK Inc.
www.amptek.com

news notes

Researcher gender stats requested.

Three members of the US House of Representatives have called on the heads of NASA and the Departments of Energy and Defense to begin tracking their grantees' gender in order to determine whether sex discrimination is occurring in the distribution of federal research funding. The three other largest grant-making agencies—the National Institutes of Health, NSF, and the Department of Agriculture—already routinely collect such data.

Pointing to the results of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report they commissioned, Representatives Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Louise Slaughter (D-NY) urged NASA, DOE, and DOD to begin compiling the statistics. They noted that in fiscal year 2014 the three agencies collectively disbursed well over \$3 billion in grants to researchers at colleges and universities. All told, the six agencies included in the GAO review account for 90% of all federal funding for research grants.

At NIH, female principal investigators (PIs) received 29% of research grants in 2014, agency data show. In an annual report for FY 2012 (the most recent available), NSF said that female PIs submitted 10 795 proposals and were awarded 2775 grants, for a success rate of 26%. Male PIs submitted 39 932 proposals and were awarded 7816 grants, for a success rate of 24%. The figures are

based on self-reporting from NSF grant applicants; around 90% of proposals submitted included gender information. **DK**

Astronomers at work. Where do new astronomy graduates work? How much do they earn? How satisfied are they with their jobs? In the US for 2010, 2011, and 2012, an average of 328 bachelor's degrees, 35 terminal master's, and 156 PhDs in astronomy were awarded annually. A new survey checks in on them.

New astronomy bachelors were split closely between entering the workforce and starting graduate studies. Of those who took jobs, some 39% worked in colleges and universities and took home a median salary of \$36 000. Most of them were at the institution they had graduated from and did not intend their position to be long term. Another 38% entered the private sector, where half worked in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas. They earned a median salary of \$50 000. The other half worked in fields from food to finance.

About three-quarters of astronomy PhDs accepted postdoctoral positions. Academic and government postdocs were paid median salaries of \$54 000 and \$60 000, respectively.

More details can be found in a new report by the Statistical Research Center at the American Institute of Physics. See *Astronomy Degree Recipients Initial Employment* at <http://www.aip.org/statistics/astronomy>. **TF ■**

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Media analyst Steven Corneliussen examines the excitement stirred by the announcement from Elon Musk of Tesla Motors that his company will produce industrial-scale batteries for home energy storage.



◀ The Dayside

In his blog, PHYSICS TODAY's online editor Charles Day estimates the number of physicists in the world; recounts the history of the term "condensed-matter physics"; wonders how best to teach complex, fact-filled subjects; and laments the uninspiring physics experiments he did in school.