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New computer bulletin board

MICROMATH Scientific Software has announced the installation of a new computer bulletin board. The main emphasis of the bulletin board is the *Special Interest Forum*, which will facilitate communication among scientists and engineers. It allows professionals direct access to each other, thus giving them more resources in solving many complex challenges. The board assists as a

clearing house for ideas and solutions for these and other needs.

MicroMath's bulletin board has no user connect charges. Services currently available are:

- E-mail or two station teleconferences
- Classified ads
- Customer product feedback on MicroMath products
- Product registration of MicroMath products

Services soon to be added:

- "Spec sheets" on various products
- Electronic newsletter
- Application specific examples and notes to help those evaluating products
- Product demonstration materials
- Professional overnight slide preparation from MicroMath plot files starting in June 1991

The MicroMath Bulletin Board runs on a 33 mhz 80386 PC. Current phone lines are "hunt grouped", so that all lines are accessible at a single phone number. These lines are connected to modems supporting 1200 and 2400 bps. The bulletin board currently supports two simultaneous log-ons, and will be expanded as needed. It can be accessed by modem 24 hours per day at 801-943-0397. According to MicroMath, the interface is very user friendly, allowing for quick use of its features and a downloadable user introduction file is available for further reference when a party logs on for the first time.

For further information, contact: W. Robin Kemker, MicroMath

Scientific Software, P.O. Box 21550, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, U.S.A. Tel.: 801 943-0290; Fax: 801 943-0299.

Survey of academics' views

A NEW report by SEPSU (Science and Engineering Policy Studies Unit) published on 2nd May presents the results of a unique survey about quantitative ways of evaluating research at departmental level. Whereas previous studies of evaluation methods have tended to concentrate on the interests of those professionally concerned with carrying out the evaluations, this latest report by SEPSU examines the issue from the point of view of individual academics: what they think about evaluation in general and about quantitative techniques of evaluation in particular.

The report draws on a comprehensive set of responses by university researchers in all UK universities to a consultative paper sent out by a joint CVCP/UFC (Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Universities Funding Council) committee on research indicators. All academic disciplines are covered from mathematics to musicology.

The report itself discusses general reactions to the consultative paper and a number of broad methodological issues raised by respondents. It then analyses respon-

dents' views on bibliometrics, on citation analysis, on measures of esteem and on peer review. Where appropriate, the analysis separately discusses the views from different individual disciplines. The concluding chapter considers, in the light of the academics' responses, what role there might be for quantitative techniques in assessment of research at department level.

The report will be of interest to all concerned with research. Its conclusions are relevant to the U.K. and to many other countries. The findings set clear boundaries on how far quantitative evaluation can be pursued in the context of annual or periodic assessments of academic departments.

Quantitative assessment of departmental research: a survey of academics' views; SEPSU Policy Study No. 5; A4, 76 pp. Paperback, is available from the Publication Sales Dept., The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, U.K., price £19.50 (£22.00 overseas) including postage and packing. For further information, contact Dr. Peter Collins on +44 (0)71 839-5561 ext. 289.

Gold medal awards in the U.K.

PROFESSOR Alan Townshend, Dean of the School of Chemistry at the University of Hull, and an editor of *Analytica Chimica Acta*, has been awarded the SAC Gold Medal of the Analytical Division

of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The biennial award, which is named after the Society of Analytical Chemistry, was presented by the President of the Analytical Division, Prof. J.D.R. Thomas, on 1st March 1991.

Professor Duncan Thorburn Burns, Professor of Analytical Chemistry of The Queen's University, Belfast, has been awarded the 3rd AnalR Gold Medal by BDH Ltd. for his distinguished contributions to analytical chemistry. It was presented at the Royal Society, London, on 18th February 1991.

ANALYTICA restructured

ANALYTICA Munich (to be held from 5 to 8 May 1992) will be presented with a completely new structure. The trade fair's exhibit range, which has been extended to include Halls 1 to 22, has been grouped into four product sectors: analysis, diagnostics, analysis/diagnosis and laboratory equipment. This means that the individual exhibition halls and each exhibitor have also been allocated to these four product sectors in terms of location.

The result for trade visitors is a more surveyable organization system. They can now go from the outside via one of three trade fair center entrances straight to the sector that interests them the most. Shuttle bus services within and around the trade fair center provide even faster access. One bus service stops at the four exhibition

sectors and the conference building, while the other stops at the trade fair center entrances, the subway (U-bahn) station and the parking areas.

None of the contents of the successful concept of ANALYTICA will be changed. However, the remarkable growth rate of this "International Trade Fair for Biochemistry and Instrumental Analysis with International Conference on Biochemical Analysis", as it is officially titled, has made this restructuring of the exhibition area necessary.

For further information, contact Messe Munich International, Postbox 12 10 09, 8000 Munich 12, Germany; Tel: +49 (0)89 51070; Telex: 5 212 086 ameg d; Fax: +49 (0)89 5107506.

SDi's second global report on analytical instrument industry

STRATEGIC Directions International, Inc., the Los Angeles-based international consulting firm, has recently published its second Global report, *The SDi Global Market Assessment: The Analytical-Instrument Industry, 1990-1995*. In this report, SDi concludes that the analytical instrument industry, with 1990 sales over