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ON THE COVER: Computer graphics display of the structure of a rare-earth ion site in a CaF_2 -Be F_2 glass. The ion is white, Ca orange, Be blue, and F green. The atomic positions were calculated by molecular dynamics methods at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as described by S.A. Brawer and M.J. Weber (J. Chem. Phys. **75**, 1981, p. 3522), who supplied the photo.

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Materials Research Society • 9800 McKnight Road, Suite 327 • Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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Editorial Board Chairman E. N. Kaufmann Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Associate Editor—Europe A. Golanski Centre National d'Études des Télécommunications **CNS-RPT** Chemin du Vieux Chêne **BP 98** 38243 Meylan Cedex France (33) 76 51 40 67

Contributors: A. G. Cullis, A. L. Robinson, M. Ross

Advertising and Circulation M. E. Kaufold (412) 367-3012

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(412) 367-3036

Assistant Editor

F. M. Wieloch

(412) 367-3036

Design/Production

C. Love

R. C. Whitehouse

(412) 367-3003

Editorial Assistant

J. Dininny

(412) 367-3036

Guest Editor:

F. L. Galeener

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EUROPEAN MRS

P. Siffert Centre de Récherches Nucleaire Laboratoire PHASE 67037 Strasbourg Cedex, France (88) 28 65 43

MINKO BALKANSKI University of Pierre and Marie Curie Laboratoire de Physique des Solides 4 Place Jussieu, Tour 13 75230 Paris Cedex 05. France telephone: 336-25-25 RICHARD B. FAIR Vice President Research Program Management Microelectronics Center of North Carolina P.O. Box 12889 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 telephone: (919) 248-1800 FRANK Y. FRADIN Director Materials Science Division Argonne National Laboratory 9700 South Cass Avenue Argonne IL 60439 telephone: (312) 972-4925 SHU-EN HSU Director Materials R&D Center Chung Shan Institute of Science and Technology P.O. Box 1-26 Lung-Tan, Taiwan, China Cable: CHUNSHANINST SHIMEN, TAIWAN **BALPH J. JACCODINE** Sherman Fairchild Professor of Solid State Studies Sherman Fairchild Laboratory 161 Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA 18015 telephone: (215) 862-3950 HIROSHI KAMIMURA Department of Physics Faculty of Science University of Tokyo 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku Tokyo 113 Japan telephone: 03-812-2111 telex: UTPHYSIC J23472 ELTON N. KAUFMANN (Chairman) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory P.O. Box 808 L-350 Livermore, CA 94550 telephone: (415) 423-2640 R. KRISHNAN Naval Chemical & Metallurgical Laboratory Naval Dockyard Bombay 400 023, India telex: 011-3192 NCML IN JAMES L. MERZ Associate Dean

for Research Development College of Engineering University of California Santa Barbara, CA 93106 telephone: (805) 961-4446

SUSUMU NAMBA Professor of Electrical Engineering Faculty of Engineering Science Osaka University, Toyonaka Osaka, Japan 560

JULIA M. PHILLIPS AT&T Bell Laboratories Room 1E-431 600 Mountain Avenue Murray Hill, NJ 07974 telephone: (201) 582-4428

EMANUELE RIMINI University of Catania Department of Physics 57 Corso Italia 195129 Catania, Italy telephone: 37-70-61 telex: 911554 INFNCT I

RUSTUM ROY Materials Research Laboratory Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA 16802 telephone: (814) 865-3424

RICHARD L. SCHWOEBEL Directorate 1800 Sandia National Laboratories P.O. Box 5800 Albuquerque, NM 87185 telephone: (505) 844-9273

G. D. W. SMITH University of Oxford Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials Parks Road Oxford OX1 3PH, England

TAKUO SUGANO Professor of Engineering Department of Electronic Engineering University of Tokyo 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku Tokyo 113 Japan

telephone: 03-812-2111, ext. 6675 C. W. WHITE Solid State Division Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, TN 37831 telephone: (615) 574-6295

J.S. WILLIAMS Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Microelectronics Tech. Center 124 Latrobe Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia telephone: 03-660-2459

XIE XIDE Professor of Physics and President Fudan University Shanghai, China

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The Materials Research Society (MRS) is a nonprofit scientific association founded in 1973 to promote interdisciplinary goal-oriented basic research on materials of technological importance. Membership in the Society includes more than 4,800 scientists from industrial, government, and university research laboratories in the United States and more than 25 countries.

The Society's interdisciplinary approach to the exchange of technical information is qualitatively different from that provided by singledisciplinary professional societies because it promotes technical exchange across the various fields of science affecting materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 30 topical symposia, as well as numerous single-topic scientific meetings each year. It recognizes professional and technical excellence, conducts short courses, and fosters technical exchange in various local geographical regions through Section activities and Student Chapters on university campuses.

MRS is an Affiliated Society of the American Institute of Physics and participates in the international arena of materials research through associations with professional organizations such as European MRS.

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