Editorial

As you will have certainly noted upon reception of this issue, that while the overall presentation of the **Revue Générale de Thermique** *still remains the same, a new title:* **International Journal of Thermal Sciences** *has been adopted. This constitutes an important change which is the result of an evolution initiated exactly two years ago.*

Among the objectives that were put forward, there was a definite orientation towards a stronger opening to the international community and a larger diffusion of papers. An analysis of the 78 papers published in 1998 (16 % more than in 1997) reveals that these objectives have been met. This assertion is based on the following facts: a) the efforts to reach a more international audience have resulted in 55 % of the papers being written by non-French scientists compared to 30 % in 1997; and b) a larger diffusion is now evident since 53 % of the papers were published in English compared to less than 20 % in the previous year. Consequently, in order to reflect this new trend and to highlight the international dimension of our journal, it has become necessary to use an English title. Thus, the Revue Générale de Thermique *has become the* International Journal of Thermal Sciences*; a transition from* RGT *to* IJTS.

The summary of this first issue of IJTS *confirms the evolution observed over the past year. We would also like to draw attention to the fact that this issue presents a new type of paper for our journal, which will most likely interest many researchers and workers in thermal sciences. It concerns a comparative presentation of the results obtained by a number of research teams from different laboratories around the world on the numerical solution of a given problem. In this issue, the problem treated is the simulation of phase change (melting) coupled with natural convection along a vertical isothermal wall. The results show that, even though a qualitative agreement is reached in most of the cases, it is necessary to conduct rigorous comparisons before adequately assessing the accuracy of various algorithms. The evident dispersion of results prompts the authors to propose a second stage of comparison and to increase the number of groups involved in the study.*

Our journal is interested in supporting this type of collective and comparative research by offering space to those involved in such activities aimed at developing numerical and experimental benchmarks.

Here, at the beginning of 1999, at the dawning of the third millennium, we wish all the best to our readers and authors. Also, we would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the advancement of our journal and making it an international journal for researchers in thermal sciences.

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