

# Editorial



The first issue of a new journal calls for some description concerning its inception and objectives. So here goes —

The *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* (JTST) has been created to serve the needs of the international thermal spraying community. It must be remembered that this community does not include just "sprayers." The extended family consists of manufacturers of robots, spray booths and heavy machinery; safety equipment suppliers; metallographic laboratories; chemical analysis facilities; powder producers; etc.; in fact all companies, laboratories, organizations, and end-users that are related to the engineering and science of thermal spray processes and coatings.

The idea of a journal was developed by the Thermal Spray Division of ASM International. The concept of a journal which was totally committed only to thermal spraying was a logical step after a series of very successful National Thermal Spray Conferences (NTSC) that ran from 1987 through to the present

time (see the list on the next page). These conferences brought together thousands of scientists and engineers who have presented hundreds of papers. It became clear that there was an opportunity and, more importantly, a need to produce a journal that would reach a wider audience than conference proceedings. Many contributors to the topical conferences on thermal spray felt that there was no single publication that completely addressed their interests. The JTST aims to fulfill this requirement. Another benefit is that a journal format allows true peer-review as well as contributions from authors who would not normally attend a scientific meeting, but who have important contributions to the field of thermal spray technology.

It also became very clear that the commercial sector of the thermal spray community was playing a vital role with respect to leading the technology into the future. An exciting aspect of the thermal spray industry is that commercial interests are well-represented at all levels; ranging from the usual areas of marketing, to research and development, public conference presentations and publishing of results through journals and trade magazines. Thus the nature of the publication that was needed by members of the Thermal Spray Division can be classified as a "composite" of science, engineering, practical technology, hands-on experience, and appropriate news. This hybrid of bulletin information and peer-reviewed manuscripts defines the scope of this new journal.

The Thermal Spray Division turned the process of instituting discussions with publishing houses to Prof. H. Herman (SUNY at Stony Brook). He nurtured this concept during 1990 and early 1991. Thus when I arrived on the scene in early 1991 much of the ground work was in progress. My job began in earnest during the summer of 1991. At that time the format of the journal was agreed upon with the publisher (ASM International was chosen as the publisher who could best serve the Division); an editorial committee was formed and a call for papers put out to the worldwide community.

The journal scope and format has been designed to address the diverse spectrum of readers who have an interest in thermal spray. In future issues of JTST this "Editorial Column" will be used by guest editors and myself to highlight certain areas of our technology and to challenge the thermal spray community to greater accomplishments and achievements.

I believe that this first issue of JTST will indicate the diversity of our technology and the global nature of our work. Thermal spray technology is a true multi-disciplinary and international activity that can only grow with the increased awareness that this journal promises. The only conditions for the content of JTST is that the articles must be of interest and relevance to the science, engineering, art or commercialism of thermal spray. What you see in this first issue represents examples of items and news that can be submitted for publishing. There are technical, applied, and commercial aspects of the journal that will enable everyone associated with thermal spray technology to contribute.

I would like to extend thanks to the authors, contributors, and reviewers of this inaugural issue of JTST. These people have enthusiastically responded, beyond any expectation, to my barrage of letters, faxes, and phone calls. This journal is guaranteed success if this small sampling of our community is typical of the whole group!

Chris Berndt