1025-32-97 **Anne-Katrin Herbig*** (herbig@umich.edu), Dept. of Math., University of Michigan, 2074 East Hall, 530 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, and **John Erik Fornaess** (fornaess@umich.edu), Dept. of Math., University of Michigan, 2074 East Hall, 530 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.
Plurisubharmonic defining functions.

Suppose $\Omega \subset\subset \mathbb{C}^2$ admits a smooth defining function which is plurisubharmonic on the boundary of Ω. Then the Diederich-Fornæss exponent can be chosen arbitrarily close to 1, and the closure of Ω admits a Stein neighborhood basis. This is joint work with J. E. Fornæss . (Received January 17, 2007)