

COMMENTS



We are extremely pleased to continue the tradition of publishing the *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Open Magnetic Systems for Plasma Confinement (OS2002)* in this issue of the *Transactions of Fusion Science and Technology*. We express our thanks to Dr. Myeun Kwon and the other conference program committee members who helped organize the papers for the proceedings. Dr. Kwon has done an admirable job in interfacing with the authors and reviewers of the papers to put this collection together.

The OS2002 is held jointly with the Asia Pacific Conference on Plasma Science and Technology (6th APCPST), Symposium for Plasma Science for Materials (15th SPSM), and Korea Accelerator and Plasma Research Association (11th KAPRA) Annual Conference.

The proceedings from the past (2nd and 3rd) conferences in this series were published previously in *Transactions of Fusion Technology*, **35**, 1T (1998) and **39**, 1T (2001).

Over the years, the worldwide basic research program on open systems has shown steady progress, and much of this progress is reflected in the papers presented and published in this *Transactions*. Topics covered include a number of basic plasma and engineering issues, along with recent results from mirror experiments, mirror-based neutron sources and reactors, field-reversed configurations, and space propulsion.

Fusion Science and Technology is pleased to be recognized as a “home” for important publications in this area. We look forward to continuing this tradition for future meetings in this series. We extend special appreciation to the sponsors for their support, the organizing committee for its assistance, the reviewers for their effort, and the authors for their work. Our thanks to all who made it all possible.

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