

GUEST EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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Since 1981, the Target Fabrication Specialists' Meeting (TFSM) has provided a unique forum for technical information exchange on the materials, processes, and technology for fabrication and handling of targets for inertial fusion. Begun initially for discussion of target fabrication for the Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) program that supports the U.S. Stockpile Stewardship activities, with the Tenth TFSM in 1995, the technical scope of the meeting was broadened to include target fabrication for inertial fusion energy (IFE) applications and to include significant international participation.

The Thirteenth Target Fabrication Specialists' Meeting was held on Catalina Island, California, November 8–12, 1999. There was strong participation from throughout the U.S. ICF and IFE programs and from France, Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom. There were 128 technical papers on various aspects of inertial fusion target fabrication. These included development and fabrication of targets for current inertial fusion experiments and research and development on cryogenic targets for ignition experiments on the National Ignition Facility and Laser MegaJoules, under construction in the United States and France, respectively. Development of the cryogenic target handling systems that will be needed for these ignition experiments was also reported.

The meeting was saddened by the death in late October 1999, of Larry Foreman of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Larry was one of the giants of ICF target fabrication, the leader of the LANL target fabrication activities, the chair of several previous TFSMs, and the guest editor of two previous special issues of *Fusion Technology* reporting on the Tenth and Twelfth TFSMs. At the Thirteenth TFSM, the "Larry Foreman Award for Excellence and Innovation in Target Fabrication" was announced that will be awarded at each TFSM in the future. The first recipient of this award is Pete Gobby of LANL.

This special issue of *Fusion Technology* contains 31 selected papers from the Thirteenth TFSM that give a good cross section of the progress reported at the meeting. Together with the special issues from the Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth TFSMs (*Fusion Technol.*, **28**, **31**, and **35**), this issue documents the technical challenges and progress in the exciting field of inertial fusion target fabrication.

I would like to thank the technical program chairs of the Thirteenth TFSM, Abbas Nikroo and Wayne Miller of General Atomics, for their hard work and to recognize Abbas Nikroo's diligent efforts to finalize this special issue.