

# COMMENTS



*Fusion Science and Technology (FS&T)* is pleased to continue the tradition of publishing the proceedings from the “Sixth International Conference on Tritium Science and Technology,” held at Tsukuba, Japan, on November 12–16, 2001. This is a name change for this conference with expanded scope and topical coverage. The past five conferences in this series started as “ANS Topical Meeting on Fission, Fusion, and Isotopic Applications.” The previous proceedings for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th conferences were published in *Fusion Technology* (the former *FS&T*) [*Fusion Technology*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (September 1985); Vol. 14, No. 2 (September 1988); Vol. 21, No. 2 (March 1992); and Vol. 28, No. 3 (October 1995)].

The papers contained in these proceedings are peer reviewed, and more than 200 reviewers have participated in the review process. There were about 195 presentations at the meeting, and not all presentations (only about 165) are included in this issue. Some of the authors chose not to submit a full manuscript, and some papers were rejected. Dr. S. Tanaka (The University of Tokyo), Dr. Y. Ichimasa (Ibaraki University), and Dr. S. Konishi (Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute) served as guest editors for the issue and have done an outstanding job in interfacing with the authors and reviewers of the papers to put this collection together. We are deeply indebted to them for their determined efforts in enforcing stringent journal review requirements and to the program committee for the dedicated effort they put into this issue.

The topical coverage at the conference ranged from uses of tritium in fusion applications to peaceful uses of tritium in fission technology, biology, environment, monitoring, facility operations, safety, decontamination, storage, materials interactions, and isotope separation. These proceedings include a good cross section of papers reporting new developments and progress from tritium science and technology in all of these areas. While only a portion of the papers deals directly with fusion applications for tritium, publication of papers from all disciplines in *FS&T* is most appropriate. Tritium technology plays an essential role in the development of fusion (most recent consideration is for the next step burning plasma experiments, such as ITER); the synergistic effect of learning about a variety of aspects of tritium science and technology from associated fields is most beneficial to the fusion community. *FS&T* is pleased to be recognized as a “home” for important publications in this area.

We extend special appreciation to the sponsors for their support, the organizing committee for assistance, the reviewers for their effort, and the authors for their work. Our thanks to all who made it all possible. We look forward to continuing this process for the next meeting, to be held in Baden-Baden, Germany, in 2004.

*Nermin A. Uckan*