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## ISU vying for institute for scientists

If it gets the money together, the school will play host to researchers from developing nations.

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Iowa State University will become a gathering place for scientists from developing countries if money can be found to create an International Institute of Theoretical and Applied Physics.

The International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, recently selected Iowa State's proposal out of eight bids for a new, similar institute. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is also lined up to support the project.

"A major hurdle has been passed," said ISU physics professor James Vary, who is acting director of the institute. "But we have a long way to go and a lot of money to raise."

Iowa State has committed \$500,000 per year for three years, and UNESCO's support is estimated at \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually. The budget is projected to be \$1.2 million per year, so the university is seeking to raise \$600,000 through federal grants and corporate donations.

The institute would be the first of its kind in the United States and only the second in the world, joining the 30-year-old center in Trieste.

The motivation for such an institute is this: "We train scientists up to the Ph.D. level in this country, then they go back to the developing countries, find no support and eventually tend to drop out of research and teaching," Vary said. "We want the collaborations they start in undergraduate and graduate school to keep going."

The proposed institute would be "a people institute, not a 'machines' institute," Vary said, although he singled out ISU's computer facilities as an important resource. No new construction or equipment acquisition is planned. Iowa State simply would serve as the host for some-

where between 50 and 200 scientists in the first year, providing workshops and seminars and paying "whatever it costs to have a scientist living and working here in Ames."

Vary said the International Institute can't begin operations before July 1, 1994, when ISU begins its next fiscal year. He predicted that a limited number of programs will be in place a year from now.

"If we fail, others are waiting in the wings," Vary said, "but we don't plan to fail."