



## A Nano Issue

Well, we have finally jumped on the bandwagon of nanoscience and nanotechnology in bringing out a special issue on this topic! I read somewhere of how we have progressed from the Iron Age to the silicon age and now to the "molecular age." Chemists, physicists, biologists, materials scientists, and engineers have a golden opportunity to synthesize, characterize, and manipulate architectures at a molecular (nanoscopic) level. In this spirit, we thought it would be timely to devote an entire issue containing some illustrative examples of such intellectual pursuits. Joe Hupp of Northwestern University deserves a vote of thanks for his key role in putting together the technical part of the present issue. We hope that, like myself, you will come away with a renewed appreciation of the possibilities with nanoscience and nanotechnology after reading this issue. Another special issue specifically focusing on the device aspects of nanoarchitectures would certainly be appropriate, and I solicit suggestions from each of you on the technical content of this planned issue.

Speaking of other issues (definitely not nano-sized!), the global warming debate continues to grab media headlines. It is interesting that many industry leaders (including auto-makers) have revised their original position and joined the clamor for greater environmental responsibility. Indeed this increased sensitivity appears to be motivated by the need to maintain corporate reputation and enhance shareholder value. On a more global level, will we see a gradual melding of the corporate cultures in Europe and North America on environmental issues? The progressive "greening" of the National Energy Plan in this country, in terms of a perceptible shift from supply-side economics to energy conservation and renewable energy R&D, does indeed suggest such a trend.

Finally, a brief update on a news item that we carried a while ago (Vol. 8, No. 4, Winter 1999) on the General Electric-Honeywell mega-merger. We now learn that this proposed billion-dollar deal has been shot down by regulators in Europe—perhaps surprisingly given that mergers of similar magnitude (e.g., Boeing-McDonnell Douglas, Daimler-Chrysler) have passed muster with both Washington and Brussels in the past. As with the Kyoto protocol, surely there is a lesson to be learned here. With an evolving world economy, there are many thorny issues for which no national system necessarily has all the right answers. It is time for leaders in the U.S., the EU, Japan, and other nations to accept this reality and to adopt a more streamlined and coordinated approach, not only to antitrust and environmental policy matters, but also to technology issues. Once again, we will have to defer a more detailed discussion on this complicated topic to another special issue of this magazine! Stay tuned.

Raj K.

**Krishnan Rajeshwar**  
Editor

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