After extensive investigations of both coatings and technical aspects, the IUCr has installed a Bobst Graphic Nova 400 computer typesetting system in offices in Chester, U.K., under the control of the Technical Editor. The system is based on a Data General Nova 4X computer with 256k byte memory, and has disc storage of 20k byte, a magnetic tape unit and output to a Bobst CRT 2001 typesetter, a version of the Autologic Micro 5 with digitised fonts. The software has been written to allow the user to typeset in almost any format, as well as to carry out other manipulations of the data keyed for typesetting, such as extracting keywords, sorting and checking.

Although the present software is not suited for carrying out numerical calculations, a Basic interpreter or a Fortran compiler can be purchased for the system.

A brief summary of the background to the purchase of the system will be given and the capabilities of the system described with examples.