
August 11, 1983
EC News No. 13/83

EC Commission Co-Hosts Nuclear Science Gathering

The Commission of the European Communities (EC) will be one of the co-hosts for what may be the largest gathering of nuclear scientists and engineers ever to attend one conference--the 7th International Conference on Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology (SMiRT-7), to be held in Chicago on August 22-26.

The 7th SMiRT conference is being organized by the EC Commission and the United States' Argonne National Laboratory. More than 40 scientific institutions, societies and corporations from around the world are co-sponsoring and assisting with the conference's organization. Speakers at the opening session will include Paolo Fasella, EC Director-General for Science, Research and Development; US Sen. James McClure, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Wallace B. Behnke, Vice Chairman of Commonwealth Edison Company and Jean-Claude Leny, Managing Director of Framatome, Paris.

More than 700 scientific and technical papers will be presented and discussed by more than 1,500 conference participants during the 5-day event. One of the researchers to present a paper at the gathering will receive the SMiRT Thomas A. Jaeger prize, presented by the EC Commission in honor of the conference's founder. The award was instituted to encourage research in structural mechanics applied to reactor technology. Papers will cover all areas related to the design, reliability and safety of nuclear fission or fusion reactors.

Seven post-conference seminars have been scheduled for August 29-30. The two-day workshops will cover specialized areas of nuclear technology, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussions of important technical questions.

The first of the SMiRT conferences was held in Berlin in 1971. The 1983 conference will be the second one held in the US; the previous US conference site was San Francisco in 1977. The Scientific and General Chairman for this year's conference is Stanley H. Fistedis, President of the International Association for Structural Mechanics and Reactor Technology and manager of the Engineering Mechanics Program at Argonne.

Thus far in its history, nuclear safety has been a major emphasis of material presented at the conference. Protecting investments in nuclear power plants is also expected to become an important theme in future years.

For further information on the conference, contact:

James S. Smith
Argonne National Laboratory
(312) 972-5575
