

Another Landmark Collection

READERS of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power* will recall that Professor Vigor Yang, an exemplary Associate Editor for *JPP* since 1991, assembled an international group of papers on the topic of solid-rocket interior ballistics for the July–August 1995 issue; this group of papers has been widely hailed as a landmark for the state of the art of solids.

Because of his previous success, I quickly agreed when Vigor suggested a possible issue largely based upon material presented at the Third International Symposium on Space Propulsion, held in Beijing, China, during August 1997, with Dr. Xinmin Ren (China Aerospace Corporation) as Chairman. As may be seen from a review of the Table of Contents, the Symposium covered primary-stage propulsion, upper-stage and onboard propulsion, as well as the technologies associated with all of these. The authors represent a “Who’s Who” of researchers in all of these fields, as well as numerous countries active in space propulsion, such as China, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States. Numerous papers have authors from several of these countries, which is an indication of the extent to which international cooperation exists in achieving the common goal of low-cost, reliable access to space for all. I am personally delighted to see the extent to which such cooperation has been achieved and believe that this issue of *JPP* will

serve as a landmark for future efforts. In fact, the Symposium was so successful that there are efforts under way to organize another Symposium in China in 1999; that one will focus on solid-propellant chemistry, combustion, and motor interior ballistics, and will serve as the basis for another special issue of *JPP*.

Speaking for the readers of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, I want to thank Dr. Ren and the members of his committee for their efforts in organizing the symposium and to express my appreciation to Vigor and Mary Newby for the extraordinary accomplishments related to assembling this special issue. In addition, I want to thank all of the authors for their efforts in preparing the manuscripts and in making the revisions, in a timely manner, as suggested by the expert reviewers listed below.

Finally, I would like to challenge others to assemble comparable collections of manuscripts for publication in the archival journals of the AIAA; such efforts represent opportunities to showcase the high quality of the technical efforts currently underway throughout the world, as well as the level of international cooperation that exists in the technical community.

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