

## Focusing—A Means and a Challenge

**A**S I have noted in previous Editorials, recent funding limitations have affected the number of submittals to the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, although those submittals in many fields are still sufficient to keep most of the Associate Editors very busy. One way in which the effectiveness of *JPP* can be increased, even under such conditions, is the generation of “focused issues,” i.e., issues that are based upon a common theme and contain a large number of papers on a relatively narrow topic. This technique will be applied within the next 12 months to two and, possibly, three separate issues. The first of these (and the most significant undertaking) will be the July–August issue, which will be devoted to solid-propellant rocket motor interior ballistics and the combustion of energetic materials. This issue has been organized by Vigor Yang (Pennsylvania State University) and Vladimir Zarko (Institute of Chemical Kinetics and Combustion, Novosibirsk) in dedication to the achievements of the late Professor V. N. Vilyunov and will contain approximately 30 papers from nine countries. The review process is essentially complete as this Editorial is being written, and the authors are currently responding to the Reviewers comments. The second of these will be the November–December issue, which will contain 14 papers on the topics of arcjets and arc heaters. This issue, organized by Mitat Birkan (U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research), represents an excellent opportunity to showcase the significant strides taken in this important electric-propulsion concept over the past two to three years. In this case, the review process is currently in progress. Finally, a group of a dozen papers on the subject of Alkali Metal Thermo-electric Converters (AMTEC) is being assembled from the recent Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference (IECEC) with the help of the Aerospace Power and Terrestrial Energy TCs.

The diversity of these three groups of papers is one indication of both the diversity and the strength of *JPP*. It is also an indication of the opportunities available to workers in a field who wish to highlight the significant advances that have been made. With this Editorial, I want to issue a challenge to the different technical communities that contribute to *JPP*, viz., find a technical discipline that has shown such advances, and organize a group of papers for a special issue. I would be happy to work with the individual representing this discipline in formulating and scheduling a special issue and in finding an Associate Editor to process the individual papers (no easy task!), and I look forward to working with potential contributors to such special issues.

As the growth of *JPP* continues, it is necessary to note the changes that inevitably occur on the masthead. For instance,

the name of Ed Mularz will not be seen after six years of dedicated, effective service in the fields of supersonic and swirl-augmented combustion; I will miss working with my friend of more than two decades. Also leaving the masthead after the completion of their terms will be Tom Barber, Chuck Merkle, and Wing Ng, also long-standing friends; their contributions to *JPP* have been invaluable. Another friend, Larry Kennedy, has agreed to serve another term as an AE in the field of spray/droplet combustion. In addition to helping AIAA, Larry has also found time to edit a Combustion Symposium volume! Thanks for your help, Larry.

Fortunately, three well-established researchers have volunteered their services and will be hard at work when this Editorial appears. Bill Copenhaver and Dan Fant will help cover the phenomena associated with compressors and turbines; both are well known through their research and program management activities, and Dan will also support papers dealing with terrestrial energy generation through the application of gas-turbine technologies. Mike Micci will also cover diverse topics, with emphasis on liquid rockets and low-density flows, although his range of expertise is unusually extensive. I look forward to working with these three as well as the continuing AEs. I would especially like to thank Vigor Yang for his willingness to take on the load represented by the special issue, while still processing his usually heavy load. In addition, I want to thank Henry Brandhorst for processing all of the papers that resulted from the IECEC meeting in a timely, exemplary manner.

The stability of the AIAA staff has been a great help to all of the AEs and to me during the past year. Jason Peak has handled all of the necessary paperwork with the professional supervision of Jacqueline Dupree, while I never cease to be amazed at the contributions of Norma Brennan, who has somehow fulfilled the responsibilities of her staff position while serving on an Institute-wide committee.

As always, I thank the authors, without whom this Journal would not exist, for choosing *JPP* as the format in which to present their research. I also want to thank the reviewers for their timely service. Many of them have been especially valuable in their adherence to the concept of Numerical Accuracy in their evaluations of manuscripts; such professionalism is appreciated. The listing of their names below is an inadequate means of expressing our thanks for their part in maintaining the high standards of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*.

R. H. Woodward Waesche  
Editor-in-Chief