

Editorial Comment on Issue No. 12

April 26, 2010 (E12). Issue 12 contains those *invited* papers of MT-21 (21st International Conference on Magnet Technology held at Hefei, China, October 18 to 23, 2009), which were submitted by authors interested in voluntary prepublication in ESNF. We made possible early previewing of these papers - immediately after their acceptance by ESNF, so that all became accessible to our readers in about 3 months after the Conference.

The plenary MT-21 paper by Wada *et al.* addresses the future prospects of high-field MRI and deserves reading by anyone interested in MRI technology. The eight invited papers address various aspects of superconducting magnets, coils and their applications, including also high- T_c magnets and magnetic bearings. Complete Proceedings of MT-21 will be eventually published in *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, hopefully by mid-summer 2010.

The Regional News section of Issue 12 includes the invited paper RN14 presenting the new Italian Institute SPIN, which was created at the beginning of 2010, following the reorganization of previously existing Italian CNR institutes devoted entirely or partially to superconductivity and its technology. The overview of SPIN recent achievements and plans for the future is presented by Prof. Ruggero Vaglio, who is the new director in charge of organizing this Institute. The list of selected publications is intending to acquaint our readers with SPIN's inherited and ongoing activities. The Institute conducts largely collaborative R&D at international scale and is interested in establishing new collaborations.

This issue also includes two regular ESNF papers. ST187, by Olaya *et al.*, is a collaborative presentation (authors from NIST, JPL and Northrop-Grumman) of low- T_c digital shift registers employing internally shunted (RSJ) junctions with amorphous niobium-silicon barriers. The shift register circuit was chosen to test this technology. Its advantage is the possible doubling of circuit density and the expected improvement of fabrication yield.

The second paper, ST188 by Dietmar Drung of PTB-Berlin, is devoted to simplified analysis of direct SQUID readout schemes. It is in part a systematic overview of the topic prompted by the paper ST184 by Xie *et al.*, which was pre-published in Issue 11 of ESNF. The paper ST188 is already published by *Supercond. Sci. Technol. (SuST)* No. 6, 2010. It brings welcome order to the discussed topic, and helps understanding the whole preamplifier noise suppression issue, which has been insufficiently appreciated even by many SQUID specialists.