

Preface

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Dear Readers,

Now you are reading the first, January issue of the fourth volume. Each New Year starts with some retrospection and account on the one hand and with expectations for the future on the other hand. *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* has 'survived' the first three years, characterized by continuously growing acceptance and international respect of the journal. The past three years can be called a success story; three, as in the tales, proved to be a lucky number. In addition to luck, however, we needed good papers, strict and fast peer reviewing, exact, predictable and fault-free editing and publication. Expressed in numbers it means that we usually inform the authors within 48 hours, whether the article has been accepted for reviewing or not. The reviewing process is finished within 4 weeks, the authors are notified of the results (usually about 3 referees review an article). The acceptance or returning of the corrected manuscript is usually done within 72 hours, the proof of the finally accepted article is generally sent to the author within 2–4 weeks, which is usually published in the journal in the final form (with page and DOI numbers) within 2–3 weeks (all numbers are averages). It means that a submitted paper may appear in *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* within as short timespan as 2–3 months provided that the authors cooperate, i.e. correct the manuscripts and the proofs fast. About 100 articles are published annually in the journal, which has 'imploded' into the scientific community (as shown by the references). *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* has been indexed among others by SCOPUS since 2008, and by Thomson Reuters

since 2009. The articles appeared in the Web of Science from the beginning, i.e. from 2007 on, where citations increased exponentially (20 in 2007, 106 in 2008, about 400 in 2009). This growing international acceptance might be due to the strict peer reviewing process. Accordingly, ca. 70% of the manuscripts submitted so far from 53 countries have been rejected.

Continuously increasing popularity of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* is shown by the fact that in 2009 several hundred readers visited our website daily to download articles, to check out conference dates, or simply to get acquainted with the site. Many colleagues use our website as a kind of 'home page' as the 'related journals' menu links to the websites of other journals.

Based on all these facts we are eagerly looking forward the Journal Citation Report of Thomson Reuters, to appear in the summer of 2010, which surely will contain the first impact factor of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* for the year 2009. We are looking forward to the further cooperation with our authors, referees and readers. The editors wish you a lot of success in year 2010. *Sincerely yours,*



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