NAL-UNI Course on *Rotor Dynamics and Vibrations*

The 16th course of the NAL-UNI Lecture Series, co-ordinated by Dr U N Sinha and Ms V R Sarasamma of the Flosolver Unit, opened at NAL on 29 November 2000. About 20 participants are attending the three-day course. As always, the lecture programme opened with a welcome address by Dr T S Prahlad, Director, NAL, in which he touched upon several issues: the "how much testing" vs "how much modelling" question in engineering design; the dramatic increase in the availability of computing power; and the tendency of the computing community to stay within the "comfort zone" of "solving what you *can*" instead of "solving what we *must*". It was a special pleasure to meet Dr G Prathap, Scientist-in-Charge, C-MMACS, at the inaugural function; even though he has now stepped down as NAL-UNI Convener, one still can't think of a NAL-UNI lecture programme without Dr Prathap. Tracing the origins of this successful lecture series, Dr Prathap said that the programme was based on the principle that "those you 'do technology' must also teach". The inaugural function also included the multimedia presentation on the history of Flosolver and an utterly delightful impromptu introduction of the course by Dr U N Sinha who presented examples of Gauss' mathematical prowess to argue that "true computing" can be quite independent of computers.