

Dear Readers,

It was in the year 2008 when we gave you the first issue of the revived „Transactions of the Foundry Research Institute”, which after many years of absence, in a new design and revised thematic concept appeared on the publishing market, dedicated mainly to various research aspects of the art of making castings. Thus, we have taken the challenge to renew and continue – after years of the editorial absence – publication of the Institute’s own scientific journal, well-known in the past, bearing in mind its high reputation, built over the years with the participation of eminent and distinguished scientists and practitioners from the foundry industry.

Resuming four years ago our Journal, we wanted to show in a most comprehensive way what we do now, what we have, what we can achieve, and what we intend to do in the near and in the distant future. It was our wish and intention to create a well-ordered, chronological collection of events, describing our activities in the sphere of research and science, which – when exposed to the Readers would enable them to form a comprehensive view on the development of the Institute and the degree to which its main targets – the mission and the strategy – have been accomplished. We hoped and we still cherish this hope that the “Transactions of the Foundry Research Institute” will contribute to a free and fruitful exchange of scientific ideas in the foundry environment, the acquisition of even richer spectrum of the authors who would be willing to present the results of their work in the pages of our Journal, in particular as regards the work carried out jointly with the staff of the Institute, considered to be the factor promoting full integration of our environment and enriching mutual cooperation with the effect of synergy.

To participation in the Scientific Committee of the “Transactions of the Foundry Research Institute” we invited eminent scientists, recognised experts in the field of casting, materials engineering, mechanical engineering and metallurgy, both Polish and foreign. All previously published works were reviewed and partially translated into English.

In parallel with the printed version of the Journal we launched a website (www.prace.iod.krakow.pl), generally available and friendly to use. In this way, we have got actively engaged in the, widely postulated and increasingly practiced, movement of “Open Access”, providing our Readers with full-text articles written by the authors with whom we are able to carry out a satisfactory cooperation.

It was Paulo Coelho who observed that “people want to change everything and, at the same time, want it all to remain the same”. Therefore, we, the Editorial Board, in consultation with the Scientific Committee, have decided to introduce changes that – as we hope – will to an even greater extent answer the needs of all those to whom the content of our Journal is addressed. We will be vigilant at the same time that the proposed initiatives were not too radical moves and did not confirm the leading principle of the old conservative idea which makes people believe that “changes can be only for the worse”.

The current issue of the "Transactions of the Foundry Research Institute" is the first bilingual publication, which contains a complete English translation of articles published in the Polish language. This was made possible owing to the kind support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which appreciated our efforts made so far and in a significant degree allowed the implementation of innovative adaptive initiatives planned under the INDEX PLUS 2012 programme. The leading purpose of this programme is to confer an international character to Polish scientific journals and to improve their international standing.

It remains for us to hope that the noble intentions and the goal we have set ourselves will be fully satisfied with the achievement of anticipated measurable results such as a further increase in the quality level of scientific publications and editorial services, and broadening the range of Readers and Authors, and will be reflected in significant upgrades and positive reception of the "Transactions of the Foundry Research Institute".

Jerzy Józef Sobczak

Editor-in-Chief

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