

## 9. Coordination Research Center

A major reorganization of government-funded scientific research laboratories was executed in FY2004. As a result, the National Institutes for Natural Sciences (NINS) has been established as a new agency. Operated by the NINS are the National Astronomical Observatory, the Institute for Molecular Science, the National Institute for Basic Biology, the National Institute for Physiological Sciences, and the National Institute for Fusion Science. Along with the reorganization, the Coordination Research Center (CRC) was formed at NIFS while the former Data and Planning Center was dissolved.

To promote coordinated research with external institutions in Japan as well as those in foreign countries, the CRC has three divisions to be described;

### 1) Division of Academic Research Coordination

This division is intended to bridge between NIFS and external academic institutions, including universities and national laboratories. Formed in this division are 4 working groups. These are:

- 1-1. International Coordinated Research Group;
- 1-2. ITER Coordinated Research Group;
- 1-3. Laser Fusion Coordinated Research Group; and
- 1-4. Inter-institutional Coordinated Research Group.

The international coordinated research group overlooks at fusion research collaborations led by NIFS scientists and advises them to put together new initiatives on some of the areas which require immediate attention.

The ITER research coordinating group has formed a coordinating committee on some of the selected areas of collaboration in the ITER-related physics and technology tasks. The idea behind this activity is to come up with new ideas based on comprehensive understandings of toroidal plasmas confined in tokamaks and stellarators. To enhance direct interactions with ITER staff scientists, it has been promoted to attend the ITPA (International Tokamak Physics Activity) meetings. As a result, dozens of NIFS scientists attended ITPA meetings in FY2006.

The laser-fusion coordinated research group has been formed to establish a new link between magnetic and inertial fusion research scientists. This is so that they can learn from each other by exchanging information and experiences in the areas of common interest. In FY2006, particular efforts were made to pursue the possibilities of using high-power lasers as plasma diagnostics for LHD.

The inter-institutional coordinated research group is to

enhance interactions among the formally independent but now joint institutions under NINS. In FY2005, a number of meetings were held to solicit inputs from interested scientists. As a result, a NINS symposium is decided to be held in FY2006.

### 2) Division of Industry-Academia Research Coordination

This division is to attract attention from industries, so that new areas of applications of existing technologies, developed originally for the sake of fusion research, can be explored. These technologies include microwaves and cryogenics. In FY2005, a major collaboration to develop new applications of high-power microwaves was executed in collaboration with the Gifu Prefecture Institute of Ceramics and Pennsylvania State University and will be continued in FY2006.

### 3) Division of Atomic and Molecular Data Research

This division is to conduct coordinated efforts on the databases of atomic and molecular reactions related to fusion and other plasma applications. As shown in the table below, these include: AMDIS for cross sections for electron collisions, CHART for heavy particle collisions, MOL for numerical data on molecular collision processes, SPUTY for numerical data on sputtering yields for mono-atomic solids and BACKS for numerical data on reflection coefficients of ions onto surface. These databases are used by more than 900 registered scientists all over the world.

As a possible use of these databases, spectroscopy data taken from LHD experiments have been analyzed. Also, a new initiative has been launched in collaboration with the National Astronomical Observatory, using the solar physics satellite: Solar-B.

DB-name	Records	Period
AMDIS	151,198	1961-2006
CHART	4,863	1957-2005
MOL	3,595	1956-2005
SPUTY	1,241	1931-2000
BACKS	396	1976-2002
FUSION	1,364,625	1975-2006
PLASMA	80,032	1970-1986
AM	974,960	1970-2006
ORNL	76,809	1959-2005

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