

JSR: Optimism for the Year Ahead

A COMPARISON of the optimistic projections of last year's January editorial with 1988's performance confirms what you, the readers, and I already know: the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* did not live up to our projections. We had not, in fact, overcome all the problems associated with AIAA's move to Washington, D.C.; slight publication delays became lengthy, and the diversion of papers to the newest AIAA journals drastically reduced the *JSR* backlog.

Despite the disparity between last year's projections and performance, I will go out on a limb and, with the same optimism that followed Discovery's return of Americans to space, forecast that 1989 will be a dynamic year of recovery and growth for *JSR*. Some of the reasons for that optimism follow.

First, the tenacity and dedication characterizing the performance of the staff, specifically Norma Brennan and Heather Ames as they have fought the AIAA Headquarters relocation battle, has closed the publication delay, and *JSR* is nearly back on schedule. They deserve all our thanks. They never lost faith.

Second, the journal now has an Advisory Board that has been given the task of examining its scope, its editorial policies, its appeal to the readership, and its overall quality. Under the able leadership of Dr. Hiroshi Otake of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Board's work has already resulted in a change to the *JSR* scope and a valuable examination of the journal's appeal to its current and future constituency. Most important, the Advisory Board offers a whole new perspective on *JSR*'s future.

Third, *JSR* maintains a top-notch group of Associate Editors. They are the ones who will continue to ensure the quality of the journal as we move ahead. Clark Lewis and Walter Sturek have continued to maintain our strength in the applied fluid mechanics and thermophysics of tactical missile flight. David Allen's continued excellent service in space structures and structural dynamics has established a fine reputation for *JSR* in those critical areas. Bruce Franklin's broad experience

base and his dedication to the quality of the journal has proven extremely valuable in covering submissions across a multitude of disciplines. Jim Martin's acceptance of an extended appointment to maintain our strength in orbital mechanics and strategic missile systems was most welcome. He will keep us healthy in those areas. Henry Garrett's success in expanding the number and building the quality of our submissions in the space science area has been extremely gratifying. Our optimism over future expansion in this area led to the appointment of Paul Mizera to share the load and to represent *JSR* in the growing area of space operations, a field he has recently entered with his employment at The Aerospace Corporation. Our newest Associate Editor, Kerry Nock from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has joined our staff to cover what we anticipate to be a rapidly growing group of submissions in interplanetary space flight. Our interplanetary interest is escalating as we approach the launch of Galileo and Magellan this year and with the inclusion of the Comet Rendezvous and Asteroid Flyby (CRAF) in the President's budget.

JSR's greatest strength is found in the authors who write the papers that fill its pages. We salute you who have submitted papers during the past year. Your submissions have been of the highest quality. Our goal in the coming year is just to get more of you. We also salute the reviewers, the real keepers of the standards, whose names follow.

As we begin the 26th year for the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, I want to convey my own commitment to the entire *JSR* community. To you readers, authors, editors, reviewers, and staff: I believe in *JSR*. It maintains a prominent position as a fine technical journal. Its scope may adjust to meet changing times and challenges, but it has a resiliency that will keep it among its peer journals in the publication of high-quality, archival material in spacecraft, tactical missiles, and strategic missile applications.

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