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# Applied Thermal Engineering

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## Applied Thermal Engineering celebrates its 25th anniversary

The first issue of Applied Thermal Engineering was published in 1996 and included 8 research papers. A total of 89 research and review papers were published that year. Today, each issue of ATE has an average of 75 articles and the journal publishes between 1,500 and 2,000 papers annually, from over 7,000 submissions received. Each year, ATE papers are accessed or downloaded over 2.5 million times, and receive over 50,000 citations.

We wanted to celebrate the fantastic ascent of the journal and its standing in the community by inviting current and previous members of the editorial team to share their thoughts on ATE's first quarter of a century. As well as Professor Christos Markides, current Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Pradeep Bansal, Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Professor Srinivasa Murthy, S., Senior Subject Editor, I am delighted that Professor David Reay, Founding Editor-in-Chief and Professor Tim Zhao, former Editor-in-Chief have both accepted to contribute to this Editorial.

We also wanted to mark ATE's 25th anniversary by launching a new cover which aims to reflect the journal's continuous evolution. As stated by Professor David Reay in his first ever Editorial, "Applied Thermal Engineering should be developed so as to match as closely as possible the needs of you, the reader." We hope that you agree that ATE has been fulfilling this promise.

On behalf of Elsevier, I would like to thank our readers, authors, and reviewers, as well as all members of the editorial team, past and present, for 25 years of support for, and trust in Applied Thermal Engineering.

Gaëlle Hull  
Publisher

### Message from Professor Christos Markides, Editor-in-Chief

Heartfelt congratulations on this special anniversary to our journal, which has for two and a half decades continued to serve our community and interested readers.

It was a great honour to be asked in 2016 to join the editorial board of ATE as (what was known back then as) an Executive Editor, and an even greater honour to be asked to succeed Professor Tianshou (Tim) Zhao as Editor-in-Chief in 2018. The journal had experienced a huge growth in volume, interest and impact during Professor Zhao's tenure. I was excited to accept the challenge of working with the rest of the editorial board and the supporting team at Elsevier to guide its next steps.

Since then, we have continued to grow our editorial board, which now has 21 handling editors from about a dozen countries, thus reducing the load on our editors in order to improve quality, and made considerable efforts to streamline and improve our submission and editorial processes. A selection of recent developments includes the

move to the Editorial Manager manuscript handling system along with multifaceted efforts to update our editorial guidelines and processes, the restructuring of our board into subject areas organised by editor expertise, and our partnership with the International Conference on Heat Transfer, Fluid Mechanics and Thermodynamics (HEFAT) conference series, now called the "ATE-HEFAT Conference", so that we now have a conference that we can call "home". Furthermore, I am very glad to announce, as Gaëlle Hull mentioned above, the launch of a brand new journal cover this summer, along with imminent introduction of two new article types, in addition to Original Research Articles, Review Articles, Short Communications and Letters to the Editor, that we will be referring to as Vision Articles and Editor Invited Articles.

During my tenure, and thanks to the sustained efforts of our authors, reviewers, the entire editorial team and our friends at Elsevier, we have been fortunate to see our profile continue to improve, with our CiteScore improving from 6.9 to 10.1, and our Impact Factor from 3.7 to 5.3, cementing ATE as one of the premier journals in the applied thermal sciences and engineering. I take this opportunity to wish our journal continued success, evolution and growth, and to reaffirm our firm commitment to being a publication of the highest standards and quality moving forward.

Professor Christos N. Markides  
Imperial College London

### Message from Emeritus Professor David Reay, Founding Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations on 25 years of success and the recent meteoric growth in publishing high quality papers. Heat Recovery Systems (started in 1981 with four issues) and Heat Recovery Systems & CHP morphed into Applied Thermal Engineering in 1996, Elsevier having taken on journals from Pergamon Press. I led ATE for about 20 years, succeeded by Professor Tim Zhao, who handed over to Professor Christos Markides, the current incumbent.

It is great to see how the growth in paper submissions has accelerated over the last few years, with large inputs from China helping this. With a growing Impact Factor and Cite Score, the journal is a 'must read' for those interested in the real engineering aspects of heat transfer and thermodynamics.

