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## American Physical Society Invites Dallas to Discover Plasma

*Students, teachers and the public are invited to learn more about the fourth state of matter by “Playing with Plasma.”*

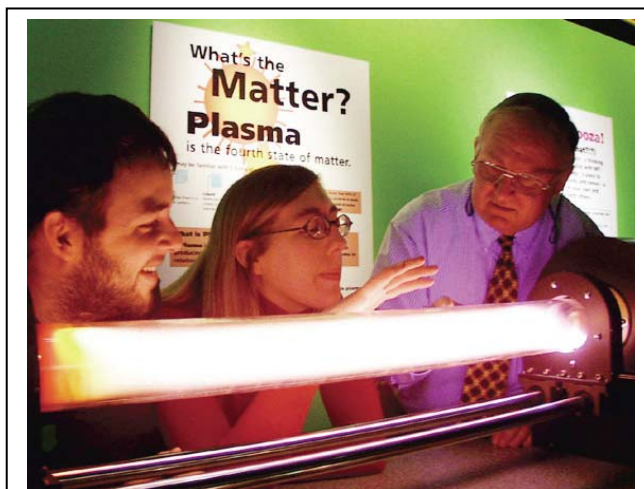
DALLAS, Texas—We live on a planet where we are surrounded mainly by matter in the familiar states of solid, liquid and gas. But many of us are not aware of a fourth state of matter – plasma. In Dallas that is about to change. During the week of November 16, the American Physical Society – Division of Plasma Physics (APSDPP), as part of their yearly meeting, has scheduled a series of educational events to encourage teachers, students and the general public to explore plasma.

Until recently plasma was rarely mentioned in high school textbooks, though matter in the plasma state makes up 99% of the visible universe. Our sun, stars, northern lights, solar flares and lightning bolts are all examples of naturally occurring plasmas. Man-made plasmas are used for lighting (fluorescent lights), sterilizing medical equipment, welding, manufacturing computer chips, fusion energy research and even surgery.

The main event for the general public will be a special Plasma Sciences Expo, November 20, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency Dallas (300 Reunion Blvd). This event will

introduce the local community to the exciting nature of plasmas and the benefits of plasma research. Scientists from around the country and the world will be there, ready to engage participants in lively hands-on demonstrations and explorations. Those attending will be able to create arcs of lightning, observe their fluctuating body temperature on a special monitor, manipulate glowing plasma with magnets, and learn how to confine plasma in a fusion device by playing a video game. Students at all levels, teachers, parents and the general public are welcome. The Expo will also be open during the day on November 20 and 21 for local school field trips.

Local teachers will receive a special day of training on “Teachers Day,” Tuesday, November 18. Teachers will attend morning and afternoon workshops about plasma and related science. Many will learn how to bring the study of plasma into their classrooms, a



*Demonstrations of plasma, its mystery, beauty and power, will be available at the Plasma Sciences Expo, scheduled for local schools on November 20 and 21. The general public is invited to the exhibits on Thursday, November 20, from 6 PM to 8 PM.*

valuable skill consistent with national science standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Education programs will also be visiting local schools. Throughout the week scientists and teachers will be in the area, presenting hands-on science experiences to local students.

Contributing laboratories, industries, academic institutions, and government agencies include: Baylor University; Contemporary Physics Education Project (CPEP); General Atomics; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; MIT Plasma Science & Fusion Center; Oak Ridge Institute for Science Education; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory; Space Science Institute; University of Dallas; University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at Dallas; U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fusion Energy Sciences; U.S. Department of Energy Defense programs and more.

To learn more about these education events, visit the Discover Plasma website:  
<http://fusioned.gat.com/dppoutreach/>

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