

JEAN
BANFORD
R1

Bulletin

of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

9 March 1987 No.3

Focus on RAL

Sir Clive Sinclair talking to Richard Syms (left) and Peter Sharp (right) at the Electron Beam Lithography Facility where he showed great interest in the integrated optics work being undertaken as a joint venture between Oxford University and RAL.

Sir Clive's busy day at RAL on Friday 6 February began with an introduction to the wide range of research pursued at the Lab, by acting Director Paul Williams. A site tour, which included examples of the work being done, at the Laser Facility, in the field of Informatics, and on miniature coolers and millimetrewave components for 'space' applications, gave him, he was kind enough to say, an interesting day.

The Central Laser Facility was host to a further group of interested visitors on Tuesday 17 February.

Over eighty members of The Institute of Physics' Quantum Electronics Group spent the morning seeing all aspects of the experimental programme of Laser Division.

In the afternoon talks on a wide range of laser applications, from plasma physics, through studies of chemical and biochemical systems to picosecond spectroscopy, rounded off a very full day.



RAL Lectures

The next lecture in this series will take place on Thursday 12 March at 3.15 pm in the R22 Lecture Theatre.

THE MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH BY INFLUENCE

by
Dr C H Reece

ICI Research and Technology Director

ICI needs no introduction. As one of the UK's most successful companies it gives R&D great importance in its overall planning, employing some 10,000 people and spending over £350M a year on this activity alone.

In his talk Dr Reece will describe some of the previous ICI research organisations which evolved into the present structures, expand on the methods by which the R&D resources are managed, and talk about how ICI sees international research and business relationships developing.

He will examine the role of research in ICI's strategic thinking, how ICI judges its performance against its main competitors and how it interacts with external bodies, including governments and universities internationally.

CRAY throws down gauntlet to RAL

Now that the new £13M CRAY Supercomputer has passed the statutory acceptance tests at RAL, the CRAY Research team in Bracknell are looking for fresh challenges.

We have received a rather provocative challenge from CRAY, that IF RAL were able to raise a Rugby Union XV then CRAY Research would be very pleased to beat us in a social fixture. The provisional date of Wednesday April 1st has been set (very appropriately) and although we are in contact with many rugby players at RAL we feel sure that there are others who would relish the challenge.

The game will be played on the Harwell RFC pitch and the RAL Social Club will be open afterwards for the customary festivities. So if you are an experienced player (from schoolboy through to discarded international) who would be interested in playing for a scratch RAL XV then please contact Steve Cooke Ext: 5161 or Kevin Lewis Ext: 6713.

Astro-C working

At around 5am (our time) on the 13 February power was applied to the Large Area Camera (LAC) experiment on the ASTRO-C satellite. For 300 seconds all eight of the multi-wire proportional counters were run at their full operating voltage. At the time the satellite was still spinning slowly, at 1.75 rpm and some modulation of the signal were clearly noticeable at this frequency.

Whilst all that we can really say is that the counters are functioning, and that no disasters have occurred during launch, this in itself is very good news to all the RAL staff involved in the experiment construction. By the end of this month the Japanese engineers will have finished their functional tests of the spacecraft, and we hope soon after that to make our first astronomical observations.

and making News

On 25 February, news of the discovery in the Large Magellanic Cloud of the brightest supernova recorded since 1604, caused great excitement in the ASTRO-C collaboration. ASTRO-C's x-ray detectors were immediately activated to capture this unique opportunity to determine whether supernovae emit x-rays as has been postulated.

Barclay's Bank Seminar

STARTING A HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

Barclays Bank will be holding a Seminar for all persons interested in the setting up and financing of new and established High Technology companies on Thursday 26 March 1987 at 2.00 pm in Conference Room No 3, Building R61. The Seminar will be run by David Killick, Manager, High Technology Team, Barclays Head Office Corporate Division, John Ingram, District Corporate Manager, Oxford, and John Sambrook, Branch Manager, Abingdon.

Over the past 10 years Barclays have developed expertise in handling the unique problems associated with High Tech companies and the Seminar will cover setting up businesses, shaping and the evaluation of project plans, acquisition of venture and working capital, international business, and the management of growth. They will describe their network of trained High Tech Managers and specialist back-up teams, and their range of "flexible financial engineering" products to meet the particular demands of this area.

A Presentation

by

Geoff Manning

ACTIVE MEMORY TECHNOLOGY
will take place in the
Atlas Centre Colloquium
3.15 pm, Tues 10 March

"This will not be a normal sales presentation of a computer product. I consider that I am returning to tell my friends and ex-colleagues something about my new company and our product. I will describe how Active Memory Technology was formed and tell you about our plans and ambitions. No previous knowledge of the Distributed Array Processor will be assumed.

The talk will include the following topics:

AMT formation and funding

AMT strategy and aims

What is the DAP and how does it work

DAP Fortran

Our first product

Our development plans.

Application areas for the DAP

Competitive analysis

I will attempt to keep to principles and will not cover details.

Dennis Parkinson will then demonstrate the Mini Dap, the video board and the DAP simulator. These demonstrations will be covered using a projection screen but will also be shown after the talk for those with particular interests".

Enquiries to Ros Hallowell, Ext: 6104

Art & Crafts exhibition

We are holding another Art and Craft Exhibition this year, from 13-15 October.

Will all interested in participating please contact Fran Childs, Ext: 6499.

Film Badge Notice

It is period 3 Colour strip ORANGE.

Please be sure you are wearing the correct dosimeters. The last issue should be returned to Jenny Coates promptly.

Sales to Employees

The sale of scrap materials to RAL staff will take place as usual in the R24 Scrap Compound on 6 and 20 March from 12.00 - 12.30 hrs.

Bulletin

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