

## Editorial

The attentive reader of this annual report will certainly have noticed the change in the title. Many readers have expected this to happen already a long time ago. But we feel that since the PHELIX project at GSI has reached a mature stage that this is the appropriate time.

The PHELIX laser system starts to be developed into the major experimental facility at GSI-Darmstadt for High Energy Density Physics with intense heavy ion and laser beams. At the end of the year 2002 the long awaited components from the Livermore Nova laser were on their way across the Atlantic, and while this report is in print the preparations are underway to prepare for the first kilo-Joule laser shot.

A large amount of work by the community is not addressed in this report, since it is closely associated with the GSI-plans for a new accelerator. Early this year the German government has decided, based on the recommendations of the „Wissenschaftsrat“, to accept the GSI-proposal. According to this proposal High Energy Density Physics will be a research field that is excellently suited for the new accelerator. We expect to have a beam intensity which is about three orders of magnitude higher than presently and at much shorter bunch lengths. The activities of the community are therefore geared to continue the current research program, which is very attractive for young scientists and at the same time preparations for future activities at the new accelerator have to be planned and implemented.

A major international event during the 2002 report period was the Heavy Ion Inertial Fusion Symposium, which was held in Moscow and was hosted by Professor Sharkov from ITEP. Basic Physics issues of dense strongly correlated plasmas as well as accelerator physics, and developments towards heavy ion inertial fusion were discussed. Those topics that have a very close connection to the research field covered in this report have been added as a separate section.

Finally I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Karin Weyrich who during many years did all the work to compile this report and even in difficult times she managed to have this report appear, and I hope she will continue to provide this service to the community for many more years yet to come.

