



Foreword

The past year has been a momentous one for the *Journal of Fluids and Structures*, as it has been for Academic Press as a whole: we are now part of the Elsevier Science family, and this has entailed many adjustments, as well as new challenges and opportunities. An example of the changes is the new format (“trim size”) of the journal itself. An example of the opportunities is the fact that, this year, our journal will publish two volumes.

Changes in the modus operandi

So far as authors are concerned, the main change is that the final typescript and the accompanying diskette or CD-Rom they send to me must now be truly “final” and wholly conforming with the journal style and format, before I can send it for typesetting. In particular, the writing in the figures will not be redone by the typesetters; the figures will thus be imported into the text electronically as they are—and, if not in electronic form to start with, then after being scanned by the typesetters. Thus, authors are requested to do their very best to generate figures of high quality, with writing in them conforming to that in the text. This can be onerous, I know. The silver lining is that, much less checking of the proofs will now be necessary.

The proofs will be sent to the authors for checking and correction—either on-line (preferably), by e-mail, or by mail.

A new JFS website provides information on submission of papers and other useful information (Author GATEWAY for Elsevier Science Journals; Journal of Fluids and Structures): www.elsevier.nl/locate/jnlabr/yjfls. One of the many attractive features of this system is that the accepted papers can be tracked by their authors as they progress from the proofs stage to publication. Readers are encouraged to visit our web-site for details.

Two volumes for 2003

As a result of our success, no doubt due to quality handling and publishing of high-quality papers, more papers are being submitted and published, as of 2001; our ISI Impact Factor may be a factor! As a consequence of this and of having had two Special Issues [3/4 (a double issue) and 7] in 2001 and one in 2002, inevitable delays have ensued in the publication of “regular papers”. To catch up and live up to our aim of seeing papers not needing important revisions being published within 12 months of submission—an aim we had achieved in 2000 and 2001—two measures have been taken, as follows: (i) the number of pages per volume has been increased, and (ii) this year, two volumes (Vols. 17 and 18) will be published. I know that prospective authors and readers will appreciate both of these developments.

Volume 17, of which this issue is the first, is the “regular volume” for the year. With the streamlined processing of papers now in place and the increased number of pages, the waiting period to publication should reach optimal levels before the year is out, even if this were the only volume of this year.

Volume 18 will be largely made up of Special Issues. One will be on *Aeroelasticity*, and another on *Bluff-Body/Flow Interactions*; both might end up being double issues, i.e., with more pages than a regular issue. Other special issues are being planned. However, the existence of this second volume this year will have the added purpose of ensuring that the delay from acceptance to publication for papers becomes as short as feasible. This, to the whole of the Editorial Board and me in particular, is a singularly welcome development, as I am sure it will be to the authors and readers of this journal.

As much of the foregoing had to do with speed of publication, it must also be said that, to achieve it, the authors must also do their part: (i) by conforming as closely as possible to the required format and style in the first instance, *and doing so meticulously*, thus avoiding unnecessary correspondence, and (ii) keeping the period for revision of the paper, if such is necessary, down as much as possible.

Special Brief Communications

Readers are reminded of the existence of *Special Brief Communications*, formerly known as Special Brief Notes.

These *Special Brief Communications* ought to be brief (a few pages of text and a couple of figures), reporting on breakthroughs or exciting new findings. They receive accelerated, ultra-fast processing. If the authors do their part, publication is achieved within 4 months of receipt. I would be delighted to see this special feature of JFS utilized to the full.

Ordinary *Brief Communications* of course continue being welcome.

The editorial team

The hallmark of JFS is to work together with the authors of worthwhile papers in a *constructive* way, until they reach the standards required for publication in JFS—provided of course that the basic work itself is good enough in the first place. The whole of the Editorial Team, and particularly the Associate Editors and myself, are committed to this task.

On behalf of the whole of the Editorial Board, I wish our readers, contributors and referees all the best for 2003. I look forward to receiving your papers, Brief Communications and Special Brief Communications.

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