Editorial Comment on Issue No. 11

January 18, 2010 (E11). Issue 11 is mainly devoted to *selected* papers of EUCAS 2009 (European Conference on Applied Superconductivity). This very limited selection of less than 40 papers is a random sample of the conference proceedings, which will eventually appear online in *Journal of Physics Conference Series* (*JPCS*, IOP). Plenary and invited papers will appear in *Superconductor Science and Technology* (*SuST*, IOP), both online and in the hardcopy EUCAS 2009 issue of *SuST*. Limited number of best contributed papers selected by EUCAS Session Chairs will also appear there.

We should comment on the ESNF selection process for conference papers. It involves two steps, of which only the second is in our hand. The first and main step is the voluntary *separate* submission to ESNF, whereby the publisher of the regular conference proceedings often limits the number of contributions allowed for pre-publication. Furthermore, only a fraction of conference authors chose to submit. The second step involves an ESNF review process, which is independent of the conference and/or journal review. This independence is necessary, because we cannot accept manuscripts not conforming to the prescribed conference template or otherwise defective in presentation, *e.g.*, written in poor English. Revisions aren't possible, in principle. This applies even to topically excellent papers, which after necessary revisions will be accepted by the refereed journal. In the case of EUCAS 2009 we received 58 papers. About one third of these were rejected by ESNF reviewers; papers mostly on electronics. For some of these, the cause was an inadequate presentation.

We wish to attract your attention to the three plenary EUCAS papers: an updated view on grain boundaries in high-T_c cuprate materials*, an overview of application-relevant properties of Fe-based pnictides and, last but not least, a comprehensive overview of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) with emphasis on problems, which, shortly after the first startup in September 2009, caused the well-known grave shutdown incident. This paper was written just before the 2010 startup, which confirmed technical remedies described in the paper have been effective.

In addition to EUCAS papers, Issue 11 includes the regular paper RN13 presenting the history of QD (Quantum Design) – an industrial company successful in superconductivity other than NMR and MRI magnets. This paper is the first of Regional News papers, in which we offer authors the opportunity to present noteworthy adventures in superconductivity: institutional, industrial and also personal. This series of *centennial* papers intends to celebrate the approaching 100th anniversary of superconductivity, discovered by Kamerlingh Onnes in 2011. Potential authors interested in presenting such stories should contact one of ESNF Editors.

Finally, this issue also includes two regular ESNF papers, both on topics deserving attention. Paper ST177 presents a conceptual study of superconducting power system for a congested urban area; it makes a rather strong case for superconductivity. Paper ST184 describes a novel concept of a direct-coupled low-noise readout of dc SQUID and demonstrates its practicality.

* The first author, Praveen Chaudhari passed away on 12 January 2010.