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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

MOLEC XVII – 2008

European Conference on Dynamics of Molecular Systems
August 23-28, 2008
St. Petersburg, Russia

<http://www.ioffe.ru/MOLEC17/index.html>
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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the XVII MOLEC meeting, to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 23th to 28th August 2008. The series of biennial MOLEC Meetings started in 1976, when the first Conference was held in Trento. Since that time the conference was held in Brandbjerg Hojskole (Denmark), Oxford (UK), Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Jerusalem (Israel), Aussois (France), Bernkastel-Kues (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Salamanca (Spain), Nyborg Strand (Denmark), Bristol (UK), Jerusalem (Israel), Istanbul (Turkey), Nunspeet (The Netherlands), Trento (Italy), and now comes to St.Petersburg.

European Conference on Dynamics of Molecular Systems focuses on the different aspects of atomic and molecular interactions, with emphasis on both experimental and theoretical studies of the dynamics of elastic, inelastic and reactive encounters between atoms, molecules, ions, clusters and surfaces. The meeting deals in particular with:

- Molecular collisions in different environments (plasmas, atmospheric/interstellar/combustion processes, gas-surface processes, biologically relevant systems, etc.)
- Fundamental problems and ab-initio calculations on molecular dynamics
- Photon-matter interactions: spectroscopy, photodissociation and photo-induced reactions including femtosecond dynamics.
- Interaction between ultra-cold molecules and atoms, processes in He droplets.
- Steric effects and vector correlations in reactive processes and in photodissociation.

The Conference format will include invited lectures, hot topics (some of them will be also invited), and poster sessions. The participation of young researchers and students is particularly welcome. For a limited number of students a reduced conference fee and cheap accommodation will be available.

Preliminary list of speakers:

Enrico Bodo, University of Rome, Rome, Italy
 Mark Brouard, Oxford University, Oxford, UK
 Simonetta Cavalli, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy
 David Chandler, Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, USA
 Marcel Drabbels, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland
 Alberto Garcia-Vela, CSIC, Madrid, Spain
 Karl-Heinz Gericke, TU Braunschweig, Germany
 Gregory Hall, Brookhaven Nat. Lab. New York, USA
 Christophe Jovet, PPM, Orsay, France
 Raphael Levine, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
 Harold Linnartz, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands
 Daniel Neumark, UCB, Berkeley, USA
 Eugene Nikitin, Technion, Haifa, Israel
 Andrew Orr-Ewing, Bristol University, Bristol, UK
 David Parker, University of Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
 Pierre Pillet, Laboratoire Aimé Cotton, Orsay, France
 Albert Stolow, NRC, Ottawa, Canada
 Arthur Suits, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
 Stanislav Umanskii, Institute of Chemical Physics, Moscow, Russia

The Conference will be held in the Education Center of the Academy of Professional Education in Pushkin, a beautiful suburb of St.Petersburg. The conference site is a former palace of Kochubey, a Russian prince and statesman of the 18-19 centuries, and is located a few hundred meters from the famous palace of Empress Catherine the Second (a Summer residence of Russian tzars). The day of arrival is August 23. The scientific program will begin in the morning August 24 and finished in the evening August 28, 2008.

St.Petersburg is one of most important scientific and cultural centers in Russia and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. An illustrated history of St. Petersburg, points of interest, and a virtual city tour can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/history/index.asp>

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/virtual-tour/index.asp>

<http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/>

Expecting many accompanying persons, the Local Organizing Committee plans to organize for them a special excursion program.

Further information can be found on the conference web site
<http://www.ioffe.ru/MOLEC17/index.html>
which we will keep updated with the most recent news. More details will be given in the Second Announcement.

Welcome to St.Petersburg!

On behalf of the MOLEC XVII 2008
Local Organizing Committee

Oleg Vasyutinskii, Ioffe Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg
Andrey Belyaev, Herzen State University, St.Petersburg
Alexei Buchachenko, Moscow State University, Moscow
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