

## P R E F A C E

I would like to offer the reader the following report on the scientific activity of the Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics (FLNP) of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) in 1999. The report consists of two parts. The first is a brief review of the results of experimental and theoretical investigations in condensed matter physics, nuclear physics and applied research. The second contains experimental reports with more information about particular studies. The list of the 1999 publications closes the book.

In 1999 the IBR-2 reactor operated according to the approved working schedule, all of the 8 planned IBR-2 cycles were conducted. In the autumn cycles of the IBR reactor a physical startup of a solid methane-based cryogenic moderator was accomplished and all its rated regimes tested. This completed successfully many-year work of the technical departments of the laboratory.

In 1999 we succeeded in carrying out the IBR-2 modernization project to a large extent. A JINR-MINATOM (Ministry of Atomic Energy of Russia) agreement was signed. Following its terms MINATOM will take part in the reactor modernization project. A new working schedule of the project is elaborated.

A positive tendency in the financing of the IREN project is noted.



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