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BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Report To The Congress

OF THE UNITED STATES

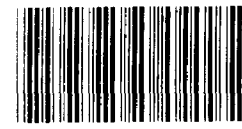
Increasing Costs, Competition May Hinder U.S. Position Of Leadership In High Energy Physics

The United States is seeking to maintain world leadership in making significant discoveries in high energy physics. However, with increasing costs and competition, the U.S. physics community is concerned that its leadership is being lost to Western Europe.

For the past 30 years, the United States has led the world in high energy physics research; other countries are now challenging that lead. This research--the study of the structure and properties of matter and energy in their most basic form--is basic research at the frontiers of science. Maintaining a leadership position in the field is considered important because it provides a nation's or group of nations' physicists with greater opportunities for making major discoveries and thus advancing the state of knowledge--the principal goal of high energy physicists.



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