

Stimulus for Exchange—A Challenge

LATE in 1993, I was approached by Professor Vigor Yang, an exemplary *Journal of Propulsion and Power* Associate Editor since 1991, with an idea for an issue devoted to topics in modern-day interior ballistics in solid-propellant rockets, including the development of high-energy materials and their combustion. The primary purpose of the issue was to provide a long-term stimulus for information exchange on an international level among active specialists in these fields. I immediately agreed, both because of my personal and professional interest in these fields and because of the manner in which Vigor had performed as a professional and as an Associate Editor. In addition, I knew Professor Vladimir Zarko (Institute of Chemical Kinetics and Combustion), the co-editor proposed for the issue, through his research and professional reputation. Furthermore, both had a wide range of international contacts in the rocket and combustion communities.

The extent to which they succeeded in assembling papers is evidenced by the high caliber of the truly international contributions, with papers from the USA and from eight other countries. Work in understanding interior ballistics is covered

by papers from France, Republic of China, and Russia, with combustion-related studies from Italy, Japan, and Russia. Perhaps most significant is the discussion of the very significant research on high-energy materials in France, India, The Netherlands, People's Republic of China, and Russia. The authors of the papers in this issue represent a "Who's Who" of the preeminent researchers in these fields.

On behalf of the readers of *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, I want to thank Vigor and Vladimir for their efforts, as well as their supporting staffs at Penn State and Novosibirsk. Thanks are also owed to all the authors who were willing to cooperate with the tight temporal and professional guidelines imposed by the timing of this issue, as well as the expert reviewers listed below who also served in a timely manner. Finally, I challenge others to organize special issues on other topics that will similarly encourage continuing international information exchange.

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