

COMMENTS



The staff of *Fusion Technology (FT)* is pleased to publish another proceedings from the series of topical meetings on tritium technology and fission, fusion, and isotopic applications. Previous proceedings in this series were published in Vol. 8, No. 2 (September 1985) and Vol. 14, No. 2 (September 1988).

As Jim Anderson and John Bartlit point out in the preface to this issue, this fourth topical meeting must be judged as having been very successful. The attendance was larger than that of previous meetings, and a large number of international participants continue to be involved. The strong technical program drew considerable interest from the participants, and I am sure that the readers of this issue will find the papers equally interesting and important. Participants also enjoyed the unique opportunity to visit the extensive tritium facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

While only a portion of the papers deals directly with fusion applications for tritium, we feel that publication of the proceedings in *FT* is most appropriate. Tritium technology plays an essential role in the development of fusion, so the synergistic effect of learning about a variety of aspects of this technology from associated fields is most beneficial to the fusion community. One aspect of the meeting does provide food for thought: Compared to prior meetings, much more discussion is devoted to environmental, safety, and health concerns associated with tritium handling and with the need to clean up radioactivity from earlier laboratory activities. Reductions in emissions and worker exposure played an important role in this discussion. It is hoped that by the time fusion power is developed, tritium technology will have advanced to such a state that these issues are no longer with us. Indeed, the information exchange afforded by this series of conferences should play an important role in achieving this goal.

We are deeply indebted to Jim Anderson and John Bartlit, the chairs of the conference and technical program committees, respectively, for their help and encouragement in the preparation of these proceedings. Special thanks also go to Jack Conant, who coordinated the peer reviews of the papers appearing in this issue. He and his staff were also instrumental in interacting with authors and collecting manuscripts at the conference. Thanks also go to the general meeting staff, who were most cordial and helpful in their dealings with the *FT* staff.

I fear I must end this comment on a less pleasant note (for me). Whereas I reported in the Editor's Comments for the third tritium topical meeting that I was on the winning tennis team at the International Tritium Tennis Tourney in Toronto, luck was no longer with the U.S. team in Albuquerque. Consequently, the Tritium Cup has returned home to Canada. Well, maybe that's really happy news after all; at least in a sense, it seems appropriate!

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