
NEWS

TENTH INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR PHYSICS CONFERENCE, HARROGATE (UK)

The Tenth International Nuclear Physics Conference was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and organised by the Institute of Physics, London, and supported by the Science and Engineering Research Council, the British Council, the Royal Society of London and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Britain's nuclear structure research was given a boost when 500 delegates from over 40 countries came together at the 10th International Nuclear Physics Conference in Harrogate last week. This was the first major nuclear physics conference in the UK for 25 years and reflects the international community's acknowledgement of the present vigour of the subject in the UK.

It is 75 years since Ernest Rutherford, then at Manchester University, revealed the existence of the nucleus inside the atom. It was fitting, therefore that the conference should be held in the UK, not far from the site of his original experiments.

Although the UK nuclear structure community is relatively small, its achievements are considerable with work largely centred on the world-class Nuclear Structure Facility at the Science and Engineering Research Council's Daresbury Laboratory in Cheshire. This facility has made a major impact on current research and has enabled the UK community to move into the forefront of science in several areas.

These exciting results were referred to at the opening of the conference by Professor D Allan Bromley of Yale, President of the International

Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). He especially mentioned the work at Daresbury on superdeformed states of Dysprosium-152 and the formation of Zirconium-80. The importance of the development by university scientists of new detectors and equipment in these and other experiments was highlighted by Professor Erich Vogt, Director of TRIUMF in Vancouver, in his keynote address. International aspects of the UK community's work were featured in the results from successful collaborations overseas, especially at the electron accelerators at Mainz in West Germany.

The topics presented at the conference covered the entire spectrum of nuclear physics from barrier penetration effects in very low energy reactions to searches for a new form of matter, the quark-gluon plasma at very high energies. In his closing remarks, Professor Herman Feshbach of MIT, chairman of IUPAP's Nuclear Physics division, said that the conference had demonstrated the vitality and breadth of nuclear physics and had charted new pathways for the future.

Clearly, the impact of the conference on the UK nuclear physics community has been considerable. The large number of young scientists taking part was encouraging and a firm indicator that the present strength of UK research will be maintained.

Further details can be obtained from Professor George Morrison, Birmingham University, or the The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.