

# PREFACE

## EIGHTEENTH TOPICAL MEETING ON THE TECHNOLOGY OF FUSION ENERGY

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The Eighteenth American Nuclear Society (ANS) Topical Meeting on the Technology of Fusion Energy (TOFE18) was held September 28–October 2, 2008, in San Francisco, California. The meeting was sponsored by the Northern California Section of the ANS, the Fusion Energy Division of the ANS, the Atomic Energy Society of Japan, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Contributions in support of the meeting were provided by General Atomics; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Naval Research Laboratory; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences; and University of Rochester, Laboratory for Laser Energetics. TOFE18 was attended by approximately 250 fusion scientists and engineers from around the world; more than half were from outside the United States, with the European Union and Japan accounting for ~25% each. The technical program included 282 presentations, with 136 oral presentations and 146 posters during the two poster sessions.

We would like thank the members of the local organizing committee for their hard work. Special appreciation goes to Mila Shapovalov, conference administrator, whose organizational skills and attention to detail were essential to the meeting's success, and to Hesham Khater, publications chair, for his tireless efforts on this special issue. We also thank the technical program committee members for developing an excellent program, the session chairs for their help in running a smooth and efficient meeting, and the authors and reviewers for their work in ensuring high quality in the published papers. Finally, we thank the staff of *Fusion Science and Technology* for their assistance in publication of this special issue.