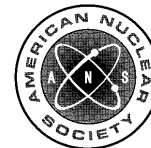


COMMENTS



This issue of *Fusion Science and Technology* (*FS&T*) contains a cluster of full-length, peer-reviewed papers from the Fifteenth International Stellarator Workshop (15-ISW), held in Madrid, Spain, October 3–7, 2005. The 15-ISW was hosted by the Laboratorio Nacional de Fusión-CIEMAT, Spain, and was organized within the framework of the International Energy Agency Implementing Agreement on the Stellarator Concept. This series of workshops provides an important international forum for scientists involved in all aspects of fusion research of stellarator/helical systems and related concepts.

The technical program for the 15-ISW was put together by the International Program Committee [H. Yamada (Chair, Japan), J. H. Harris (Australia/United States), T. Klinger (Germany), O. Motojima (Japan), L. M. Kovrizhnykh (Russia), E. Ascasíbar (Spain), V. I. Lapshin (Ukraine), and M. Zarnstorff (United States)], assisted by the Local Organizing Committee [E. Ascasíbar (Chair), K. McCarthy, B. Ph. van Milligen, and A. Suarez—all from CIEMAT, Spain]. Dr. Enrique Ascasíbar (CIEMAT, Spain) and Professor Hiroshi Yamada (National Institute for Fusion Science, Japan) have served as the guest editors for this issue. We are deeply indebted to all for the dedicated effort they put into the organization of the workshop and publication of this issue.

An expanding body of international research is underway in stellarator/helical configurations. A billion-dollar-class superconducting stellarator (Large Helical Device) is currently operating in Japan, and one is under construction (Wendelstein 7-X) in Germany. There are eight operating stellarator experiments around the world (Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, and United States), and a new generation of international facilities is being designed and constructed.

We are pleased to bring you the latest research results from the 15-ISW. Topics covered included recent experimental projects, transport and confinement improvement, magnetohydrodynamic equilibrium and stability, turbulence and transport, particle and power handling, plasma heating, diagnostics, configuration optimizations, new devices, and reactor studies. There were more than 130 (overview, invited, and oral/poster contributed) presentations at the meeting, and about half of the expanded workshop papers are included in three *FS&T* issues: August and October 2006 and January 2007. A good cross section of the progress reported at the meeting is captured in the published papers.

This is the second in the *FS&T* series on stellarator/helical configurations. The first, papers from the 14-ISW (Greifswald, Germany), was published in *FS&T*, Vol. 46, July 2004 (Part 1) and September 2004 (Part 2). We look forward to bringing you future issues in this series from the 16-ISW, which will be held in Toki, Japan, in 2007.

We extend special appreciation to the organizing committee for assistance, the reviewers for their effort, and the authors for their work.

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