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Nuclear

Journal of

Canada

Volume 1 No. 4 Dec. 1987 dec.

Journal

Nucléaire

du Canada

Canadian Nuclear Society
Société Nucléaire Canadienne



Nuclear Journal of Canada

Journal Nucléaire du Canada

Volume 1 No 4 Dec. 1987 dec.

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Published by University of Toronto Press
for The Canadian Nuclear Society
111 Elizabeth Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5G 1P7

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Annual Subscription Rates:

Institutional in Canada \$90.00 Canadian
outside of Canada \$90.00 U.S. (includes postage and handling)
Single issue in Canada \$25.00 Canadian
outside of Canada \$25.00 U.S. (includes postage and handling)
Replacement Issue in Canada \$20.00 Canadian
outside of Canada \$20.00 U.S. (includes postage and handling)

Note: Supplements to the journal will be published periodically
and will be priced separately

Designed and Printed University of Toronto Press
ISSN 0833-1758

Second Class Mail Registration number 74171 (Dec.) 1987

Editorial

Alan Wyatt
Editor

With this issues of the *Journal* the first volume is complete. Although we have received many commendations about the content and quality of production of the *Journal*, for which latter we would like to express our appreciation to the University of Toronto Press, there are concerns on the financial side.

Total production costs for this first volume are expected to be close to \$90,000 with revenue of about \$30,000. A first year loss in the region of \$60,000 is considerably higher than the original estimate due to production costs being higher and revenues lower than budgeted. Obviously a 600 member strong society cannot view such a loss with equanimity and certainly cannot afford to repeat it in the second year. The Journal Management Board has, therefore, instituted a major reassessment of all aspects of the operation of the *Journal*. The overall target is to reduce production costs by 25 per cent and increase revenues by a similar percentage so as to cut the second year deficit in at least half, compared to year one.

At the time of writing this editorial, in early September, no decisions had been made as to how these changes were to be achieved. However, many options were being examined. New quotations for printing the *Journal*, the major production cost item, were being solicited. Potential printers were being asked to recommend innovative ideas for cost cutting with as little sacrifice in quality as possible. This might involve going to some type of 'desk-top' publishing. The possible introduction of page charges was being considered. This is a common practice in scientific journals and can go a considerable way to offsetting the typesetting and other fixed costs of production. The imposition of such a charge is usually linked with the supply of a certain number of free offprints of the papers to the authors. In our first year not a single author bought a single offprint of a single paper. This item alone represented a \$7,000 shortfall in estimated revenue. I sincerely hope that nobody breached our copyright by photocopying papers!

No advertising revenue was received. However, from experience, one can say that such revenue will only be received if it is aggressively pursued. The *Journal* will probably be soliciting informative and educational advertising. For the first year all members of the Canadian Nuclear Society received the *Journal*, and the *CNS Bulletin*, as part of their annual fees. This policy is being re-examined and members may be asked to subscribe to the *Journal* separately. There are a number of outside organizations, in the business of journal publication, that might be interested in assuming responsibility for the production and distribution of the *Journal*. As with so many other aspects of Canadian publishing the realities of a small market make profitable production difficult.

If anyone has suggestions or comments on this topic by all means write to me and I will see that the suggestion is passed on to the appropriate person.

Financial constraints are nothing new in the nuclear community and, by comparison, those facing the *Journal* are less significant. It was disturbing to hear that notice had been given of the possible loss of funding that could lead to the closure of the McMaster University research reactor within the next few years. Most politicians express support for the importance of developing a high-tech base in Canada, to ensure future prosperity. Such a base will only be developed if the actuality, in terms of funding and facilities, matches the words. Investing in and for the future requires leadership and a recognition that research and development take time and cost money. The time required for a new energy system to take even 10 per cent of the total market is of the order of 30 years and more. Unfortunately this is the life of about ten parliaments. Need one say more about the problems of getting steady political support.

Past support led to the recognition of the development of the CANDU system, as one of the ten exceptional engineering feats of the past century, in Canada's Engineering Centennial year. For so many bright possibilities in the years ahead one can but echo the wartime slogan of a British cabinet minister: 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.'