

EDITORIAL

CPMT Society to merge Transactions in 2011

As of January 2011, the *Transactions on Advanced Packaging*, *Transactions on Components and Packaging Technologies* and *Transactions on Electronics Packaging Manufacturing* will merge and be published as a single Transactions. The new Transactions will be titled: *Transactions on Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology*.

The change was motivated by the recognition that there has been a lack of clear and distinct identities for the three current Transactions. How did authors and readers know which Transactions covered which topical areas? While each Transaction listed topical areas on the CPMT web site to aid authors, there was significant overlap between the lists for the three Transactions. A further review of published issues verified published papers in one Transaction that ideally would have been expected in one of the other Transactions. While the Editors-in-Chief did, on occasion, recommend to the author their manuscript be transferred to another Transactions, manuscripts are nearly always published in the Transactions the author initially selects.

Additionally, given that many readers access papers online, the original idea of creating three separate Transactions to provide publications for communities of technical interest is no longer beneficial. By using IEEE Xplore, a reader can search all three Transactions, as well as other IEEE publications for topics of interest – creating their own communities.

A plan for seamlessly implementing the *Transactions on Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology* in January of 2011 has been outlined. The new Transactions will have Sections that segregate manuscripts into topical areas within each issue. The concept of having multiple Sections in one Transactions will give us the flexibility to add a Section if a new topic of interest emerges and to drop a Sections if interest (manuscripts) in the topic declines, without having to change the name of the Transactions in the future.

Each topical area will have a Co-Editor-in-Chief (Co-EiC) responsible for that Section. Authors will identify the most appropriate Section when submitting their manuscript. This is the existing process for T-ADVP and T-CPT. The Co-EiC for that Section will review the manuscript for appropriateness to their Section before moving it to the Associate Editors who will manage the review process. Co-EiCs may recommend the manuscript be transferred to another Section if more appropriate. Currently, we have five EiC's (two for T-ADVP, two for T-CPT and one for T-EPM). While the number and name of the Sections have not been determined at this point, it is expected the current EiCs will transition to Co-EiCs responsible for a specific Section in the new T-CPMT. The current Associate Editors (AEs) will also transition with their current EiCs to the new Sections. We will also be soliciting new AEs. AEs will have the opportunity to move to other Sections based on their technical interests if they chose. Current Reviewers will be retained and new Reviewers will be added.

We currently publish the three Transactions each on a quarterly basis, resulting in 12 total issues per year. For the merged Transactions, we will publish 12 monthly online issues and combine two months of online content into the print edition for six print issues per year. Online publication of each manuscript occurs as soon as the manuscript is completed and does not wait for the entire issue to be completed and printed.

Manuscripts that have been submitted to one of the three Transactions but are still in the review cycle or otherwise have not been published in one of the three Transactions in 2010, will be published in the new T-CPMT starting with the January 2011 issue.

In the transition, we must address the important topic of Impact Factor. Impact factor is a measure of the average number of citations to the number of manuscripts published in a technical journal. The citations

counted in the calculation are references to papers published in the last two years. With the creation of a new title, T-CPMT, we will not have a reported Impact Factor for two years.

However, since T-CPMT is a consolidation of the T-ADVP, T-CPT and T-EPM, the effective Impact Factor of T-CPMT during its first year will be a composite of the Impact Factor for the three Transactions. During the second year of publication, T-CPMT will have an Immediacy Factor published by Thomson Reuter and T-ADVP, T-CPT and T-EPM will still have an Impact Factor published. Thomson Reuter will assist us in calculating an effective Impact Factor for T-CPMT based on a calculation of these numbers.

Finally, in year three, T-CPMT will have its own Impact Factor based on two years of publication history. The CPMT Society will be pro-active during the first two years in providing an effective Impact Factor for T-CPMT and justification of its acceptance.

While Impact Factor was a major concern and consideration in merging the Transactions, the consensus was that the benefits outweighed the risk. By selecting T-CPMT as the new title and managing emerging technologies as new Sections without changing the publication title, we believe this will be the last title change needed unless the Society changes its name.

The CPMT Publications Committee will work to make the transition as smooth as possible and continue to increase the prestige and usefulness of the Society's publications. Your comments, suggestions and recommendations are always welcome. Please contact me at rwjohnson@ieee.org.

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