

Materials Research Society to

Journal of Materials Research

In a decision that will have far-reaching benefits for the entire materials research community, the Council of the Materials Research Society gave final authorization in April for MRS to establish an archival journal to document interdisciplinary research results in forefront areas of materials research. The journal, to be titled *Journal of Materials Research*, is scheduled to begin publication in January 1986 following the scope and guidelines outlined by the MRS Publications Committee (see box).

Journal of Materials Research will be owned by MRS and published for the Society by the American Institute of Physics (AIP). The Council's decision to debut the journal early next year is the culmination of several years of active discussion and independent research by both MRS and AIP into the need for such a medium for the materials community. It is therefore particularly appropriate, the Council indicated, the *Journal of Materials Research* be produced in cooperation with AIP.

Broad-Based Study Identifies Need for Central Source of Interdisciplinary Research

The MRS study was carried out last year by J. E. E. Baglin (1984 Publications Committee Chair), D. R. Campbell (Journal Subcommittee Chair), and G. L. McVay (1985 Publications Committee Chair). The study gathered substantive input from more than 150 scientists and engineers widely recognized in various areas and disciplines associated with materials research, including both MRS members and individuals who have never participated actively in the Society. A similar study was conducted concurrently by AIP, and both studies reached the same conclusion: existing research journals publish articles on limited topics in materials research or on research results obtained from the perspective of a single discipline; however, none adequately satisfies the all-encompassing requirements of the materials community.

The MRS study indicated that, because the Materials Research Society's strength and success rests firmly on its coverage of a broad spectrum of topical areas in materials research, MRS would produce the right type of journal to fill the void. At the same time, the AIP Publications Policy Committee and publications subcommittee recommended to its Governing Board that a joint venture be pursued between MRS and AIP. The bringing together of expertise from MRS and AIP, the MRS Council recognized, would result in a timely, well-defined, and skillfully executed journal that would clearly meet the needs of the research community.

High Publications Standards Set to Serve Top-Notch Readership

Papers accepted for publication in the journal will be subject to rigorous technical review under the editorial direction of MRS. Likewise, AIP will apply high production and distribution standards, such as it has established for the other journals it publishes (*Journal of Applied Physics*, *Applied Physics Letters*, *Review of Scientific Instruments*, *Physical Review*, and *Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology*, etc.).

All members of MRS will automatically receive a subscription to the new journal, funded through their 1986 membership dues (see box). Consequently, everyone who participates in MRS will have ready access to the research reported in the journal. Members of the nine AIP Member Societies (including the American Physical Society, American Vacuum Society, Optical Society of America, etc.) will be able to subscribe to the journal at reduced rates, and the journal will also be available in scientific libraries throughout the world.

Editor-in-Chief Selected, Timetable Established

Dr. Charles B. Duke of Xerox Webster Research Center has recently been selected as Editor-in Chief, appointed to the post by MRS President Elton N. Kaufmann on behalf of the Council. (See article in this issue titled "Duke Appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Materials Research*.") The selection of Duke to fill this key position resulted from the efforts of the MRS Publications Committee and Council to identify the best candidate for this position as well as the foremost representatives of the various materials areas to serve as Principal Editors. Recommendations for each of these positions were solicited from the international materials community, and at one stage over 250 potential candidates were considered. Final selections for the positions of Principal Editors will be completed by July 1, and manuscripts will be accepted for review shortly thereafter for publication beginning with the January 1986 issue. Announcement of the Journal's Advisory Board, which will closely monitor its progress, is also expected by July 1.

Journal Adds New Dimension to MRS Publications Program, Fills Void in Scientific Literature

Journal of Materials Research is a new publication activity of the Society, joining the Society's highly successful Symposia Proceedings series. Now totaling 50 volumes, the MRS Symposia Proceedings will continue to provide a snapshot in time of the state of the art within a given topical area. The addition of the journal will at last provide an archival record of completed research work, which until now was unavailable in an acceptable medium for the materials researcher.

"The journal will serve the needs of all individuals in the scientific community who are conducting research at the leading edge of materials research," Kaufmann stressed, "and not just those who are associated with MRS."

"The editorial structure of the journal is designed to respond rapidly to the ever-changing needs and directions of the materials research community, and to successfully accomplish this, contributions will be encouraged from all active fields of research. As new areas of research are identified and undergo rapid growth, they will be accommodated into the existing structure of the journal. In this way," he said, "the journal will itself define materials research and inject a unity heretofore missing in the research community." **MRS**

Publish New Archival Journal

to Debut in January 1986

MRS Publication Committee's Definition of the Journal as Approved by Council

The journal will add an entirely new dimension to the publication of original research results in the materials field. It will be qualitatively different from existing journals with regard to scope and purpose, coverage, and editorial structure and policy. The journal will cover the *broad spectrum* of topical areas that are at the forefront of *modern materials research*. It will explicitly encourage publication of articles dealing with materials research from the interdisciplinary perspective, so that all physical, chemical, and engineering insights can be brought to bear on the problem under consideration. The journal will be dedicated to the publication of materials research results (properties, synthesis, processing, structure and characterization) on all materials of technological importance with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary approach.

Papers accepted by the journal will span the range from basic to applied research and will include contributions from all disciplines that contribute to materials research. Full-length articles on original materials research results as well as short articles on new results which are appropriate for rapid communication and critical reviews of major areas are appropriate for the journal. All manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two independent referees in order to ensure that the published articles are of the highest scientific quality. The editorial structure of the journal will consist of an internationally recognized *Editor-in-Chief*, a group of 12 - 20 *Principal Editors* who are recognized experts in broad topical fields covering the spectrum of materials research, and an *Advisory Board* consisting of about six distinguished scientists in fields commonly associated with materials research.

Identification of referees, acceptance and rejection of manuscripts, and solicitation of contributors to *Journal of Materials Research* will be the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief and the Principal Editors. The Advisory Board will monitor the progress of the journal and provide advice and support to the Editor-in-Chief and to the MRS Council.

MRS Membership Dues and Benefits

For 1985, regular MRS membership dues are \$40 and membership benefits include receipt of the annual membership directory, discounted registration fees at the annual Spring Meeting in the West, special prices on MRS proceedings volumes, and subscriptions to *Materials Letters* and **MRS BULLETIN**. Members will continue to receive issues of *Materials Letters* through the end of Volume 3 which should occur later this year.

To accommodate the new *Journal of Materials Research* as a membership benefit, the MRS Council approved two changes to the current dues/benefits package. In 1986, the annual regular member dues will increase to \$45. (Student dues remain at \$15.) This increase will only partly cover the cost of providing the new journal as a membership benefit. Second, *Materials Letters*, for issues beyond Volume 3, will no longer be an automatic benefit. MRS is now negotiating an agreement with the North-Holland Publishing Company that will enable members who wish to continue receiving *Materials Letters* to subscribe at a very low personal subscription price. It is expected that *only MRS members* will be able to obtain personal subscriptions to *Materials Letters*. *Materials Letters* will remain an MRS-affiliated journal.

See the following articles in this issue which discuss the new journal:

- Duke Name Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Materials Research* (page 20)
- MRS Council Report: Council Approves MRS Archival Journal (page 21)
- MRS Committee Report: Publications Committee Defines Scope of New Archival Journal Through Recent Survey (page 23)