

EDITOR'S NOTE

SPring-8 Research Frontiers 2008 covers advances achieved during two consecutive research periods, the second half of 2007 and the first half of 2008. SPring-8 Research Frontiers describes the remarkable scientific achievements obtained at the SPring-8 in various fields of basic and applied science including industrial applications, as well as the development of accelerators, beamlines and experimental apparatus and the present status of the SPring-8 facility. The progress of the XFEL project at SPring-8 toward completion in FY 2010 is also reported. In addition, activities using the NewSUBARU, which forms an integral part of the research complex at the SPring-8 campus, are introduced.

Five new beamlines are currently in operation or under construction, two of which use long straight sections. We are expecting that many excellent results will be produced owing to the characteristics of these beamlines.

This is the eleventh issue of SPring-8 Research Frontiers. Since we make it a practice to change the cover design every five years, the cover design has been changed for this issue. The coming five years will mark a mature phase in the development of the SPring-8.

Copies of SPring-8 Research Frontiers will be sent on request. Its full text is also available on the SPring-8 website (<http://www.spring8.or.jp/>). For the list of publications produced by the SPring-8 users and staff, please visit the publications database at <https://user.spring8.or.jp/en/pubsch>.

We extend our appreciation to the many specialists who have recommended excellent research results suitable for publication in SPring-8 Research Frontiers. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the users and staff of the SPring-8 for contributing their reports to this issue.

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