I sometimes reminisce about my early days as a journal editor – when a sideline was stamp collecting, as all papers were submitted by what we now call 'snail mail'! The journal expenses then on postage for sending papers for review etc. were quite substantial. I can only imagine now, with the paper flow, that Professor Markides would need his own daily mail van delivery! Here's to the next 25 years!

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Emeritus Professor David Reay  
Newcastle University

**Message from Professor T.S. Zhao, Former Editor-in-Chief**

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of ATE! I joined the editorial board in 2003, when Professor David Reay was the Editor-in-Chief, and since then I have witnessed the remarkable growth of the community. Over the years, the number of contributing authors and reviewers to ATE has really blossomed. An exponential increase in the quality of articles has elevated the journal to be in the top tier in the mechanical engineering category, while Google Scholar has ranked the journal amongst the top 2 in the thermal sciences category.

During my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, between 2015 and 2018, the number of submissions virtually tripled. A growth of such proportions undoubtedly presents challenges to the editorial team in selecting the most influential papers to present the best work to our readers. But with the support from our reviewer community, we've raised our standard for acceptance (rejection rate raised from 60% to 80%), reduced time to publication (submission to first decision reduced to two weeks), and held ATE to the highest standards (citation score increased from 3.1 to 4.1, and impact factor increased from 2.7 to 3.7).

I firmly believe that with the efforts of the new editorial board, particularly under the leadership of Professor Christos Markides, together with the support of all the editors, authors, reviewers and readers, ATE will trailblaze new ground and continue to be a leading journal in the field of heat transfer and thermodynamics!

Professor Tianshou Zhao  
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

**Message from Dr Pradeep Bansal, Deputy Editor-in-Chief**

It is an immense pleasure and pride for me to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Applied Thermal Engineering, having been associated with it as an author, reviewer, Associate Editor, Executive Editor and now Deputy Editor-in-Chief. I published my first article in ATE in 1998 and my association with the journal grew stronger year-after-year both as a scholar and a contributor. Consequently, I was invited to join the editorial board in 2013. I was amazed with the heavy editorial load during the time (2016–18) when the papers submissions to ATE suddenly skyrocketed!

The current editorial board has now initiated new guidelines to streamline the editorial/review processes while improving the standard, the quality, and the impact of the journal. It is not surprising that the editorial board has now almost doubled to over 20 members (with Subject Editors) to process the papers in a timely and efficient manner.

As a consequence of years efforts and policies, the journal is now regarded as one of the premier and highly respected journals in “real world engineering applications” resonating with thermodynamics and heat transfer. The recent initiatives by the editorial board will undoubtedly enhance further its appeal, outreach, quality, impact and eminence in the times to come. What a transformation in the last 25 years; watch the space for the next 25 years...!

Pradeep Bansal, PhD, Fellow ASHRAE

**Message from Professor Srinivasa Murthy, S., Senior Subject Editor**

As a young researcher in the early 1980s, I fondly remember publishing my early works in the former avatars of Applied Thermal Engineering, i.e., the Journal of Heat Recovery Systems, and Heat Recovery Systems and CHP. I used to eagerly wait for the handwritten postcard from Professor David Reay informing me of the acceptance (or otherwise) of my paper. At that time, I never dreamt that one day I would serve the journal as an editor!

In the early days, whilst I was a Regional Editor, all the editorial work had to be done on hard copies using the postal service. We were happy if a decision could be made in six months. With the advent of internet came EES, EVISE and recently the Editorial Manager system, and now most decisions can be made in about a month or two. I had the unique privilege of working with all the three Editors-in-Chief, Professors David Reay, Tim Zhao and Christos Markides. Today, ATE has become the preferred publication outlet for leading researchers worldwide. While emphasising the quality and impact of its accepted publications, ATE takes pride in its speed of decision making and author friendliness.

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, I wish ATE many more glorious years of service to the global thermal engineering fraternity.

Professor Srinivasa Murthy, S.  
Indian Institute of Science Bangalore  
(Formerly, Indian Institute of Technology Madras)