

## Editorial

A new year is traditionally a time for new beginnings. As you have already recognized our journal "*Crystal Research and Technology (CRT)*" looks different from the beginning of 2004. Most obviously, the colourful fresh design makes the cover more attractive. However, the most important thing for a scientific journal is the quality of its content. *CRT* will hold strictly to the principle of unity between basic research and applied research (industrial application). The success of *CRT* depends first of all on the quality of the papers submitted, the rigorous refereeing procedure, and on the stimulating work of the Editorial Board as well as the Advisory Board.

Our publishing policy is to print only papers of excellent scientific quality. The basis for this is a rigorous peer reviewing process. We are very thankful to all our referees for their time-consuming work. The critical reviews are a guarantee that high-quality papers will be published.

The fresh new design is not the only change which you will see. You will find new names in the list of the Editorial and Advisory Board. In general, the board membership should be restricted to a six-year term.

We take the opportunity to thank all board members whose membership has ended for their longstanding advice and support to publish a modern crystallographic journal. We welcome our new members and look forward to a common time of fruitful cooperation.

As mentioned in a previous editorial, the future of *CRT* lies in fully electronic publishing. Eventually, the exchange of information between editors and authors will be conducted completely by e-mail. The rate of papers submitted electronically is increasing. To support this, we will develop a platform for our authors to elegantly process the electronic transfer.

As in previous years we will also publish some special issues edited by Guest Editors in 2004. These issues will contain either a collection of papers presented at international conferences and schools or papers dedicated to a special field of crystallography.

There will be also only little space for reports of organic structures within *CRT* in future. According to the international rules we will only accept submitted papers including the CIF-file (CIF – crystallographic information file, for details see <http://www.iucr.org/>).

In the end, we encourage all of you to publish your results in *CRT* and take part in the work of improving the international reputation of *Crystal Research and Technology*.

Wolfgang Neumann  
Editor in Chief

Klaus Werner Benz  
Consulting Editor