

Accommodating to Change

THE changes in funding emphasis have led to cutbacks in most of the propulsion-related research and development efforts being conducted at American industrial and academic laboratories. This was felt by me personally when my position was eliminated by Atlantic Research at the end of June. These cutbacks have also led to a 20% drop in submittals to the *Journal of Propulsion and Power* during 1992, as compared with the same period in 1991. When this statistic is combined with the continuing rise in foreign submittals, one is led to see if there is a trend.

A review of the submittals since 1988 reveals the comforting information that there have been previous dips, followed by recovery. Yearly submittals as of this date were lower in 1988 and 1990 than they have been in 1992, each was followed by an increase of over 25% in the submittals in the next year. Hence, the readers of *JPP* should be able to look forward to continued long-term growth. This outlook is supported by the continuing growth of the AIAA Joint Propulsion Conference, an important direct source of manuscripts and an indicator of work-in-progress that will shortly lead to additional manuscripts.

These fluctuations in the rate of submittals place additional pressure on the Associate Editors of *JPP*, who see month-to-month fluctuations in the number of manuscripts they are asked to handle. At the other end of the pipeline, scheduling of issues becomes an art that requires educated planning, as the number of pages available must be balanced against the desire to have accepted manuscripts in print as soon as possible. The total number of pages published each year has nearly doubled over the past four years in order to meet this need. Norma Brennan, Director of Journals for AIAA, has proved a constant help in this effort, and Ken Berlack has stepped in as Production Editor and is well up on the learning curve as a valuable member of the publication team.

Another aspect of the constant change in *JPP* is the Associate Editors, who provide so much of their time and expertise in a volunteer effort. Alan Epstein has given us three valuable years, handling a wide range of turbine-related manuscripts. Some, like David Hobbs, have found it necessary to cut their terms short because of an increase in workload, whereas

Mickey King and Gabriel Roy were able to give an extra year to help process all of the manuscripts they were handling as their jobs changed and took on additional responsibility. Special kudos go to Graeme Aston, who has served six years as AE in the field of Electric Propulsion—four of those as the sole member of the *JPP* team covering this expanding effort. Graeme's contribution is even more exemplary when combined with the fact that he has established his own company and moved its experimental facilities twice during his period of service, while also making the time to edit a volume in the AIAA's *Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics*. We all owe you many thanks, Graeme.

The readers of *JPP* are fortunate that the other 10 Associate Editors are able to continue their valuable contributions; in fact, Henry Brandhorst and Peter Turchi have agreed to extend their support of energy generation and electric propulsion, respectively—thanks to both! In addition, five outstanding individuals have volunteered to replace the outgoing Editors. Saadat Syed, Mo Samimy, and Jayesh Mehta will work in areas related to airbreathing combustion and flow for the gamut of flight conditions. Jesse Matossian will cover electric propulsion, together with nonpropulsive energy generation, and Carl Pian will cover MHD electric-power generation, a field where he has an international reputation and should be able to attract additional manuscripts. I look forward to working with each member of the *JPP* team, and I am proud to note that most of the AE's have been active members of the Technical Committees in the Propulsion and Energy Group; this is important because of the need to involve the TCs in all aspects of the archival publication process.

As always, I offer my appreciation to those authors who believe that *JPP* is the appropriate venue for the results of their efforts; all members of the *JPP* team will continue to demonstrate their support to these authors. Finally, the archival process cannot function without the key role played by the anonymous reviewers. The listing of their names does not adequately reflect the thanks they are due from all of us.

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Editor-in-Chief