

Scientific Organizing Committee

A.P. Boss (USA), E. Falgarone (chairperson, France), M. Fujimoto (Japan), R. Genzel (Germany), M. Guélin (France), A. Hjalmarsen (Sweden), G. Morfill (Germany), T. Nakano (Japan), J. Scalo (USA), P. Thaddeus (USA).

Local Organizing Committee

F. Boulanger, A. Castets, D. Downes, G. Duvert, P. de Jonge, C. Kahane, A. Omont (chairperson).

Acknowledgements

This Symposium would not have been possible without the generous financial support of a myriad of institutions which allowed us to invite speakers and participants from a large number of countries: the International Astronomical Union, the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the European Space Agency (ESA), the National Center for Space Studies (CNES), the Centers for Atomic Energy (CEA) of Saclay and Bruyères-le-Châtel, the Ministry of National Education (MEN), the Institut for Millimeter Radio Astronomy (IRAM), the Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble which hosted the conference, the city of Grenoble, and the General Council of Isère. We also acknowledge the support of two companies, Sofradir and Air Liquide.

But it is the hard work of a handful of efficient and enthusiastic persons who definitely ensured the success of the conference. They were Carrah Wright and Mike Rogers of the California Institute of Technology who helped me during the last year of my stay there. Later, Elizabeth Palleau of the Grenoble Observatory took the entire responsibility of the detailed organization of the conference in Grenoble. I am particularly grateful to her because of her initiative, her energy, her skills, and also her good mood. She solved the innumerable problems raised day after day, allowing me, in the various places where I was in 1989 and 1990, to concentrate on the scientific organization. Françoise Bouillet of the Grenoble Observatory, Gisela Matoso and Claude Vianey-Liaud of IRAM shared this task with her and did it in such a way that, in the end, most participants were feeling welcomed. I sincerely thank all of them.

I also acknowledge the indispensable support of a few of my colleagues who never doubted of the interest of such a conference and kept encouraging my efforts to make this meeting shed a different light on the physics of the interstellar medium.

Edith Falgarone.