

A letter from the Editors-in-Chief

The life of our Journal proceeds very well in term of its popularity within our scientific community, given the number of submissions that we receive and the level of citations which we are achieving. We further enlarge our basin of acceptance by welcoming within our family the presence of other, very distinguished European Journals which are choosing to merge with EPJ D.

Examples of this growth of our family are provided by the **Czechoslovak Journal of Physics** (CJoP), which will be merging with EPJ D by January 2007 and will help in expanding our Plasma Physics section: we have also changed our subtitle, from “Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics” to “Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Plasma Physics”, to make such an expansion even more visible. Furthermore, the **Acta Physica Hungarica B** (APHB) “Quantum Electronics” will also be incorporated with EPJ D by the end of 2006 and will help expanding our Quantum Optics and Quantum Information section. This is a particularly active community in Hungary, already represented in our editorial board by *Peter Domokos*, who is also associate editor of APHB. Acta Physica Hungarica has been originally started in 1951 and renewed as a new series in 1994. The series A (Heavy Ion Physics) and B (Quantum Electronics) have been created in 2004, reflecting the increased activity and visibility of this journal.

In the case of Plasma Physics we shall be adding new editors to our slate of experts in order to make sure that even more specific subareas are competently covered during the refereeing process. Thus, we welcome to our board the presence of *Jana Šafránková*, professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University, Prague. She is the head of the Space Physics Group of the Department of Electronics and Vacuum Physics, and a specialist in space plasma in the vicinity of Earth with expertise that ranges from laboratory to complex plasmas, including experimental methods. We also greet as new editor *Pavol Pavlo*, deputy director of the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences and head of Research Unit of the Czech association EURATOM/IPP.CR. He has served since 1997 as Editor-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak Journal of Physics. He works in the field of fusion plasmas, in particular in theory of wave-plasma interaction in tokamaks and fluid modeling by lattice Boltzmann method. Another addition is given by *Petr Straka*, research scientist in the Department of Nonlinear Optics, Institute of Physics, Czech Academy of Sciences. His research interest cover nonlinear optics, lasers, ultra-high energy density pulses, ultra-short laser pulses, Raman lasers, laser plasma and Brillouin scattering, which shall join in from next September: we hope that a rush of new submissions will keep them happy and busy!

The Czechoslovak Journal of Physics is one of several offsprings of the national “Journal for Cultivation of Mathematics and Physics” founded in 1872. In its present format, scope and in English language, CJoP first appeared in 1950, and grew into a respected international journal, abstracted by major services including ISI SCI. Many of the papers published in sixties and seventieth are still cited. In the nineties, however, the importance of the Journal for the national physical community started to decline, reflecting the gradual re-integration of Czech science into European and Worldwide context which opened the possibility to publish in more competitive, specialized international journals.

In sum, we see that EPJ D contributes to attract new interests and new parts of our large and varied scientific community. The international visibility of our journal is steadily increasing and the topical issues are injecting each time new life through often new communities. Altogether, it is pleasant to note that there is growing Worldwide awareness of a strong and broadly European-based, yet fully international top journal in the field. Let us hope that, in spite of the problems which today exist with scientific publishing, our own community will continue to thrive: the two mergers with the arrival of new and welcome communities are certainly a good omen!

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