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Challenging glass

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Challenging glass

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While we are currently half-way through the UN International Year of Glass, we are pleased to report that our journal *Glass Structures & Engineering* has reached a few notable milestones of its own. First, since the kick-off issue back in 2016, over 150 double blind peer reviewed articles have been published, with about one third of them fully Open Access. Second, the median lead time between initial submission and the first decision on a new manuscript has dropped to only 50 days, meaning that we now have established a relatively quick route for authors to get their high-quality work on track for publication. And third, selected publications

have received additional visibility through the journal's webinars known as "Glassinars".

So what is challenging in this issue? The first set of papers presents latest findings which are related to materials and testing. Topics include evaluation methods for surface compression stress measurements with unknown principle stress directions; effects of composition on the durability and weathering of flat glass; determination of the linear viscoelastic material behaviour of interlayers with semi-crystalline structures; clamp bending as a new testing method for thin glass; and an application of a shape memory alloy for post-tensioning glass elements.

Furthermore, the second set of papers has a focus on innovative technologies. The latter include integrated connections for glass-plastic connection panels and their behaviour at elevated temperatures; 3D printed sand molds for custom glass parts; hot-shaped perforated glass panels for acoustic performance; and topologically optimised cast glass.

Finally, the third set of papers presents several case studies and projects. For instance, basic rules for adhesive solutions in cast glass assemblies are proposed based on built case studies; a funicular glass bridge prototype is discussed, and two challenging projects are presented: the structural glass of the Jardin d'hiver in Paris, and the new slumped glass façade at Tiffany's flagship store in New York city.

Enjoy reading!

Editors-in-Chief.

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