

Editorial

You are looking at the first issue of the ‘new’ **Astronomy & Astrophysics**. New in several aspects: most visibly, the cover style has been changed after some 30 years, with each issue carrying a figure from one of the papers included. The lay-out of papers has been modified. New, in that the *Supplement Series* is terminated and merged within the *Main Journal* – see the Editorial in A&A 360, E1. This implies a growth of pages of the *Main Journal*, which from now on will be published four times a month. And we have a new publisher, EDP Sciences, who has previously published the *Supplement Series*.

While we hope that the readers and authors of **Astronomy & Astrophysics** will like the changes applied, these changes should have little effect on practical matters; in particular, the editorial policy of the journal is unchanged. Even though the lay-out is modified, LaTeX articles prepared with the previous style files can be processed with the new style files, to be found at `ftp://ftp.edpsciences.org/pub/aa/`, with only one modification: from now on we do not ask authors to provide Thesaurus code numbers, but merely to select keywords from the list published every year.

We have viewed this first issue of the ‘new’ journal as an ideal frame to publish the *First Results from XMM-Newton* as a Special Letters Issue. One year after the launch of the observatory, this series of 56 publications describes the spacecraft and the instruments onboard, and provides a first look at their exciting scientific capabilities. In order to produce these articles in time, all parties involved have worked under extreme time pressure. We thank the authors and referees for meeting such stringent deadlines and for their cooperative attitude, without which this endeavour would not have been possible on the suggested time-scale. The Letter Editor expresses his special thanks to Mrs. Gabriele Kratschmann for her particular dedication, working many hours overtime to get that many Letters processed within 6 weeks, and to the XMM-Newton Project Scientist Dr. Fred A. Jansen (ESA) whose help in communication with the large number of authors is very much appreciated.

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