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Flexible and Printed Electronics

EDITORIAL

Flexible and printed electronics: a transition in leadership—reflecting on our successes and looking forward to the future

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Dear Reader,

We write this editorial at an exciting time as we transition from the previous Editor-in-Chief to the new one. This changeover is a good opportunity to highlight the achievements of *Flexible and Printed Electronics* thus far, and provide an outlook for the future.

Since the journal was launched in 2016, we have seen the journal grow and develop into a community-focussed title. As the first journal to focus solely on this exciting and fast-developing field, we aimed to provide you, the reader, with high quality, inter- and multidisciplinary research. To highlight a few of the successes over the past five years.

First item to mention is of course, the journal's Impact Factor. While a flawed metric, it is nevertheless an important one for many authors working in our ultra-competitive environment. Achieving our first Impact Factor of 3.588 allows our authors to freely submit their work to the journal knowing their work will be recognised by their institutions and funding agencies as being published in a high-quality journal.

We were also proud to publish some excellent articles to showcase exciting work in the field and contribute to the aforementioned Impact Factor. One article that comes to mind is the 2021 Flexible and Printed Electronics Roadmap [1], which brought together some of the most eminent authorities in the field to write this collaborative piece covering the whole field. Since its publication, it is now one of our most downloaded articles and even has been referenced in Wikipedia, which is a sign of an article reaching beyond the world of academic research.

In addition to the Roadmap, we would like to highlight some of the other excellent articles we published over the past five years. Roll-to-roll processing remains a technique integral to the production of flexible electronics. Using this technique to integrate flexible technology with current silicon technology is an important milestone in the development of this field and is extensively discussed in the review, roll-to-roll processing of film substrates for hybrid integrated flexible electronics [2].

One application of flexible technologies, which can make a real-world impact in our fight against climate change, is in organic solar cells. In *Scalable fabrication of organic solar cells based on non-fullerene acceptors* [3], the authors discuss the challenges of scaling up organic solar cells with 15% efficiencies for fast and large-area production.

Finally, another very important area in flexible and printed electronic technology is the development of wearable healthcare sensors. In *Fully printed all-polymer tattoo/textile electronics for electromyography* [4], the authors describe the development of simple, low cost, and customizable devices that detect biologically relevant signals such as neuromuscular activity in the form of a removable tattoo.

Our intention for this journal has always been for it to be representative of the diversity of the flexible and printed electronics community. The diversity of our community—in both its authors and subject matter—is a strength that we will continue to promote by bringing you diverse perspectives. With this in mind, we are proud to have formalised endorsements from Organic and Printed Electronics Association and the recently formed Korea Flexible and Printed Electronics Society.

As we move forward to the journal's next stage of development, we find the journal in a very healthy state. The aim for the journal now will be to build on this success and continue to bring together the diverse elements of the community while continuing to focus on publishing high-quality research. Our initial goal will be to drive visibility of specific emerging areas in the field such as green electronics, as exemplified by the recent launch of the focus issue on green printed electronics [5]. Ultimately, we feel the community will be best served by becoming a Quartile 1

journal in the materials, multidisciplinary category of Journal Citation Reports. Therefore, we will be striving to publish high-quality and highly citable research in the journal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this editorial. We very much look forward to working with you as an author, reviewer or reader. If you have any questions, please let us know by emailing fpe@ioppublishing.org and we look forward to hearing from you.

Ronald Österbacka, Åbo Akademi University, Finland (Editor-in-Chief, 2017–2021)

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Data availability statement

No new data were created or analysed in this study.

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