COMMENTS

We have been working with the international (magnetic and inertial) fusion groups to contribute to a series of special issues to recognize and highlight the science and technology contributions of the present experimental programs to next-step burning plasma devices on the path to fusion development. Many experimental groups around the world have been participating, and when completed, these series will have long-lasting value to the fusion community, from desktops to the classrooms.

In this issue, we are pleased to bring you the TEXTOR tokamak. We are deeply indebted to the TEXTOR Team and to the contributing authors for their heroic efforts in preparing this important special issue for the readers of *Fusion Science and Technology* (*FS&T*). Our thanks are due Dr. Philippe Mertens for his help with the coordination of the issue and for serving as the guest editor. The 19 papers included in this issue survived the rigors of the peer review process, courtesy of the 48 international reviewers. These papers are either original contributions or informative reviews of the main physics and technology results obtained on the TEXTOR tokamak at the Institut für Plasmaphysik Forschungszentrum, in Jülich, Germany. We extend our utmost gratitude and appreciation to all of the reviewers for serving beyond their parochial boundaries; to the authors for their hard work; and to the guest editor, Dr. Mertens, for his tireless coordination and interface with the authors. An undertaking of this magnitude does not just happen. Our thanks to all who made it all possible.

The TEXTOR issue is the fourth in the *FS&T* special series of tokamak fusion experiments. The first three in the tokamak series are as follows:

"Special Issue on JT-60," *FS&T*, Vol. 42, September/November 2002;
"Special Issue on ASDEX Upgrade," *FS&T*, Vol. 44, November 2003;
"Special Issue on Frascati Tokamak Upgrade (FTU)," *FS&T*, Vol. 45, May 2004.

We look forward to bringing you future special issues in this series from around the world.

The tokamak TEXTOR has been in operation since 1983. The main research on TEXTOR is in the area of plasma-wall interactions with pioneering work on plasma-edge diagnostics. TEXTOR is a medium-sized, circular cross-section tokamak with moderate field but large plasma volume and plentiful access for diagnostics to regions near to the wall employing unique methods to control the plasma boundary. The interaction of plasma with the surrounding walls is a key issue for the next-generation, burning plasma experiment (ITER) and fusion power plant. Active upgrades of the TEXTOR facility and accompanying diagnostics have kept them in the forefront of fusion research to study physics of the plasma boundary and test new concepts for pump limiters, wall-conditioning techniques, and the dynamic ergodic divertor. The TEXTOR Team, along with many of its international partners, collaborates on joint experiments to resolve a number of issues related to ITER-relevant plasma boundary physics. We wish them all continued success and look forward to their future contributions.

With great honor, this special issue is dedicated to the outstanding team of scientists, engineers, technicians, administrators, and support staff that contributed to the success of the TEXTOR.

Nermin A. Uckan