

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of changes to peer-review policy in *Superconductor Science and Technology*

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G Etherington, A W Phipps, J D Harrison et al.

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Tom Miller
Publisher

Over the past few months, there have been a number of significant changes to the editorial peer-review system for *Superconductor Science and Technology* (SUST) and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify them.

All regular papers submitted to the journal will now be reviewed by at least two independent anonymous referees. In the past, we have sought only one report before consulting with the Editor-in-Chief. This change is being introduced to bring SUST into line with the standard practices of IOP Publishing journals.

We have now also reviewed the procedure for handling rapid communications. Rapid communications are short papers describing work that can be considered as being a major breakthrough or having major significance within the field. As such these articles are fast-tracked through our production process post-acceptance. All authors of rapid communications must now submit a letter of justification with their article explaining why their manuscript requires urgent attention. In addition, rapid communications will now be pre-reviewed by our Rapid Communications and Reviews Editor, who will make an editorial judgement as to whether it should be considered as a rapid communication or as a regular paper. We will still seek two reports from independent referees for all rapid communications.

We believe that these new procedures will help us to increase the overall quality of what is already a recognized high-impact journal for the superconductivity community. We will be making further changes to the peer-review system over the coming months and I will write to you again when they are ready to be implemented.

If you have any suggestions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at sust@iop.org.