

Coordinating controls

While physics Laboratories are having to absorb cuts in resources, the machines they rely on are becoming more and more complex, requiring increasingly sophisticated systems. Rather than being a resourceful engineer or physicist able to timber together solutions in his 'backyard', the modern controls specialist has become a professional in his own right.

Because of possible conflicts between increasing sophistication on one hand and scarcer resources on the other, there was felt a need for more contacts among controls specialists to exchange experiences, coordinate development and discuss 'family problems', away from meetings where the main interest is on experimental physics.

Two such controls workshops were held last year at Brookhaven in January and Los Alamos in October, and in subsequent discussions European specialists felt the time had come for them to set up a professional group, and the European Physical Society (EPS) seemed to provide the best way of doing so.

At its Council meeting in London in March, the EPS approved the setting up of an Interdivisional Group on Experimental Physics Control Systems. Its objectives are: to promote controls technology in a range of fields (accelera-

Board members of the European Physical Society's Interdivisional Group on Experimental Physics Control Systems at their first meeting at CERN: (left to right) Winfried Busse (Hahn-Meitner Inst., Berlin), Michel Promé (GANIL, Caen), Thomas Blumer (SIN, Villigen), Peter Clout (Los Alamos), Ivo Jirousek (SIN, observer only),

Axel Daneels (CERN, Chairman), Henri Van der Beken (JET, Vice-Chairman), Berend Kuiper (CERN), Klaus Müller (KFA, Jülich, Treasurer). Board member Ted Owen from Daresbury does not appear on the photograph.

(Photo CERN 635.5.86)



tors, fusion, lasers, etc.); to establish contacts between specialists in Europe and elsewhere; to stimulate international cooperation and information exchange; to make best use of available resources; and to foster the adoption of high standards. This will be achieved through meetings, project investigations, encouraging postgraduate

training, consultancy, and collaboration.

The business of the new group is handled by a Board with members mostly drawn from controls groups in major European research centres. Its chairman is Axel Daneels from CERN's Proton Synchrotron Division, main instigator of the idea for such a group.

On 28 February the High Resolution Spectrometer completed five years of operation at Stanford's PEP electron-positron collider. During this time an impressive volume (300 inverse picobarns) of data was collected, containing over 100 000 examples of electron-positron annihilation into quarks at 29 GeV, as well as a large sample of final states with weakly interacting particles.



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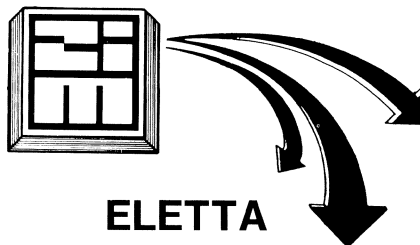
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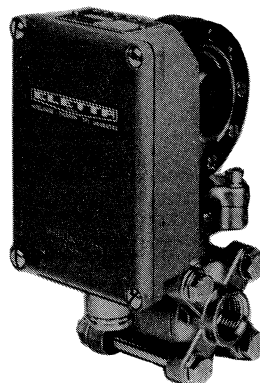
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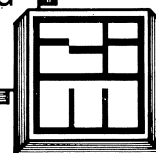


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