

Dear colleagues,

Web-site

The web-site for NO2006 has now been opened: www.unik.no/no2006

Please inform your societies and ask them to place links to it from their web-sites. Although it's too early for the general invitation, it is important that people, in particular key persons responsible for organizing other events, are informed now so that collisions can be avoided.

I do not have time to make fancy graphics, but corrections and suggestions for improving the content (e.g. relevant links) are welcome.

Response from the Baltic countries

We are very pleased that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have decided to join the meeting and have named members of the program committee.

Agreement with the European Optical Society

We have signed a co-sponsoring agreement with the EOS, but they have not confirmed it yet. The co-sponsoring agreement means that EOS promotes our meeting on their web-site and we give EOS members the same discount as members of our own societies. We also give free admission to an EOS board member.

Program committee

The members of the program committee are listed below. We have named two Norwegian members to facilitate coordination with the local organizing, and the other societies have named one member each.

Prof. Anders Bjarklev, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark

Prof. Alexandr Dementjev, Institute of Physics, Vilnius, Lithuania

Prof. Martti Kauranen, Tampere University of Technology, Tampere, Finland

Prof. Mikael Lindgren, NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Trondheim, Norway

Dr. Ulf Olin, Cernolux, Kista, Sweden

Prof. Peeter Saari, Institute of Physics, University of Tartu, Estonia

Prof. Janis Spigulis, University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Dr. Gunnar Arishom, FFI, Norway

Please let me know if there are any incorrect titles or addresses.

According to tradition, a representative from the host country has been chairman, so we suggest Mikael Lindgren for this position.

Agreement between the participating societies

We have not established a formal agreement between the collaborating societies. As far as I understand, we did not have such an agreement for the 2003 meeting either, so I'm not going to make this overly formal. However, to minimize the risk of misunderstandings or conflicts in the program committee, we should agree about a few basic rules:

- The local organizing committee takes the financial responsibility for the meeting. The intention is to run the meeting with financial balance, not a profit. If we nevertheless end up with a net profit it will be shared equally among the collaborating societies, to the extent that this is allowed by the sponsors.
- The program committee is responsible for the academic content of the program, but the local organizing committee has the right to decide program issues that have financial or practical implications for the meeting. These include, for example: (1) The number of invited speakers and the travel expenses allocated to them, (2) The time table of the program, i.e. the number of sessions, and their time and durations, (3) The maximum number of posters to accept and their size.
- The host society names two members of the program committee and the other participating national societies name one member each.

- Decisions in the program committee are made by simple majority. In case of equal numbers of votes the leader has a casting vote.
- In addition to scientific quality and breadth, the program committee should emphasize representation from all the participating countries.
- The program committee reports to the organizing committee about its decisions and activities.
- The program committee decides if it wants to handle all the submitted papers itself or establish local subcommittees for each country.

If nobody raises objections we take these rules to be accepted.

Best regards,
Gunnar Arisholm
on behalf of the local organizing committee