

## Meeting the Challenge

**I**N an Editorial to the Special Section on Solid-Propellant Ballistics in the July–August 1995 issue of *JPP*, I issued a challenge to potential organizers of other Special Issues. The same challenge had earlier been issued to several Technical Committees. As a result, both the September–October 1996 issue and this issue of *JPP* contain Special Sections; the earlier issue discussed aerospace power, while this issue gives a thorough overview of the current international status of arcjets and arc heaters. These play an important role in many technologies that will play key roles in the development of propulsion for the 21st century.

Thanks are owed to Dr. Mitat Birkan, who suggested the possibility of this group of papers, and to Dr. Frank Curran, then Head of the Electronic Propulsion Technical Committee, who assisted in the

selection of authors. Even more significant were the efforts of Dr. Roger Myers, the Associate Editor who processed all 16 papers, while continuing to act in his regular duties as an AE and to conduct his own research; the EP community owes Roger a special debt of gratitude for his efforts.

I am confident that the successful efforts of these individuals will spur others to continue to respond to the challenge and to suggest topics for future Special Issues that will achieve even greater communications within the aerospace community.

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