# COMMENTS

In addition to regular issue contributions, this issue of *Fusion Technology* includes a special section that contains the meeting report by Peng et al. on the Workshop on Establishing the Physics Basis Needed to Access the Potential of Compact Toroidal Reactors, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, July 1994, along with expanded versions of two papers on spheromaks from that meeting. The meeting largely focused on the low-aspect-ratio (low-$A$) tokamaks (descriptively termed "spherical" tokamaks) with some discussion of the spheromak and other approaches like the field-reversed concept. The meeting reflected the strong progress made in low-$A$ tokamaks. For example, despite little direct funding, and using spare parts, the members of the START group at the AEA Culham Laboratory, United Kingdom, have demonstrated interesting, stable plasmas in their configuration. This result, plus continuing efforts directed toward a variety of other small spheromak experiments at various laboratories, has rekindled interest in examining the status of compact toroidal systems relative to reactor attractiveness and in identifying desirable next-step experiments. This discussion is especially timely in view of efforts to reinvigorate alternate concept studies as part of the 1996 redirection of the U.S. fusion program in the wake of the large budget cut by the U.S. Congress. We wish to thank Martin Peng for the hard work and enthusiasm that made this special section possible.

On another topic, Prof. William F. Vogelsang, editor of our sister journal, *Nuclear Technology*, has announced his intention to retire in the near future. If you wish to receive further information, have an interest in the position, or wish to nominate a candidate for Prof. Vogelsang's replacement, please contact Dr. Kenneth R. Schultz, Chair of the American Nuclear Society Technical Journals Committee, at the following address:

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