

COMMENTS



This issue of *Fusion Technology (FT)* contains a number of interesting and important papers covering a wide range of subjects, from the analysis of various tokamak divertor concepts to tritium recovery, adsorption, and diffusion. The issue itself is “sandwiched” in among various special *FT* issues on select topics, such as the three-issue set on plasma control, plus the *Proceedings from the 12th Topical Meeting on the Technology of Fusion Energy*.

The combination of special issues plus the fact that *FT* currently runs at eight issues a year has resulted in a somewhat longer time for publication once a paper is accepted, and several authors have complained about this delay. We certainly apologize for any inconvenience and are doing what we can to minimize the time, which is currently running about 8 months. Eventually, we expect to return to our equilibrium goal of about 4 months. However, we hope that this objective is achieved with a continued increase in contributed papers—if necessary, we would be more than pleased to add an extra issue to handle overloads.

Indeed, with the fluctuations in fusion funding, it would be natural for workers in the area to cut back their publications. However, I am sure that we all agree that this situation is only temporary. As fusion technology continues to progress, emphasis on the urgent importance of scheduling the goal of fusion power will pick up again. In the meantime, archival publications are important to document work so that future researchers will not have to “reinvent the wheel” when an urgent program in fusion energy again resumes. Further, because the present U.S. program, and to some extent the international program, stresses fusion science and engineering, archival documentation of basic research results is essential because such papers provide the building blocks for future developments.

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