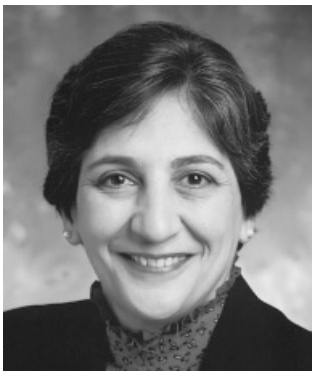
COMMENTS



This issue of *Fusion Science & Technology* (*FS&T*) contains a compendium of full-length, peer-reviewed papers on electron cyclotron (EC) wave physics, technology, and applications on magnetically confined plasmas. The interest in this special issue started with a simple question from a single individual who asked if he could submit for publication in *FS&T* his paper "ITER ECH Front Steering Upper Launcher," parts of which he was planning to present at the 14th Joint Workshop on Electron Cyclotron Emission and Electron Cyclotron Resonance Heating, Santorini Island, Greece, May 2006. Such interest quickly grew, and the decision was made to offer the same opportunity to other workshop participants as well as to other interested researchers from around the world to contribute to a special *FS&T* issue on EC wave physics, technology, and applications. The person who started this "wave" of interest is no other than Dr. Mark Henderson, who was later drafted and kindly agreed to serve as the guest editor for this issue.

The worldwide research program on EC wave physics, technology, and applications has shown impressive progress over the past couple of years, and much of this progress is reflected in the fifty or so papers that are included in this two-part special issue (part 1 in August 2007 and part 2 in January 2008). To complement the contributed papers, several informative reviews, which will be valuable for years to come, were also invited and are included. These review papers provide an objective summary of the current state of the art in EC emission research, theory of EC waves, EC heating and current drive experiments, gyrotron development, launcher development, and transmission systems.

In preparation for ITER, this special issue is timely and should be of interest to those already working in the field and to the new generation of scientists and engineers who will be the ones to design, build, and carry out experiments on ITER.

We extend our appreciation to the authors for their work; to the reviewers for their guidance; and to the guest editor, Dr. Mark Henderson, for his dedication and help with this issue. An undertaking of this magnitude does not just happen.

Nermin A. Uckan