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Liquid Crystals

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Editorial

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Editorial

In January 1995, the Journal adopted its new format and livery, assuming brighter, coloured covers, a larger area page size and a two column presentation of text. Most authors and readers have responded to these changes very favourably indeed, a proportion even being complimentary.

These changes are but a part of longer term plans for improvement of *Liquid Crystals* including, as mentioned in a previous Editorial, a move to even more critical reviewing procedures to ensure an even higher overall standard of the papers accepted for publication.

There are still features which require improvement however. One of these is publication time. The periods of time between receipt of manuscripts and their acceptance are of course highly variable, depending upon timing and nature of the referees' responses and also the reaction of the authors to the reports of the referees, and are to a large extent largely governed by factors outside editorial control. The time from acceptance to actual appearance in the Journal can, however, and will be improved, and procedures are in place to reduce this period considerably. Interestingly however, a major source of delay here can in fact be the slow return of corrected proofs by the authors themselves and steps are to be taken to obviate this.

A second feature which we wish to improve is the number of papers submitted on the subject of devices and

displays. The readership should be assured that such papers are most welcome, and at a meeting of members of the Editorial Board held in Cambridge at FLC '95, it was decided to give emphasis to this by changing the Journal sub-title to 'An International Journal of Science and Technology'. Steps have also been taken to increase the proportion of the membership of the Editorial Board working in the field of devices and displays, and this will be reflected in the composition of the Board which will be published in the January 1996 issue.

On a very positive note, the flow of incoming papers to the Journal is strong and increasing, and Library and Institutional subscriptions are also growing in number. All this is very encouraging to the Editors and the staff at Taylor & Francis Ltd who work hard to ensure production of a quality journal.

Finally, an editorial provides an opportunity for thanks to be extended to Editorial Board members to authors and to readers for their support of the Journal and their advice and suggestions. It also allows thanks to be extended to the referees from whom we seek opinions, for the time and effort freely given by them in reviewing submitted papers. Without them, the high standard of the Journal would not be maintained, and we are most appreciative of what they do.

G. W. GRAY