

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**Report for Triennium 1995-1998**

Chair: D. Phil Woodruff

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The Long-Range Planning Committee has a rather broad remit in discussing a range of matters which may impinge on the long-term future of the Union. One of its objects is to provide a forum for rather open-ended discussions of topics which do not easily gain time in the agendas of the more focused single-purpose committees. This has meant that while much of the material debated has been long-term in character, a few more short-term issues have been nucleated in this committee. During the current triennium the following topics have been discussed:

Congress frequency and character. The possibility of changing the three-year cycle of the Union and its IVC meetings was discussed and rejected, but further thought was given to how those countries considered less likely to be chosen to host an IVC may still gain some of the benefits of such a role, ideally without the associated disadvantages. Alternative strategies were defined, including possible scenarios linked to hosting ECM meetings and running linked scientific meetings, and a formal set of Guidelines for hosting an ECM were drawn up.

Mission Statement. In discussing the topic above an attempt was made to define the role of the Union in further detail and to draw up a Mission Statement.

IUVSTA Awards. The discussion of IUVSTA Awards was initiated in the LRP but rapidly transferred to the STD as the first of these awards was established.

IVC Publication. Following earlier discussions in LRP in the previous triennium concerning the establishment of a WWW site for the Union, now fully operational and operated by the Publications Committee, new discussions were initiated on alternative electronic publishing of future IVC meetings. The first such implementation of these ideas now seems set to occur at the meeting in 2001 being run by the American Vacuum Society in San Francisco.

Divisional Structure. Discussions have been initiated on the problem of both creating and disbanding or amalgamating Scientific Divisions, seeking to establish procedures which will allow the Union to retain a flexible and relevant structure in its scientific activities. This topic is still in need of considerably more debate and information collection prior to any recommendations for future procedures.

The role of IUVSTA in Developing Countries. Discussions on how best to organise the ECM Committee structure to respond to this aspect of the Union's activities have been held.

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