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## Preface

Hiroshi Hatta

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## **Preface**

A project to develop an air turbo-ram jet adopting an expander cycle is underway in the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, Japan. This engine, abbreviated as ATREX, is aimed for use in a future reusable space plane in Japan. Many properties of carbon-carbon composites have been discussed to clarify their applicability in many parts of the ATREX engine. Most studies gathered in this Special Issue on 'Carbon-Carbon composites' were carried out to facilitate this project. The material-related results of this project are summarized in the paper 'Applications of carbon-carbon composites to an engine for a future space vehicle'. Two papers, 'Effect of normal stress on the off-axis mechanical behavior of a plain-woven C/C composite' and 'Pitch-based carbon fiber reinforced SiC composites for space optics', have no relation with the ATREX project, but have been also carried out as a part of Japanese space projects. Hiroshi Hatta gathered the papers in this issue, and also co-authored eight papers related to the ATREX project. He contributed only to pick up candidate papers and to collect them. These papers were reviewed by at least two independent reviewers under control of Professor N. Takeda, Editor-in-Chief at the time the papers were submitted. Thus, for these papers, the Advanced Composite Materials quality standard was guaranteed.

I am grateful to Professor N. Takeda for giving me the chance to plan this Special Issue, and also grateful to all the contributors to this issue for submitting excellent papers. I hope that this issue will contribute to future works related to carbon–carbon composites, and will facilitate the usage of carbon–carbon composites in space projects.

HIROSHI HATTA