"Space Research in Bulgaria" — Its Goals, Scope and Content

Intelligent and studious, the Bulgarian people have for thousand of years been interested in the sky, the stars and in the phenomena related to them. The millenary-long history of the Protobulgarian perfect Calendar and its profound and broad astronomical foundations are only part of the vast astronomical heritage of ancient Bulgaria. The Bulgarian nation has developed this heritage for almost 1300 years now and after 1957 it established the Bulgarian participation in various modern fields of space research. The scientific results obtained in Bulgaria in the field of ionospheric physics, for instance, are well known and appreciated by contemporary science, and the investigations in such fields as cosmic rays, the magnetosphere, the hard component of the interplanetary medium, and the Sun, are advancing well in our country. The active participation by Bulgaria in the Intercosmos Programme has resulted in the launching of our equipment in space (Intercosmos-8, 12, 14 satellites, Vertical-3, 4, 6 rockets, several meteorological rockets) and has enabled the Bulgarian specialists to use abundant data from these and other space experiments.

The development of the space research in Bulgaria resulted in the setting up of the Group on Space Physics in 1969, which grew into the Central Laboratory for Space Research in 1973. The scientists of this Academic Institution have frequently contributed to leading space journals. The expansion of their activities necessitated the issue of an independent Bulgarian space journal which is already in the hands of its honourable readers. This is the first volume of the subject series *Space Research in Bulgaria.* The purpose is to offer selected scientific papers by Bulgarian authors in the following main fields:

1. Space Physics (physics of the top-side atmosphere, magnetosphere, heliophysics, cosmic rays, physical problems of the interplanetary substance, outer-atmospheric astronomy, planetary morphology, geology and geophysics etc. — data obtained by in situ measurements.

2. Techniques and means of the space equipment and problems of the space instrument design.

3. Remote sensing — aero- and space techniques for Earth survey and results from their application in theoretical and practical branches.

4. General and fundamental problems of the space investigation.

The Editorial Board will be pleased to accept original papers from foreign authors, priority being given to studies within the frameworks of the Intercosmos Programme and to authors from countries having bilateral agreements with Bulgaria.

We hope that this issue would, partially at least, reflect the modest though meaningful contribution by Bulgarian science and technology in the spatial advance of our civilization.

Professor *Kiril B. Serafimov*
(Editor-in-Chief)