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Editorial

Conference Comments by the Editors

THE Symposium on Radiation Measurements and Applications (SORMA) convened for the third time on the West Coast, May 22–26, 2016, at the Clark Kerr Campus of the University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA. With radiation detectors increasing in number, variety, and societal importance, we are alternating between SORMA (in Ann Arbor, MI, USA) and SORMA West so that the forum will be available every two years.

For two reasons, the SORMA West 2016 Organizing Committee chose to focus the topical areas of the symposium to National and Homeland Security. First, over the last 10 years, there have been significant investments made in this area, particularly in the USA by the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development, and Defense Threat Reductions Agency, which have dramatically advanced capabilities. While many of these advances had been presented in conferences and/or published in journals, the full context and progress was still not fully understood by the community. Second, while the Clark Kerr Campus venue returned SORMA West to a university setting, consistent with late Glenn F. Knoll's vision for the symposium, it was not large enough to host the 500–600 attendees typical of a more open SORMA topic list.

The technical program of SORMA West 2016 included 232 scientific presentations, including 69 contributed and 18 invited oral presentations, as well as 145 presentations in poster sessions. SORMA West 2016 was attended by 417 registered participants. Subtopics of interest within the National and Homeland Security topical area included Passive Detection in Wide-Area Search and Cluttered Environments; Radiography and Active Interrogation for Shielded SNM Detection; Ubiquitous Detection: Large Arrays of Low-Cost, Passive Detectors; Advanced Capabilities Enabled by Gamma-Ray and Neutron Imagers; and other Enabling Technologies.

This was the second consecutive time that SORMA West was sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), specifically by the Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society of IEEE. The sponsorship has been important for visibility of SORMA West. This special issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE comprises fully reviewed selected papers from SORMA West 2016, containing 37 papers on the research presentations.

The Chairs of the SORMA West 2016 conference would like to acknowledge support from the U.S. DOE NNSA DNN R&D Office, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the University of California, Berkeley. We acknowledge our exhibitors and patrons: AcroRad, CAEN Technologies,

Eljen Technology, EMD Performance Materials, General Electric, H3D, Hamamatsu, Hellma Materials, Hilger Crystals, Kromek, MBT, Naval Research Laboratory, ORTEC, Proportional Technologies, Scintacor, Scionix, Sigma Aldrich SAFC, Silverside Detectors, Spectral Labs, Springer, Starfire Industries, Struck Innovative Systeme, Symmetrica, WIENER Power Electronics, and XIA. We thank the members of the local organizing committee—Joe Chew, Harry Ma, Marcos Turqueti, Dina O'Rourke, Tom Gallant, Bill Moses, and Rob Johnson for doing all the work that actually made this conference happen.

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