

Editorial

New Editor

MY TERM as Editor of this TRANSACTIONS is expiring and the time has come to pass the journal on to a new editor. The past three years have been very rewarding and I have gained an appreciation for the amount of work required from a large number of people to publish a quality technical journal. The process is only possible due to the dedicated and selfless efforts of a large number of highly skilled and devoted people. In particular, I want to thank the large number of reviewers who spend a significant amount of their time to ensure the high technical quality of our TRANSACTIONS. Currently, this TRANSACTIONS has about 2000 reviewers in its database, and in any given year about 500 reviewers actively participate in the review process. The high standards of this TRANSACTIONS critically depend upon the peer review process and the efforts of the reviewers are deeply appreciated. The strong support provided by the ADCOM is greatly appreciated. ADCOM is devoted to providing the membership with the highest quality publications possible and to this end provide the editorial staff with unwavering support and encouragement. I also want to thank the staff at IEEE, particularly Chris Rezes and Rob Davidson, for their support and assistance. They have been extremely helpful and have contributed to making my experience as Editor very enjoyable. The strong help and assistance of the Associate Editors, Prof. Eikichi Yamashita, Prof. Linda Katehi, and Fazal Ali, are greatly appreciated. Prof. Yamashita, in particular, as Associate Editor for Electromagnetics and Guided Waves has shouldered a significant fraction of the work load. Currently, this TRANSACTIONS receives approximately 500 new manuscripts per year, and about 40% of these have been processed by Prof. Yamashita. His expertise and efforts have significantly improved the quality of this TRANSACTIONS. Finally, I thank the authors who have submitted their work for publication.

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Ultimately, it is the authors who define the quality of this TRANSACTIONS. The primary goal during my term as Editor was to sustain the high quality of this TRANSACTIONS and to improve the responsiveness of this TRANSACTIONS to the membership. In light of this, the following changes were made.

- A system of associate editors was installed and made operational. An Associate Editor for Electromagnetics/Guided Waves was named since approximately 40% of submissions are in this area. An Associate Editor for Special Issues was named to manage this important function. An Associate Editor for Applications was also named since there is strong support from both the membership and ADCOM for more applications papers. I am pleased to announce that this system works very well and all associate editors have done an excellent job.
- The time-to-publication has been reduced to about 90 days from first submission to disposition.
- Approval for Outstanding Reviewer Awards was obtained from ADCOM. The first awards will be announced in the January 1998 issue.

I leave the Editor position with the knowledge that this TRANSACTIONS is the premier and most prestigious publication in the microwave area and the primary forum for authors worldwide. I am pleased to announce that a new Editor has been named—Prof. James W. Mink of North Carolina State University. Dr. Mink is well known in the microwave community and will do a superb job as Editor of this TRANSACTIONS. I ask that he be given the same support that was provided to me.

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