

atomic energy review

The ATOMIC ENERGY REVIEW (AER), a periodical started in 1963 in accordance with the recommendation made by the Scientific Advisory Committee, is now preparing for its tenth year of publication. The journal appears quarterly (ca 900 pages/year) and occasionally has special issues and supplements. From 1963 to 1971 AER developed into an important international high-standard scientific journal which keeps scientists in Member States informed on progress in various fields of nuclear energy. The Agency's specific role of helping "developing countries to further their science and education"* is reflected in the publication policy of the journal.

The subject scope of AER, which was determined at the journal's inception, is very broad. It covers topics in experimental and theoretical physics, nuclear electronics and equipment, physics and technology of reactors and reactor materials and fuels, radio-chemistry, and industrial, medical and other uses of radioisotopes. In other words, almost any subject related to the peaceful application of nuclear energy can qualify for inclusion. Specifically, at any particular time the selection criteria for topics are influenced by the Agency's current programme and interests.

AER carries comprehensive review articles, critical state-of-the-art and current awareness surveys, and reports on the important meetings organized or sponsored by the Agency. The following four subsections gradually became necessary to do justice to this variety of material: '*Reviews*' proper, '*Current Research and Development*', '*Special Item*' and '*Conferences and Symposia*'. Apart from the conference reports, one hundred and twenty-five reviews, almost all of which were published in English to make them accessible to a wide public, have so far been published.

*) Foreword by the Director General to issue 1.

The journal is organized by a scientific and a managing editor in Vienna and benefits from the advice of both a Board of Editors from several Member States and the scientific staff of the Agency.

On the eve of the Review's tenth year, the editors are more than ever before seeking ways to improve the journal further, possibly by arranging it by series or by increasing the number of special issues. They are making every effort to secure more good review articles and, especially, to incorporate short progress reviews. Wider participation will thus be essential.

Qualified authors are invited to contribute review articles for consideration. The editors should like to encourage authors from developing states to write for the journal more than they have been doing. The author's fee for a review is US \$8.00 per standard page (330 words). Prospective authors are welcome to submit their plans to the editors for assessment. Comments are requested from anonymous referees as a help to the author.

There is a further important aspect which deserves mentioning. The review is recognized as an important item of modern documentation. Review journals are growing in importance as a result of the explosion of original literature. A solution to the problem of processing this literature could be found in starting automatic retrieval with critical review articles (rather than original research papers) and critical data compilations. As far back as September 1966 Samuel A. Goudsmit, editor of *Physical Review Letters* and editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, wrote "... we should limit information retrieval to critical review articles and data compilations ... getting good reviews is a problem. To get more good ones, we should organize teams of writers encouraged by attractive honoraria". It is hoped that the *ATOMIC ENERGY REVIEW*, with its best articles critically treating significant topics as reflected in current literature, will play an essential role in the information retrieval system created by the Agency.