

version of the plan, known as Cosmic Vision, is so grand that ESA will need to forge new links with international partners, say agency advisers.

The proposals include sending a fleet of small spacecraft to Jupiter and its moons, putting a probe carrying clouds of ultracold atoms into orbit to test quantum gravity, and launching a space interferometer that can image planets outside the Solar System in the infrared.

The budget, to be decided in December, is expected to total €4 billion (US\$5 billion). Some big programmes will have to be done cooperatively, say ESA science advisers, but the success of the Cassini–Huygens mission to Saturn, a joint venture with NASA, and collaborations with Russia, China, Japan and India have paved the way, they add.

Who dares, wins a million for research

London The pot of cash for science prizes just got bigger. In an attempt to expand on the fields covered by the Nobel prizes, philanthropist Fred Kavli has created three million-dollar awards in nanotechnology, neuroscience and astrophysics.

Norwegian-born Kavli, who made his fortune in California selling sensors for aircraft, says he hopes the prizes will be

US gives stamp of approval to scientists

Washington Four stamps that bear the portraits of famous American scientists were released on 4 May by the US Postal Service.

The 37-cent stamps, which were created by artist Victor Stabin, include one that features the mathematician and physicist John von Neumann. Born in Hungary in 1903, von Neumann made significant contributions to game theory and quantum mechanics. He was also dubbed the ‘father of the computer’ for his theoretical studies of memory and logic circuits.

The three other stamps feature geneticist Barbara McClintock and physicists Josiah Willard Gibbs and

Richard Feynman. The US Postal Service has put out stamp series before on such themes as inventors or architects, but this is the first group of stamps featuring scientists.



more responsive to current research than the Nobels. “I think we’ll be more daring,” he says. The Nobels include awards for physics, chemistry and medicine, but are often bestowed years or even decades after the events that merited them.

The three new prizes, which will focus on basic research and be decided by a panel of international experts, will be awarded every two years from 2008. They will be presented in cooperation with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Norwegian government.

Editorial note

A News story in the 21 October 2004 issue (*Nature* **431**, 889; 2004) reported that the US National Science Foundation (NSF) had been asked to investigate an allegation of scientific misconduct relating to the book *Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives* by Frank Sulloway, a visiting scholar at the Institute of Personality and Social Research at the University of California, Berkeley. The NSF Office of Inspector General has reviewed this allegation, found no evidence of data falsification, and closed the case.