

Editorial

Towards the Merging of “Microscopy, Microanalysis, Microstructures” into “The European Physical Journal Applied Physics”

Microscopy, Microanalysis, Microstructures (MMM), the organ of the Société Française des Microscopies (SF μ), has been for the last eight years a forum aimed at publishing the latest developments in all aspects of microscopy and microanalysis, together with their use in all fields of materials science. It means about 500 papers with a total of the order of 5000 pages, which testify of the intense vitality of this scientific field. Furthermore, the journal has gained an international audience with a majority of papers issued from laboratories outside of France, an international Editorial Board, the quasi systematic use of the English language and good quotation indexes.

In parallel the situation of the European publications in Physics is evolving substantially. The major German and French titles, **Zeitschrift für Physik** published by Springer Verlag and **Journal de Physique** published by Les Éditions de Physique, have recently realized their merging into a single Journal under the title **The European Physical Journal**, with a first issue in January 1998. This important movement which is aimed to attract other titles in the coming years, will strongly influence the future of European and national scientific publications in this field. In particular the merging of these two titles concerns **Journal de Physique I** and **II** which reappear under the names **The European Physical Journal B** devoted to condensed matter physics and various aspects of general and interdisciplinary physics and **D** devoted to atomic, molecular and cluster physics together with various aspects of optics and chaos. In the continuation of this movement concerning all aspects of fundamental physics, we are convinced that it is the right moment to announce the birth of another section for **The European Physical Journal**, *i.e.* the birth of **The European Physical Journal: Applied Physics**, shortened as **EPJ Applied Physics**.

In a first step, with the approval of the general assembly of the SF μ , we proposed to create it also in January 1998 through the fusion of the **Journal de Physique III** with MMM. It constitutes in our mind a first step which should lead through further discussions with other publishers to the creation of the final title **EPJ Applied Physics**. One section **A** would deal

with all aspects of *Materials Science* from the elaboration to the measurement of their physical and mechanical properties, including obviously one important component, the characterization of the materials at different scales from the atomic to the microscopic level including the nano- and the meso-scales. In this context it is obvious that information produced by the microscopies and the microanalytical techniques will play an increasing role, as the pertinent dimensions of the materials under investigation are becoming more and more reduced.

Practically **MMM** will no longer be published in its present format from the beginning of January 1998. All the manuscripts submitted to **MMM**, obeying to the same criteria as before, will be included in the new **EPJ Applied Physics** together with the manuscripts received by **Journal de Physique III**. We anticipate however that this situation will only be of a short duration (one or two years maximum) before the agreement for the final product becomes practically realized, *i.e.* the publication of a European journal dealing exclusively with the materials sciences, and the microstructures in particular. Consequently, in this intermediate period, a new Editorial Board will be created, with Christian Colliex acting temporarily as one Chief Editor, the other one being Michel Sauzade in charge of **Journal de Physique III**. Our major task during the next couple of years will be to establish **EPJ Applied Physics** as a strong journal defining our conception of the relevant field. It is in fact an important task in which I will deeply rely on the support of my editor colleagues. The Editorial Board for the future **EPJ Applied Physics A** and **B** will be obviously created in a next step in close discussion with our future partners.

You are therefore greatly encouraged to continue to send your manuscripts to **MMM**, either to the Secretariat of SF μ , to myself or to any of the acting Editors which will be listed in the next **MMM** issue. The same procedure for reviewing by our editors and publishing by Les Éditions de Physique, now named EDP Sciences, will be followed. The quality and the regular arrival of scientific papers promoting our techniques for an enlarged circle of readers, will contribute to establish firmly their importance in the field of new materials where a deep knowledge of the structure and chemistry at the ultimate scale are of prime importance.

If the end of a period, the regular (maybe not as regular as expected in the early days of **MMM**) arrival of the green **MMM** issues on the shelves of our offices, laboratories and libraries, is always accompanied by a touch of nostalgia, the perspectives opened by our deep involvement in the creation of a stronger journal, let us think that the work performed together between writers and editors over the past eight years has been very fruitful. Thanks to all of them.

Christian Colliex
LPS and LAC
Campus d'Orsay
France