

Revised Policy on Journal Page Charges

There has been a substantial drop in authorization of page charges by the companies and institutions of technical journal authors. The AIAA Publications Committee, therefore, following a precedent set by other national scientific/technical societies, has enacted the following resolution:

The editors of the archive journals of AIAA *may* assign higher priority for publication to those papers for which page charges are authorized.

The Publications Committee has taken this necessary step with considerable reluctance. However, the decreasing page-charge income makes it necessary to limit the number of pages which can be printed in each issue, whereas the number of papers acceptable for publication continues to increase. In view of the resulting growth in backlog, it is not equitable that papers which honor the page charge should suffer publication delays which are, in effect, the result of nonpayment of these charges by other organizations.

AIAA page charges, like those of other professional societies, are not obligatory, nor is payment of such charges a prerequisite for publication. However, the author's company or institution is expected to pay the page charges if it can afford to do so. Payment of page charges is authorized as a cost item in government contracts under a policy ruling by the Federal Council on Science and Technology. The Council states in its policy, "the dissemination of the results of research is an integral part of the research process." The policy further recognizes that "page charges for publishing papers in primary journals constitute one effective means by which an appropriate portion of the research dollar" can be channeled into dissemination of the results of research.

The publication charge of \$75 per printed page, approved by the AIAA Board of Directors, actually represents only a fraction of the total cost of printing and distributing the JOURNAL. Since page charges represent only a small fraction—usually less than 1%—of the cost of research and development, it appears equitable for the company or institution supporting the work to pay the small amount necessary to support publication in the open literature, without which any research or development program is not complete.

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