

Editorial

When the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) was signed,* the BIPM was given responsibility for the publication of Final Reports of Key and Supplementary comparisons and it acknowledged the importance of providing a citable reference for these publications. The BIPM key comparison database (KCDB) is now receiving about one Final Report per week, and there has been a rapid increase in the number of comparison reports submitted to *Metrologia*.

To avoid overloading the printed version of *Metrologia*, we are now adopting a new editorial policy for the publication of reports of such comparisons with the introduction of a web-based *Technical Supplement* to *Metrologia*. Starting with Volume 39 of *Metrologia*, the *Technical Supplement* will publish Final Reports of Key, Supplementary and MRA-related bilateral comparisons that have been entered, after approval by a Consultative Committee, into the KCDB after 1 January 2002. Reports submitted to the KCDB prior to 2002 are accessible via the generic link www.bipm.org/kcdb.

When a Final Report is submitted to the KCDB authors will receive an automatic response asking if they wish to have it published in the *Technical Supplement*. In their submission authors are requested to include a title containing the comparison reference number (e.g. CCQM-K1) plus a brief abstract. The *Technical Supplement* will publish a one-page entry showing the title plus abstract, following which a link will be provided to the Final Report in Appendix B of the KCDB. It is planned that a parallel arrangement will be set up for MRA-related pilot studies, which do not appear in the KCDB.

The printed version of *Metrologia* will continue to reserve a section for comparison reports that contain new science, innovative developments or novel techniques. Authors of Key Comparison reports are most welcome to submit such articles via this route in preference to having their article published in the *Technical Supplement*. Reports of international comparisons not necessarily related to the MRA are also welcome. It should be emphasized, however, that any comparison reports submitted to the printed version of *Metrologia* will undergo the normal independent peer-

review process for a regular article and their acceptance for publication in the main journal will be subject to the Editor's approval. Authors planning to submit such articles should take note of the new criteria. Some comparison reports already in the system will appear in Volume 39 over the coming year but henceforth any new submissions will be subject to these new criteria. There will no longer be a category for Summary Reports in either the printed version or the *Technical Supplement*.

The *Technical Supplement* will be accessible free of charge to all, to subscribers and non-subscribers alike, and will be available only as an electronic version via the BIPM website; no printed version will be produced. One issue per year of the *Technical Supplement* will be associated with each volume of *Metrologia* and new articles will be added to the on-line issue as soon as possible after they are posted on the KCDB.

References to the *Technical Supplement* will be made in the following way: Smith J., *Metrologia*, 2002, **39**, *Tech. Suppl.*, 00000. In this format the five digits in the article identifier are a 3+2-digit code designating the field of activity (corresponding to the appropriate Consultative Committee) and the article sequence number. The activity codes are:

- 010: electricity and magnetism
- 020: photometry and radiometry
- 030: thermometry
- 040: length
- 050: time and frequency
- 060: ionizing radiation
- 070: mass and related quantities
- 080: amount of substance
- 090: acoustics, ultrasound and vibration.

Thus *Metrologia*, 2002, **39**, *Tech. Suppl.*, 07012 refers to the twelfth article in the Mass Section of the *Technical Supplement*.

The introduction of the *Technical Supplement* should confer the following advantages:

- the text in the *Technical Supplement* will be the same as that appearing in Appendix B of the KCDB;
- authors will avoid the considerable work of editing the Final Report to conform with *Metrologia* style;
- reports of comparisons appearing in this way will be published shortly after receipt of the abstract (as the full text of the Final Report will already be in the KCDB);

*CIPM MRA: Mutual recognition of national measurement standards and of calibration and measurement certificates issued by national metrology institutes, signed by directors of the national metrology institutes in October 1999.

- comparison reports will have a citable reference.

As a convenience for readers, the printed *Metrologia* will publish in each issue a cumulative listing of all articles that have been published in the *Technical Supplement* associated with the current volume. The master index, which appears in the final issue of each

volume of *Metrologia*, will also contain the list of authors and titles of articles that have appeared in the *Technical Supplement* that year.

P. W. Martin
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