

Foreword, Eighth EISCAT Workshop

This issue of *Annales Geophysicae* contains a collection of scientific papers presented at the 8th International EISCAT Workshop, which took place at the University of Leicester from 23–27 June 1997. This was the second EISCAT workshop to be held in the United Kingdom. EISCAT workshops are held every two years and are hosted by all the countries of the EISCAT Association. The previous workshop held in Cargèse in Corsica started the new cycle, which I hope will be completed. The number of papers and posters presented in Leicester, more than 80, shows the vivacity of the science studied with the EISCAT facility. The sessions covered numerous scientific topics – the high latitude ionosphere, the thermosphere and mesosphere, the interactions between the solar wind, magnetosphere and auroral ionosphere, and ionospheric modification and plasma physics. Time was also given to technical matters and developments of the EISCAT Svalbard radar. The papers presented were of various kinds, including some work-in-progress, as is usual at workshops. For me, it was a pleasure to see and hear the presentations and to see how this international effort serves to increase our

knowledge of the Earth's environment. The collection of papers in this issue represents a good sample of the work being done by the EISCAT community, and shows that this community is very much alive, studying new phenomena and introducing new ideas. More and more precise and complex studies, theoretical as well as experimental, are being conducted. In addition, the next EISCAT meeting will surely include many important results from the new facility built on Svalbard. The EISCAT Svalbard Radar facility is the most recent major development of the EISCAT Association, with the European Associates being joined by Japan.

I thank Professor Tudor Jones and his colleagues at Leicester University for the successful organisation of the workshop. I sincerely thank the Editor-in-Chief Prof. Stan Cowley for offering to publish the scientific results of EISCAT in a special issue of this journal and also Dr Denis Alcaydé, Prof. Terry Robinson, and Ms Sylviane Perret for their editorial work.

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