



Closing the Distance

Last spring I wrote a column in *Pennington Corner* about chasing the great white whale (referring to Captain Ahab's dramatic chase in the story of Moby Dick) and I am pleased to report that ECS has taken on a pretty dramatic chase of our own over the past year.

We are closing the distance on our goal of publishing the premiere journals in electrochemical and solid state science and technology, and improving the dissemination of our technical content. At a time when there is greater competition among technical publishers, publishing technology is changing rapidly, and our progress is burdened by the global recession, we have instituted the most significant changes to our archival publications in the Society's 110 year history.

Developing strategies and implementing these changes in the face of many challenges require an Ahab-like conviction to succeed, and the leaders in ECS are onboard. There is a strong commitment to advancing the impact of our increasingly important scientific discipline because it represents potential solutions to the world's most challenging problems in communications, energy, and the environment. That conviction translates into the Society's commitment to produce impactful meetings and publications, and it has led to the historical changes to our journals. As a professional society representing these scientific interests, ECS has a great responsibility, and in this issue of *Interface* there is an article on page 17, which describes the steps we have taken to accomplish the critical goals in our publications program.

As the only nonprofit publisher with journals among the top twenty in the electrochemistry category of the Thomson Reuters (TR) publication, *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR), The Electrochemical Society has an exclusive responsibility for the stewardship of the scientific content in electrochemical and solid state science and technology, and that means we have to attract and publish the best science and engineering papers in these technical areas. To accomplish that goal, we have divided the content, and will publish separate journals in electrochemical and solid state science beginning in July. The Society has historically combined the electrochemistry and solid state content in our two journals, the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* and *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*, because this has created serendipitous opportunities to increase the reader's exposure to a broader scope of technical areas. The problem today is that the electrochemistry category in TR's JCR does not include papers in solid state science and technology, which means these types of papers published

with ECS are not measured against similar content, and that negatively affects the impact factors. The solid state papers would be more appropriately measured in other JCR categories such as Engineering, Electrical and Electronic, and Materials Science, Coatings and Films, which is where our new journals in that area will be aligned.

In order to create proper alignment in the JCR categories, ECS will publish two full-paper journals beginning in July 2012: our flagship *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, which will contain papers in electrochemical science and technology (EST), and *ECS Journal of Solid State Science and Technology* covering solid state science and technology (SSST). Similarly, we will publish two letters journals with the papers divided in the same way. As a result of this division of manuscripts, we have made corresponding changes to the Editorial Board who handles the content of the journals. Our single Editorial Board has been split into two Boards appropriately representing the EST and SSST content in the new journals. Additional Board members have been added to provide efficiency and greater editorial leadership and alignment in each technical

area within the table of contents (TOC) of the journals. There is now a Technical Editor assigned for each technical section of the TOC, rather than a single editor for the entire publication.

It will be a difficult chase but we are closing the distance because these initiatives will result in a significant change to the impact factors of the ECS

journals. Based on TR's most recent citation data, we have calculated the impact factors for our new series of journals, and JSS would show its real value, with an impact factor of 2.779.

Re-organizing the journals resolves the alignment problem of the technical content in the JCR and, as the data above indicate, will lead to an improvement in the standing of the ECS journal's impact factors. We have also instituted some changes that should significantly benefit our authors including expanding the expertise on the editorial boards, substantially improving the lag time, and waiving the author page charges. We are closing the distance to our goal of publishing the premiere journals in electrochemical and solid state science and technology. Satisfying this goal is imperative to our mission and our stewardship responsibilities, so we are doing everything possible to make this happen and expect this will ultimately facilitate greater advances in our critically important science.

The NEW ECS Journal Line-up for 2012

Journal of The Electrochemical Society

ECS Journal of Solid State Science and Technology

ECS Electrochemistry Letters

ECS Solid State Letters

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