



Editorial

It was clear all through the last two decades of the 20th century that small systems were becoming smart and smart systems were destined to become small. That prediction has come true to a large extent today. Small and smart go hand in hand, one enriching the other. There was a lot of anticipation—*hype* if you will—regarding how they would change the society and the way research would be done. The two fields of microsystems and smart systems have largely lived up to their expectation. As these two fields matured, we did not see departments of microsystems and smart systems set up in universities but we witnessed much more: the two fields have pervaded most of the engineering and many physical and life science departments! And that is the hallmark of a truly influential field. Given this, the scope of this journal is very apt as it combines micro and smart systems unlike most other journals of the two fields. The rich mixture of research articles from both fields featured in this issue of JISSS is an indicator of this trend.

Combining two distinct fields, the interplay between the two notwithstanding, into a single journal does have its pitfalls. It could become nobody's baby. If you are interested in microsystems, would you pick this journal up to browse what's in it as opposed to a journal that focuses only on microsystems? Would the articles on smart systems distract you giving you a sense of less than 100% satisfaction? Perhaps. There is another angle to it. If you publish a smart systems paper in this journal, you know that all its readers are not in that field. Is that good or bad for your article? One simplistic answer is that it is bad because roughly half the readers might not be interested in your article. The other answer is that it is good because the other half might see something interesting that you yourself might have missed being in your own hemisphere. Likewise, as a casual browser of this journal, as you scan the articles, you might stumble upon something interesting that you would not have otherwise. So, in this era of interdisciplinary research, it is indeed rewarding to have a journal that combines two fields, which as we just noted, are inextricably tied to each other.

Nurturing a new journal, especially one that has a new philosophy of combining two different fields, is not easy. The problem is compounded when a journal is started by a professional society, ISSS here, that is not yet familiar to the mainstream researchers of the world at large. That ISSS has awakened India to the grand opportunities that micro and smart systems had to offer and that this young and vibrant professional society has spread the gospel of MEMS to every nook and corner of a large country like India, might not mean much to a researcher in another country. So, both ISSS and this journal can help each other. ISSS supports this journal and the journal promotes ISSS globally. A corollary of this is that it is the responsibility of ISSS members to do their bit: read the articles and when you do read them, drop the editor (editor@isssonline.in) an email that you have read. If you also say what you liked and what you didn't, and better yet, how the journal could be improved, it will be much appreciated. Hoping to hear from you—

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