SPECIAL ISSUE ULTRASONICS

Foreword

The Editorial Committee of the *Revue de Physique Appliquée*, in choosing « Ultrasonics » as the theme for a special issue, wanted to underline the importance of scientific and industrial developments in this field ; one example, amongst others, is witness to this great progress : in 1985 the ever-increasing world turnover of ultrasonic medical imagery bypassed half of classical radiography's impressive figure.

Another equally important reason inspired this choice : the spectacular results obtained in the field of ultrasonics illustrate very clearly the close links which exist between fundamental knowledge and applied research ; the cross fertilisation between these two approaches becomes clear throughout this volume.

It is impossible to cover the many diverse applications of ultrasonics in one special issue. A selection is therefore proposed which we hope is representative of the work carried out in specialized laboratories ; approximately half of the articles come from French laboratories as research in this field is particularly active throughout France. In addition, eminent foreign colleagues greeted with enthusiasm the offer to publish their latest results in this special issue.

Throughout I have been very efficiently helped by Professor E. DIEULESAINT whom I now take this opportunity to thank.

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