

# Ten Years of Superconductivity News Forum

**Alex I. Braginski**

SNF, past Editor-in-Chief

July 27, 2016 (E37-1). While our first Issue appeared in July 2007, the origins of Superconductivity News Forum (SNF) go back to early 2006. At that time the end of the EU-supported SCENET (the European Network of Excellence in Superconductivity)<sup>1</sup> was announced to occur in July 2006, and with it ended the publication of the hardcopy and e-mailed SCENET Newsletter that contained quite useful information on European superconductivity activities, projects, results, etc., of interest not only to the European superconductivity community. At the same time, I was asked by the President of the IEEE Council on Superconductivity (CSC) to start publishing online a CSC Newsletter concentrating on news of interest to IEEE CSC members, including this organization's activities, social events, etc. Some limited funds for creating and maintaining such a newsletter webpage were to be made available by CSC.

I wasn't interested in such a newsletter profile, and proposed instead to create an online publication serving the *whole superconductivity community*, independent of any organizational affiliation, and replacing the now defunct SCENET Newsletter, but with even stronger emphasis on science & technology, bridging the gap between peer-reviewed journals and newsletters<sup>2</sup>. The CSC, a transnational organization with global reach, generously offered me freedom of decision and so the concept of Superconductivity News Forum was born. After over a year of preparations, this joint experimental project of CSC and ESAS, the European Society for Applied Superconductivity, was launched. The 1<sup>st</sup> issue of what initially became the European Superconductivity News Forum (ESNF) appeared online in July 2007. Almost from the beginning, I was advised and occasionally assisted by the ESNF International Advisory Board composed of colleagues invited to represent various areas of applied superconductivity. Less than a year earlier, as an initial step, we launched online the Europe Guide to Superconductivity-related Activities, which became part of the joint experimental project. In February-March 2007, CSC and ESAS conducted a poll of over 300 colleagues representing institutions included in the Guide to determine whether the proposed online ESNF could be useful to the superconductivity community or not? An overwhelming majority of respondents favored launching of that online initiative [A1].

In the following few years, the steadily increasing number of visits to the ESNF website made it clear that ESNF, and also the Europe Guide, provide useful service. Consequently, CSC and ESAS decided to maintain the website indefinitely, with CSC providing essential financial support for maintaining and further developing it. In 2010, ESNF was very significantly strengthened by Herbert Freyhardt, the initiator of EUCAS<sup>3</sup>, joining me as a Co-editor. Eventually, in 2011, ESNF became one of the joint activities of IEEE CSC and ESAS that are covered by their then signed Sister Society Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Aptly coordinated by Massimo Marezio of CRETA-CRNS Grenoble, previously of Bell Labs.

<sup>2</sup> The CSC Newsletter was eventually created in 2014, see <http://ieeesc.org/pages/csc-newsletter>; it isn't directly related to SNF.

<sup>3</sup> EUCAS is the biannual European Conference of Applied Superconductivity.

Annual analysis of the available statistical metadata from “Google Analytics” indicated that ESNF has been visited not only by Europeans, but by readers from around the world, with visits from the United States being by far the most numerous. Consequently, in 2011, Herbert and I decided to eventually broaden the geographical base of our publication. That meant we had to attract volunteer Co-editors and Associate Editors from around the globe. It wasn’t easy, but by the first part of 2013 a sufficient number of colleagues from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America joined our effort to make it possible. Already in January 2013, two colleagues from Asia (China and Japan) joined as Co-editors [[A193](#), [A269](#)]. Our volunteer Editorial Team (ET) started with about 20 members, has now over 30 of them, and we’re still looking for additional qualified volunteers.

Simultaneously, our International Editorial Board (IEB) was expanded to include new members from most continents. All this permitted us, with CSC and ESAS blessing, to transform ESNF into the global Superconductivity News Forum (SNF), beginning with Issue No. 25 (July 2013). Although it was a new beginning, we decided to maintain the current numeration of issues and volumes to emphasize the historical continuity. About a year later, in 2014, Continental Guides for Latin and North America, Asia and Australia/new Zealand were launched and are being gradually populated. Also in 2014, SNF obtained its current layout.

After ten years, and at the age of 87, it is time for me to step down and pass over the SNF editorial responsibility to the next generation. We have been extremely fortunate to be able to convince Horst Rogalla, the founder of ESAS, to take over. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, CSC and ESAS appointed Horst to be the next Editor-in-Chief. With this Issue, after a few months of transition work, he is assuming the full responsibility for the SNF overall direction and activities and is presenting separately (see [E37-2](#)) his comments and vision of SNF future. At least until the end of 2016, I will be still the Co-editor Electronics, but take this opportunity to now thank the CSC, ESAS, the SNF International Advisory Board and, last but not least, the whole SNF Editorial Team and technical staff for generous support, always reliable help and harmonious collaboration.