

NAME
ADDRESS

Thursday, 20 December, 2001

**ISSI Workshop on *Planetary Systems and Planets in Systems*
held in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, 2–6 September 2002**

Dear ...

With this letter we should like to invite you to participate and play an active role in a workshop on *Planetary Systems and Planets in Systems*, which is organised and sponsored by the International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern, Switzerland, and to be held in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, in the Fall of 2002.

For information about ISSI please refer to our homepage at www.issi.unibe.ch, and for information about Saas-Fee see www.saas-fee.ch.

The starting point of this workshop was the fact that our colleague Michel Mayor will turn sixty in 2002. It was an honour for ISSI to receive a proposal to organise a workshop on the general topic of extrasolar planetary systems on this occasion. The institute therefore invited Willy Benz (University of Bern) and Stéphane Udry (University of Geneva), who, together with the two undersigned, formulated the aims and goals of the workshop (see attached circular), drafted a programme of introductory talks, nominated a list of invitees, and structured the workshop into five sections and four working groups. This format should leave ample time for open, informal discussions, which is one of the principal aims of ISSI. A preliminary programme is attached, and the topics of the talks as well as the names of the speakers are indicated.

We have pleasure of inviting you to attend this workshop on *Planetary Systems and Planets in Systems* and to present an introductory talk or co-chair a working group, as indicated in the attachment.

Participation at this workshop is by invitation only. The convenors have endeavoured to create a list of participants who are currently very active in this field and who will cover the relevant topics without making the workshop unwieldy.

ISSI offers to cover your subsistence costs (hotel and half-board) while in Saas-Fee. However, we are not in a position to cover your travel costs. If you can accept this invitation, we ask you to kindly fill in the preregistration form attached to the circular. Also, please indicate if you agree with the proposed title of your talk.

A proceedings volume will be published after the workshop in the *Space Sciences Series of ISSI* by Kluwer Academic Publishers (see www.issi.unibe.ch/publications). The proceedings will be issued both as a hardcover book in our series and also as an issue of *Space Science Reviews* (editor C. de Jager). Manuscripts will be due only some 6–8 weeks after the workshop so they can reflect the discussions during the workshop. All papers will be reviewed, and the volume is then expected to appear some 9–12 months later.

We hope very much that you will be able to attend this workshop and contribute to the volume described above. At ISSI, Rudolf von Steiger is the responsible local organiser. Please let us know at your earliest convenience of your decision, either by fax (+41-31-631-4897) or by e-mail (vsteiger@issi.unibe.ch). We will then contact you again in a few months with a second circular by e-mail giving more detailed information about the workshop.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Saas-Fee at the workshop next Fall.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,

Johannes Geiss
Executive Director

Rudolf von Steiger
Director