

FOREWORD

The aim of the special volume is to put together a collection of high quality papers which deal with important contemporary topics in composites. Further, it is hoped that this volume will stimulate interest for potential authors to submit research papers which are oriented towards the various defence or commercial industries. It is possible that some of the authors in the specialized field may not normally submit papers to this journal; however, as a result of this special issue, they may be attracted to submit papers to the regular issues of this journal.

In recognition of the importance of composites technology in the rotorcraft industries and/or smart structures, the U.S. Army Research Office (ARO) has funded considerable research in this area in recent years. One can confidently predict that this area of research will continue to grow significantly in the coming years. It has many spin-off benefits to the automotive, aircraft or other industries. Most of the papers in the special issue were funded by the ARO, and these papers are by no means exhaustive.

This special issue will be displayed at various composites or related conferences, and advertised in relevant Pergamon journals. Extra copies have been printed and these can be ordered as regular back issues from the U.K. or U.S.A. Pergamon Press offices. We would like to thank the authors and reviewers for their valuable scientific contributions and the staff of Pergamon Press for their efforts in reducing the time from submission to publication.

GARY ANDERSON
U.S. Army Research Office
DAVID HUI
University of New Orleans
March 1992