

New Journal of Physics

The open-access journal for physics

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Dear Professor Borg

New Journal of Physics

On behalf of the Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft (DPG) we would like to thank the Norwegian Physical Society for endorsing *New Journal of Physics* (NJP) as an Associate Member of the journal. We are writing now to ask for your continued support for the journal and its open-access ethos.

As you will know, the prime objective for NJP is to serve the entire physics community by providing free access to peer-reviewed research of the highest quality. Towards this end the journal has made significant progress and is now positioned at the vanguard of the open-access publishing movement within the physical sciences. More and more researchers are both publishing in and reading the journal – NJP has more than doubled in size over the last three years, and nearly 30,000 articles are now downloaded each month – and the journal's international standing has been further underlined this year by its latest official Impact Factor of 3.095 (9th highest in the formally recognised category of "physics, multidisciplinary" journals).

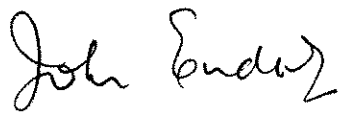
Despite this undoubted editorial progress, the question still remains as to whether NJP's open-access model will become commercially sustainable. Although financial performance is improving, the journal is still yet to cover its costs and, despite the increased recognition of NJP within the global physics community, there is still an inability/reluctance for some authors to pay the article publication charge. Over the years the journal has therefore been heavily subsidised by the IOP and DPG as co-owners. In response to this situation we have felt compelled to review the discounts that are currently available to the NJP article publication charge.

As you will know, as part of our current arrangement individual members of your institute enjoy a discount to the full NJP article publication charge. At present this amounts to a reduced publication fee of £450 per article (compared with the full charge of £500 – subject to change in 2006). We are keen to continue offering a discount to your members; however as some return we would like to ask that the Norwegian Physical Society increases their commitment to NJP and its publishing model. Ideally this would involve a financial contribution towards the publication costs for articles published in NJP by your members. Alternatively it might take the form of a specific obligation by your institute to actively promote NJP to its members via, for example, regular correspondence and conferences/meetings that you organise throughout the year. Unfortunately, in the absence of such a commitment, we do not feel that we will be able to continue to offer a discount to your individual members.

Thank you again for your association with NJP. We hope that you will feel able to endorse the journal as described and would be pleased to discuss possible ways in which you can actively support NJP and your individual members.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir John Enderby
President
Institute of Physics



Professor Knut Urban
President
Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft