

Preface

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Dear Readers,

This is already the fifth volume of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters*, which received its first impact factor, related to the year 2009, in June 2010. This impact factor of 1.452 is due to the consequent and high quality professional work done for the journal. As a result, today already 75% of the submitted papers are rejected. Our aim is, as before, a fast publication of original research works. A new service ‘citation alert’ was launched, wherein we inform the authors if their articles are cited in the freshly published issues of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters*. As a further novelty, we record and display the ‘most cited’ and ‘most downloaded’ articles of the previous years on our website, thus helping our readers to monitor the actual trends and directions. The visit of K’2010 in Düsseldorf confirmed that for the plastics industry the crisis is over, the level of production reached, in certain segments exceeded the 2008 level, and the proportion of new materials and technologies presented was high. The third volume of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* started when the crisis hit the plastics industry and the only possibility of recovery seemed to be the intensification of research and development. The vivid R&D work was reflected by the articles published in the last two years in our journal, and also in the novelties presented at the K’2010 exhibition. Major development goals and directions are: application of nanocomposites in products, widespread use of light construction materials (foams), development of heat resistant materials, optical use of polymers (improved transparency, exploitation of birefringence), application

of biodegradable materials. In case of polymer processing saving of energy and material is still the main trend. This coupled with shorter production cycles and reduced downtimes due to product change, reduced cycle times, lower unit prices, integrated quality management, widespread use of special integrated technologies and automatization.

Based on the above trends and R&D results we have good reasons for hope and rejoicing. We are optimistic when looking forward to the future of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters*. However, a further leap in the quality of *eXPRESS Polymer Letters* depends on the conscientious and hard work of our authors and referees, which is sincerely asked for also in the future.

In the name of International Advisory Board and the local Editorial Team, the editor and editor-in-chief wish you a lot of success in the coming year 2011. Sincerely yours,



Prof. Dr. T. Czigány editor
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