

Editorial

THIS is the first anniversary issue of the IEEE MICROWAVE AND GUIDED WAVE LETTERS (MGWL). Due to enthusiastic support by the MTT-S ADCOM, authors, reviewers, and everyone else involved, MGWL has had a good start and has completed a successful first year. The number of submissions has steadily increased. As a result, the burden on the reviewers has also been increased since maintenance of the highest possible quality of the journal is of the utmost importance while the nature of the quick turn around time needs to be addressed continuously. It is expected that the growth of this journal will continue. At the same time, the duration between submission and publication is increasing from the planned three months to five months in many cases. In order to meet these requirements, this journal is implementing several mechanisms that are hoped to improve the service to the authors and readers without increasing the burden to the already overtaxed reviewers. Let me start with the request to the author.

The objective of the MGWL is to publish significant development on topics of emerging importance, written *concisely*, with minimal time spent between submission and publication of the contribution. The MGWL is not a replacement of the "Short Paper" section of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES. To accomplish our objective, all parties involved must strive for such a goal. The authors are requested to play an important role by writing the article in a very concise fashion. The guideline for the length is printed in every issue of the MGWL. Please do not fill the manuscript toward the maximum on the guideline. As the number of contributions increase, we need to enforce the length limitation more strictly. Please do not argue, "Some of the published letters have exceeded the limitation and so why not for me?" Any submission that is overlength will automatically be returned to the author(s) unreviewed. Any submission with its length questionable may be returned. All of this adds up to a significant amount of time wasted and will delay in the processing of your manuscript. Please do it right the first time. In my personal experience, it is helpful to use word processing software with desktop publication capabilities to emulate the format of the IEEE MICROWAVE AND GUIDED WAVE LETTERS. If you cannot absolutely write your article within the limit, such an article may not be for MGWL.

Another unnecessary time consuming process often occurs between the acceptance of the paper and the receipt of the final manuscript to the Editor. Even if no correction is required, the author should inform the Editor by FAX. In summary, please read and follow all the instructions for submission, final manuscript, copyright, etc.

Electronic Publishing: This is the inaugural issue of electronic publishing for MICROWAVE AND GUIDED WAVE LETTERS. Manuscripts submitted in an electronic format (on diskettes) can save both time and cost in publication at the IEEE Publishing Department where all the accepted manuscripts are processed. The use of this format is still

optional. However, the initial goal is to increase the percentage of the authors using this format to 70% within two years.

Submission of the manuscript to the Editor and the review process (see below for modification) will be handled in the traditional paper format. Upon final acceptance of the manuscript, the author is encouraged to submit the *final* version in electronic form using one of many word processing softwares and send it to the Editor on a floppy disk. *An identical paper copy is required.* Figures and illustrations are required to be submitted in a traditional paper format. A detailed instruction is printed on the following page as well as inside the back cover of every issue.

Review Process: The success of the first class archival journal depends on its reviewers. We are very fortunate to have many dedicated voluntary reviewers who spend an enormous effort to carefully evaluate the manuscripts in spite of their busy schedule, often at the expense of time spent with their families. Just as the authors have to recognize the difference of MGWL with the TRANSACTIONS, the review process should be different, while the maintenance of the highest possible quality is unquestioned.

Currently, the reviewer can choose "Accept," "Modify," and "Reject" as his/her evaluation. It is clearly stated in the review form that the modification is allowed only for clarifications and minor corrections. Often the comments from the reviews are beyond the recommendations for minor corrections and clarifications. The manuscripts are then returned for resubmission after revision. The reviewers are asked to provide comments that can be transmitted anonymously to the author. Such comments are particularly important for the rejected manuscript.

We are now implementing a new review process. The review process now eliminates the "Modify" category and the manuscript is either "Accepted" or "Not Accepted." The "Accepted" paper is accepted subject to the author's best effort to incorporate any suggested changes. In order to provide the feedback to the authors of the paper "Not Accepted," the comments by the reviewers are essential. Need for such comments is so stated in the review form. It is hoped that the new process will eliminate a lengthy review, revise, and resubmit cycle, which, incidentally, has been very successful for TRANSACTIONS papers. Such a process is not suited for quick turn-around journals like MGWL, which still must maintain a high-quality, archival nature. In order to shorten the time for publication, a manuscript may not be accepted if it requires major revision.

Finally, the Editor would especially like to thank all the reviewers who spent their time reviewing manuscripts during the past year. Since a large number of reviewers are involved, it has been decided that instead of listing a few editorial board members, all reviewers for the past year will be listed once a year. This list is found on pages 4-5 of this issue.

Tatsuo Itoh
Editor-in-Chief