Nonneutral Plasma Physics at Twenty

C. W. Roberson
Office of Naval Research (Ret)
Alexandria, Virginia
croberon2@cox.net

The first Nonneutral Plasma Physics Conference was started in response to the approval of funding for a five-year program by the Office of Naval Research (1). The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was considering the formation of a Plasma Science Committee at the time and the first conference was held in the NAS facility on the National Mall. 50 scientists, 9 of whom were from funding agencies, attended the meeting.

The conference was divided between Nonneutral Plasmas in traps and beams. Subsequent conferences focused on the enabling experiments made possible by the first demonstration of a thermal equilibrium plasma in a Malmberg – Penning trap. Some highlights of the program over the past twenty years will be discussed.