

Editorial

Reviewer recognition and editor's note

<https://doi.org/10.1515/aot-2018-0015>

After several incredibly good years it is surprising to write again: What a year! Once again it was an excellent one for optics and photonics. Sales from fiber laser pioneer IPG topped even the optimistic expectations, Trumpf and Coherent also posted record revenues. Many of these results were driven by investments in semiconductor and consumer electronics industries. And so, lithography giant ASML announced recently, that their EUV sales crossed the 1 billion Euro mark. The same message came from Carl Zeiss, their semiconductor manufacturing business went from 972 million Euro in 2015/2016 to 1.2 billion in 2016/2017.

For our journal *Advanced Optical Technologies* (AOT) it was an exciting year, too. There were lots of excellent papers published, some are already collecting citations. Two examples of those are:

- ‘Light sources for high-volume manufacturing EUV lithography: technology, performance, and power scaling’ by Igor Fomenkov et al., and
- ‘Characterization and mitigation of 3D mask effects in extreme ultraviolet lithography’ by Andreas Erdmann et al.

These two papers stand for a number of excellent publications in advanced lithography, a core topic of AOT.

However, AOT covered much more throughout last year:

- Photonics in Security Systems/Guest Editors: Hans-Dieter Tholl, Heinz-Wilhelm Hübers
- Optical Nanostructuring/Guest Editors: Jan van Schoot, Helmut Schiff
- Optical Surfaces/Guest Editor: Angela Duparré
- Ptychography/Guest Editors: Andreas Erdmann, Guohai Situ

In 2017 we also saw a lot of recognition for AOT by the major indexing services. The journal was included in Elsevier's scopus and CiteScore as well as in Clarivate's Emerging Sources Citation Index. The Scopus' citesscore was at 0.99 for 2016, saying that roughly every paper in AOT has been cited once. Given that we publish a lot of industry authors with low citation activity and that a number of adjacent content such as editorials have been counted into the statistics this is very encouraging. As of 8th February 2018 the outlook for 2017 stands at 1.26, already. This gives hope for substantially growing visibility of AOT in the community.

2017 Reviewers in *Advanced Optical Technologies*

We can not say it often enough: All this is based on the great voluntary work of the authors and the reviewers. While the first can be judged upon by their articles, the latter work in the background. Careful peer review is a cornerstone of the scientific process. Most articles are substantially improved in the revision process based on the comments of the reviewers.

The recognition of our peer reviewers with a public acknowledgment has already become a tradition and we are very happy to continue this tradition right here. In the following you may find all reviewer names who did their careful job for AOT authors in 2017:

Istvan Balasa
Erik Beckert

Ulf Brauneck
Karl-Heinz Brenner
Martin Burkhart
Xinbin Cheng
Richard Ciesielski
Tobias Dyck
Jörg Eberhardt
Henrik Ehlers
Yasin Ekinci
Akira Endo
Andreas Erdmann
Claas Falldorf
Gregory Forbes
Emily Gallagher
Mario Gerlach
Des Gibson
Thomas Gischkat

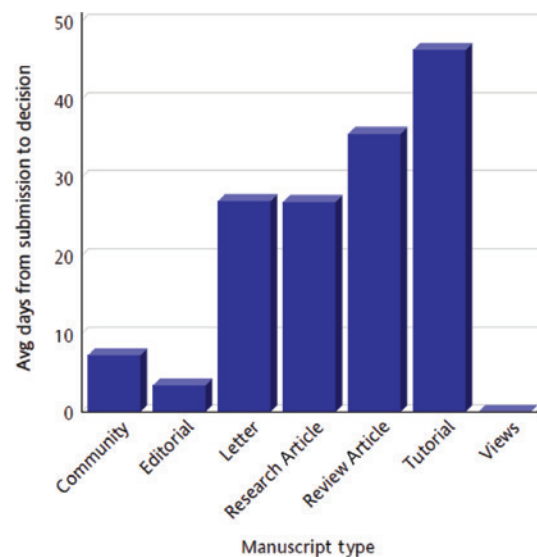
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 Akira Yabe
 Peng Yao
 Xingyu Zhang
 Guojing Zhang
 Leimeng Zhuang
 Chao Zuo

Thank you all for your voluntary service. Your contribution ensures the quality of this journal and gives the authors an essential support.



