

Some of secondary school students interested in physics perform their own research works in physics. Sometimes their results are very interesting and valuable.

In the academic year 1996/97 the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, organizes the Fifth International Competition in Research Projects in Physics for Secondary School Students.

**General Rules:**

1. All the secondary (high) school students regardless of the country, type of the school etc. are eligible for the competition. The only conditions are that the school cannot be considered as a university college and the age of the participant should not exceed 20 years on March 31, 1997.

2. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter of the papers, their level, methods applied etc. All these are left to the participants' choice. The papers, however, have to deal with physics topics or topics directly related to physics.

3. Every participant can submit one or more papers but each paper should have only one author. The total volume (i.e. text + figures + captions + tables + references) of each paper should not exceed 25 normal typed pages (about 25,000 characters).

4. The papers will be refereed by the Organizing Committee and the best will be awarded. The number of awarded papers is not limited. All the awards will be considered equivalent. The Authors of the awarded papers will be invited to the Institute of Physics for one month's research stay (the stays are scheduled on November 1997). The stay expenses in Poland will be paid by the Institute of Physics. (Unfortunately, the travel expenses to and from Poland cannot be paid by us as well).

5. In addition to the regular awards the Organizing Committee may establish a number of honourable mentions. The participants who won the honourable mention receive diplomas, but they are not invited to the research stay.

6. The participants send their papers in two copies in English only by March 31, 1997 to

**Dr. Waldemar Gorzkowski,**

**Secretary General of the „FIRST STEP”**

**Inst. of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences**

**al. Lotnikow 32/46, (PL) 02-668 Warszawa**

7. IMPORTANT: Each paper should contain the name, birth date and home address of the Author and the name and address of his/her school.

We hope that our competition will provide the pupils with an opportunity to compare their own achievements with these of their colleagues from other countries. Also we hope that the stay of young scientists in our Institute will result in friendly relationship between them, what seems especially valuable for the future.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

**Prof. Henryk Szymczak,**

Director of the Institute of Physics

Additional information on the competition and on the proceedings can be obtained from Dr. Waldemar Gorzkowski – phone: (022) 435212; tlx: 812468 ifpan pl; fax: (022) 430926; E-mail: gorzk@gamma1.ifpan.edu.pl.

Current information on the competition and related topics can be found in the subdirectory „pub/competitions” of the regular „anonymous” on the ftp server „ftp.ifpan.edu.pl”.