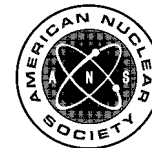


# COMMENTS



*Fusion Science & Technology (FS&T)* is pleased to continue the tradition of publishing selected full-length papers from the Target Fabrication Specialists' Meetings (TFSMs). The Eighteenth TFSM was held in Lake Tahoe, California, May 11–15, 2008. There were more than 130 papers presented at the meeting, and after peer review, 42 full-length papers are included in two *FS&T* special issues: April and May 2009. A good cross section of the progress reported at the meeting is captured in these two issues.

The TFSMs provide an important international forum for scientists and engineers engaged in the development and fabrication of targets for experiments on large laser and pulsed-power facilities. Dr. Alex Hamza, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Dr. David Harding, University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics, served as cochairs. Dr. Robert Cook, LLNL (retired), served as guest editor and has done an outstanding job in interfacing with the authors and reviewers of the papers to put this collection together. This was Dr. Cook's fourth guest editorship with the TFSM series published in *FS&T*. We are deeply indebted to his help and dedication.

The *FS&T* tradition of publishing TFISM papers started with the Tenth TFISM. For prior special issues, see former *Fusion Technology* issues, Vols. 28, 31, 34, and 38; and *FS&T* issues Vol. 41, No. 3, 2002; Vol. 45, No. 2, 2004; Vol. 49, No. 4, 2006; and Vol. 51, No. 4, 2007. Past TFISM specials were all camera-ready. Starting with this Eighteenth TFISM, all future specials will be copyedited and typeset regular issues.

We congratulate the 2008 Larry Foreman Award winner, Dr. Russell Wallace, of LLNL, for his contributions to development of inertial fusion energy targets. The award was presented at the meeting and marks the sixth occasion of this award.

We extend special appreciation to the sponsors for their support, the organizers for assistance, the reviewers for their effort, and the authors for their work. Our thanks to all who made this issue possible.

*Nermin A. Uckan*