This graph shows the average time from submission to first decision for manuscripts submitted to AOT.

Some statistics

If we look at the journal statistics there is again some good news. The average processing time for a paper from submission to first decision in AOT was again about 30 days in AOT. This refers to peer reviewed articles only. Editorials, Views and Community articles have been excluded from

this calculation. Among the peer reviewed papers, letters (27 days) and research articles (27 days) were processed faster, review articles (36) and tutorials (46) a bit slower.

Of the total number of manuscripts submitted for peer review 68. 24 of them were rejected, that leads to a rejection rate of 35% (2016: 9%). The total number of submitted manuscripts was 86.

New board members and plans for 2018

First, we are pleased to welcome one new board member officially, who joined in 2017:

- **Jan van Schoot** – System Engineering and Research, ASML Netherlands BV

Koji Sugioka and HansTholl also joined in 2017, but they were already welcomed in last year's opening editorial. They all have already supported the journal as guest editors. We are looking forward to working with them on further improvement of the journal!

We would also like to turn your attention to the topics AOT will focus on in 2018. At the moment two further topical issues are in preparation:

- **Ultrafast Laser Matter Interaction**
Guest Editors: Thomas Graf (IFSW, Stuttgart University, Germany), Beat Neuenschwander (ALPS, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland)
- **Optical Materials**
Guest Editors: Younès Messaddeq, Tigran Galstian and Réal Vallée, (all from COPL, Université Laval, Québec, Canada)

On this point, it should be noted that our topical issues are open for submissions to their specific direction as well

as for other papers which will be published in a separate section in each issue. Furthermore, we have developed the format of VIEWS for papers, where people from the academic community as well as from industry can publish essential information that express their personal view on certain scientific topics. In such cases a peer review is not applicable. Typical examples for such valuable views are market reviews or interviews.

And so another year for AOT has started. Again, it is a challenge and a great pleasure to work with the optics community in industry and academia. As editors, we appreciate any feedback. You may contact us via email, through our website www.degruyter.com/aot or via social media (twitter: [photonics_news](https://twitter.com/photonics_news) or via LinkedIn). Or you can talk to us at conferences and trade shows – please do not hesitate to see us for a cup of coffee and some chat! We love new ideas, constructive criticism and discussions on further improvement. That coffee is on us...

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Thoss
Publisher
Michael Pfeffer
Editor-in-Chief



Andreas Thoss studied Physics and received his diploma and PhD degrees from the Free University Berlin in 1995 and 2003, respectively. For both degrees, he did research at the Max-Born-Institute Berlin on the field of ultra-short and ultra-intense laser pulses. From 1996 to 1999, he worked as a development engineer for medical laser systems with Aesculap-Meditec (now ZEISS Meditec) in Jena. In 2003 he joined the international publishing house John Wiley & Sons. There, he gathered comprehensive experience as a publisher, editor and commissioning editor in the areas of book, journal and online publishing. Among others, he co-founded the journals *Laser & Photonics Reviews* (2007) and the *Journal of Biophotonics* (2008). Since its foundation in 2010 he has managed THOSS Media, where he co-founded *Advanced Optical Technologies*.



Michael Pfeffer graduated in 1998 at the Institute of Applied Optics at EPFL (Switzerland), obtaining his PhD for a thesis in the field of Optical Nanotechnology. In 2002, after several years working in the Swiss optics industry, he was appointed Full Professor of Optics and Engineering in the Department of Physical Engineering of Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten, University of Applied Sciences (Germany). Dr. Pfeffer teaches and researches in the fields of optics, physical instrument design and nanotechnology. Currently, he serves as Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations. In 2005, the General Membership Meeting elected him to the Executive Board and CEO for the DGaO-Annual Meeting 2006. From 2008 to 2012 he served as President of the German Society of applied Optics (DGaO). In 2012 he was elected as Secretary of the Board of the European Optical Society (EOS). Dr. Pfeffer is member of the German Physical Society (DPG), the German Society of Engineers (VDI), and the Standards Committee Precision Engineering and Optics of the German Institute of Standardisation (DIN).