Foreword

The Johns Hopkins Workshop on "High Energy Reactions - From the Standard Model to String theory - From Colliders to Cosmic Rays" was the 26^{th} in an annual series bringing together theoretical and experimental physicists to discuss the status and future developments in a selected area of fundamental physics. The 2002 workshop took place from August 1-3 2002 in Heidelberg (Germany).

Accelerator based particle physics at the highest accessible energies has in the past provided crucial inputs to build the Standard Model of particle physics. Theoretical approaches have been developed as a motivation for planned experiments as well as for the interpretation of this data recorded. This successful interplay has been the guiding line for the organisation of the workshop in which 13 theoretical and 9 experimental presentations covering high energy scattering and related fields formed the basis for lively and fruitful discussions among the participants. Apart from offering a broad overview the workshop has put special emphasis on the physics of strong interaction at high energies in the non-perturbative regime and on the link between accelerator based physics and the high energy data recorded by cosmic ray experiments. The organisers wish to thank the speakers for their excellent presentations reflecting in the best sense the goal of the workshop and forming the basis for the fruitful discussions among the participants.

The 26^{th} Johns Hopkins Workshop took place in the building of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences just below the historic castle. The organisers wish to thank the Academy for hosting the meeting and providing such a pleasant and stimulating environment. It is our pleasure to acknowledge the financial support received from the Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie (BMBF), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Johns Hopkins University, and the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. We also wish to thank Mrs. H. Mödebeck and C. Brüser for their competent and dedicated help with the organisation, which added to a very smooth running of the workshop. Last but not least, we thank the responsible persons of JHEP for their work in publishing these proceedings.

The Organisers