

COMMENTS ON THE 1983 PARTICLE ACCELERATOR CONFERENCE

The 10th biannual Particle Accelerator Conference was in many ways a celebration of both an important anniversary in the field and of the undiminished challenges and prospects ahead. The meeting was held at the Sweeney Convention Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico on March 21-23, 1983, under the auspices of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society, and hosted by the Los Alamos National Laboratory Accelerator Technology Division. The contemporary major activities around the world were well covered, ranging across the status of the high-energy physics FNAL Energy Saver, SLAC's linear collider, CBA, the CERN pp complex and plans for LEP, Japan's TRISTAN, and emerging activity in China. New heavy-ion accelerators are coming on-line at GANIL and other institutes, as are some superconducting machines--the first superconducting cyclotron at MSU and two linacs for tandem boosters. The several oral and poster sessions on accelerator technology extensively elaborated on these activities and other important thrusts of present interest. Two special sessions were devised for this conference. The first covered radiation sources, both in the area of work at the new major synchrotron light source facilities and in the development of novel radiation sources such as the free electron laser. In the second special session, all major US proposals for medium-energy cw electron accelerators were aired, plus those of other countries and a report on the initial commissioning of the Mainz microtron. The quest for new methods of acceleration, particularly where very high gradients might help bring down the costs of future high-energy machines, continues. Nearer term possibilities for both nuclear and high-energy physics received much discussion and the attention of the closing plenary session.

The meeting was of near-record size, with a registration of 895. There were 61 invited papers and 521 contributed papers, of which 89 requested only publication in the proceedings. By scheduling three parallel oral sessions plus a poster session (except for the opening and closing plenaries), and because of the size of the convention center, we were able to accommodate all of the contributors in 58 oral and 374 poster presentations. This large increase in the number of posters had several effects. It clearly involved more people directly and led to a very obvious air of intense communication at the meeting. It also amounted to a rather breathtaking amount of information, and a recommendation by the organizing committee that four days be considered for the next conference. One would hope that the total involvement of the contributors could be continued.

Again, the truly international nature of the particle accelerator field was evidenced by the fact that about one-third of the papers and attendees were from countries outside the US. This collaboration adds much, and should always be encouraged.

Conference arrangements were handled very effectively by George A. Sawyer, with the dedicated help of many of the Accelerator Technology Division Staff. M. T. Wilson's invention of a cheap poster-board system will probably set another precedent for future conferences. The heroic efforts of the Editorial staff under Louise Taylor and Stacey Fradkin were an important asset to the program committee meetings as well as for the proceedings, and the financial and registration functions under W. VanderHam and S. Nicol were also much appreciated. Their help and the ambiance of Santa Fe produced a memorable conference.

R. A. Jameson
Program Chairman