

# Editorial

## Happy New Year

The *European Physical Journal – D* (EPJ D) is still young but rapidly maturing: 2002 is the 5th year of its publication – based of course on a tradition of nearly a century of physics publishing in its parent journals, *Il Nuovo Cimento (Section D)*, *Journal de Physique* and *Zeitschrift für Physik D*.

It has been a healthy year for EPJ D with interesting physics, increasing support from the community, a growing readership and a continuously improving performance of the editorial procedures. Within about 2 100 pages of high quality physics we continue to focus on specific themes of current interest with some topical issues. In 2001 these were “Femtosecond dynamics and coherent control in atoms, molecules and clusters: theory and experiments” – a particular hot topics in modern atomic physics and chemical physics – with the guest editors V. Engel and B. Girard (Vol. 14, No. 2, published in May) and the best “Papers from the Tenth International Symposium of Small Particles and Inorganic Clusters (ISSPIC 10)” with U. Landman, C. Yannouleas as guest editors. Here, following a tradition by now well established (and to be continued with ISSPIC 11 in 2003) a comprehensive survey of the state of the art of cluster science can be found. We may note in passing that already in 1999 – two years before the Nobel Prize for Bose-Einstein condensation we focused on “Laser cooling and trapping: Basic techniques and applications (such as Bose-Einstein Condensation)” with guest editors M. Inguscio and A. Kastberg. Our publication time is now very competitive (with 3 months between acceptance and print) and our manuscript management system (MMS) does not only help the editorial office and the editors to speed up the refereeing process (which admittedly is still the bottle neck in the publication process) but also allows our authors to submit and follow the editorial progress online (<https://articlestatus.edpsciences.org/is/Physics/>). We are also proud to announce that EPJ has now the support of 11 European physical societies – the Polish Physical Society and the Roland Eötvös Physical Society from Hungary having joined our Scientific Advisory Committee in 2001. These European and international connections are nicely documented in the multinational WEB access <http://www.eurphysj.org/> to EPJ and related journals – a common site featuring six servers in Europe, Japan, and the USA.

The *Rapid Notes* (fast publication of short papers, less than 4 pages, describing important advances) profit from the faster treatment *via* the MMS and we would like to encourage our authors to use this possibility to convey important results quickly: we aim at publication within *3 months at most* after its reception by the editorial office.

And now look ahead into 2002: two topical issues are planned on “Quantum interference and cryptographic keys: novel physics and advancing technology” with A. Karlsson, J. Rarity, Ph. Grangier as guest editors (February 2002) and on “Gas phase properties of molecules of biological interest” with K. Kleinermanns, M.S. de Vries, J.P. Schermann, R. Weinkauff as guest editors (June or September 2002). A number of new associated editors join the board (Costas Fotakis, Pierre Gaspard, Anders Kastberg, Anne L’Huillier, Christine Labaune, Karl-Heinz Meiwes-Broer, Gian Luca Oppo, Michel Pinard, Maxi San Miguel, Rainer Weinkauff) and will help to focus the

scope of the journal on particularly active fields of research. Please do not hesitate to contact directly our specialist editors when you have any questions about publishing your next article in EPJ D.

Finally, we are happy to announce that within a short time we will start digital citation (<http://www.doi.org>) allowing even faster publication *online first* and giving a means of persistent electronic referencing.

All in all we feel that the balance is again positive for EPJ D and for its readers and authors alike. We invite you to stay with us, publish some of your best papers in EPJ D and read the journal on a regular basis. As always at the turn of the year, we wish you many results, many discoveries and a *happy New Year!*

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