

*Distinguished scientist Paul Söding, Head of DESY's branch institute in Zeuthen, Brandenburg (Berlin), and professor of experimental physics at Hamburg and at Humboldt University, Berlin, retired on 1 March. As a long-standing DESY Research Director and as a scientist, Söding has contributed significantly both to physics and to science administration.*

*Born in 1933 in Dresden, Söding studied at Hamburg and Munich. When high energy physics research was initiated in Hamburg, he joined pioneer bubble chamber experiments. After several periods at CERN, Berkeley and Cornell, he became a Leading Scientist at DESY.*

*With the advent of the PETRA electron-positron accelerator, Söding played a key role in the construction and exploitation of the TASSO detector, where the first direct evidence for gluons was seen in 1979. For this historic discovery, he was one of the four 1995 recipients of the European Physical Society's prestigious High Energy and Particle Physics Prize.*

*As DESY Research Director from 1982 - 91, Söding led preparations for and construction of the HERA electron-proton storage ring and its collision experiments H1 and ZEUS, surmounting many obstacles.*

*When the former Institute for High Energy Physics of the East German Academy of Sciences in Zeuthen became a branch institute of DESY in 1992, he played an important role in its integration into DESY. An independent programme of elementary particle physics is now carried out in Zeuthen in close collaboration with DESY, CERN and other research institutes in Germany and further afield.*

*Ulrich Gensch (53), a leading scientist at Zeuthen since 1972, takes over as the institute's director. Until 1987, he worked at Serpukhov and Dubna and at CERN. In 1987 he became a member of the Zeuthen group which joined the international H1 collaboration. He has been a member of the DESY Directorate since 1995, responsible for the Central Technical Research and Computing department.*