

A Year of Challenge

AS I mentioned in this space a year ago, the changes in the procedure for submittal for publication of a paper given at a meeting have led to a significant decrease in the number of such papers submitted to the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*. A further decrease in potential papers has occurred with the inception of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, whose scope includes at least one third of the papers which have appeared in JSR in the past few years. As a result, 1985 is a year of challenge for JSR as continued growth in other areas becomes a necessity. An example of such growth is the group of papers on Aeroassisted Orbital Transfer Vehicles in this issue. These papers explore an area of technology which will assume great importance in the future, and demonstrate the potential for JSR as a "home" for discussion of such emerging technologies. Thanks are owed to John Howe for organizing the session from which most of the papers are taken, to Gerry Walberg for his survey paper on the topic, and to Ray Siewert for his editorial help. A later issue will feature a group of tutorial papers being organized by Al Vampola, on the important phenomenon of the charging of spacecraft at high altitudes.

Encouraging signs are being observed in some areas of growing importance to JSR. More papers on space science, re-entry physics, and thermophysics are being submitted. Submissions in the fields of applied computational fluid dynamics and structures/materials are holding firm.

Changes and additions to the editorial staff are being made to promote the growth of JSR in technologies where it will assume even more importance. Dr. Frank Redd of the Space Dynamics Laboratory, Utah State University, joins the staff to cover the field of space systems. His present position and his experience in posts such as Vice Commander of the Air Force Space Technology Center make Dr. Redd a strong addition to JSR. Replacing John Dugundji as the AE for structures and materials will be Professor David Allen of Texas A&M University; his research in large space structures and long-duration exposure will be a great help to JSR. A great deal of gratitude is owed to Prof. Dugundji, who served on an interim basis for longer than originally volunteered, despite a heavy workload at MIT, and who delivered routinely excellent evaluations. I must express special appreciation to another retiring AE, John Howe, who generated topics for papers in addition to processing more manuscripts than most

AE's, and who provided expert personal guidance to me. John will be missed. Fortunately a strong replacement has been found for the fields of thermophysics and re-entry dynamics. He is Gene Menees, who has been at NASA/Ames for 27 years following graduate work at Stanford. Gene specializes in aerodynamics and aerothermal heating, and currently heads the conceptual studies for AOTV's at Ames. I also gratefully acknowledge the editorial expertise and assistance of Bob Brown and Paul Wilbur, who have moved as AE's to the new *Journal of Propulsion and Power*.

Continuing as AE's are several individuals who cover a diverse range of interests with outstanding skills. They are Fred Bradley, Clark Lewis, Jim Martin, and Al Vampola. These men have not only processed manuscripts in an exemplary manner, but have also taken steps to acquire papers in their areas of expertise. Having individuals such as these for AE's has eased my job as Editor-in-Chief.

Fortunately there have been no other changes on the masthead. Bill Heiser continues as a strong Vice President-Publications whose experience as an Editor-in-Chief makes him a strong supporter of the Journal editors. An excellent working relationship has been established with Bob Inman, a very professional Senior Editor who has provided valuable assistance in handling many of the technical aspects of publication. As always, Elaine Camhi, Karen Goodstein, and Felipa Santiago of the AIAA staff are an integral part of the publication process; their behind-the-scenes contributions are invaluable. Last but far from least to be acknowledged is Norma Brennan, who handles all crises in advance and puts everything in perspective with a good humor which gets this editor through the inevitable problems.

Thanks are also owed to the authors who have felt that JSR was the proper forum for their work. It is hoped that they will continue to do so and contribute to the exchange of knowledge without which research can not continue. Finally, an archival journal like JSR requires the contributions of reviewers who ensure that only the best appears in its pages. Special thanks go to those whose names are listed on the next page.

R.H. Woodward Waesche
Editor-in-Chief