
BRIEFS

ROSS A. LEMONS, MRS member and co-chairman of this years symposium on *Laser Solid Interactions and Transient Thermal Processing of Materials* recently accepted a position with the Los Alamos National Laboratory Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545. Lemons, who had been employed as a member of technical staff at Bell Laboratories in Holmdel New Jersey, is now group leader - Electronics Research at Los Alamos.

CALL FOR PAPERS: The Laser Institute of America requests contributions to its forthcoming *International Congress on the Applications of Lasers and Electro-*

Optics which will be held November 14-17, 1983 in San Fransisco, California. Topics will include medicine and biology materials processing, optical communications, inspection, measurement and control, laser chemistry, spectroscopy, information processing, holography, and other scientific applications.

Abstracts should be sent to:

Laser Institute of America
5151 Monroe Street
Toledo, OH 43623
(419) 882-8706

Abstracts are due by *June 10, 1983.*

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION has awarded a

\$400,000 grant to Ohio State University to establish a Materials Research Laboratory on the university's Columbus campus. The grant is designed to support research studies on how electric charges are transferred across three types of interface - solid to solid, solid to liquid, and solid to vapor.

An electron optics laboratory and a particulate and thin film materials processing facility will be established through the grant. The program also supports faculty from the Departments of Metallurgical Engineering, Ceramic Engineering, and Physics, working jointly on various aspects of the research.



AT THE PLENARY SESSION in Boston, moderator A.R.C. Westwood (picture at left) of Martin Marietta presided over a discussion of the question, *Materials R&D In The U.S.--Are We Still Competitive?* J.J. Harwood (picture at right) of Ford Motor's Materials Science Lab argued the U.S. has "exported our technology instead of our products." R&D is not the problem, he asserted, but rather the U.S.'s "weakness in the output of the innovation process -- in the end product or process." H.K. Bowen (not pictured) of MIT analyzed "The Japanese Commitment" as an example of the cooperative efforts of universities, government laboratories and corporations not due to "government edict, but rather to individualistic and entrepreneurial type recognition of the challenges, opportunities and economic pay-off." The session, provocative and timely, generated discussions among the membership that hadn't quieted when the meeting broke up several days later.

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The discussion in Boston pointed out again the difficulty facing scientists who are dealing with issues in which the public must be educated and informed. It is true that sensitive ideas can be distorted to create sensational news. However, if science is to lead in the decision making process, it must not be intimidated. In areas requiring public scrutiny, scientists must be able to question and seek answers openly in order to maintain credibility. In some cases the questions will be technically excellent and in others they will be absurd. It is important to keep the discussion focussed on constructive solutions. The panel discussion in Boston disturbed some of the participants and stimulated others.

Dr. G. L. McVay of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory will chair the 1983 International Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management. Please send him your ideas and comments on how we can best achieve a healthy, open forum for open discussion of the relevant issues in 1983.