

SPring-8 Research Frontiers describes the remarkable scientific achievements made at all beamlines: public, contract, JAERI /RIKEN, R&D and accelerator diagnosis beamlines. Developments in the accelerators and beamlines themselves are also discussed. The first volume covered a period of about one year since the opening of SPring-8 research facility. This, the second volume covers the research period from the second half of 1998 to the first half of 1999. Many of the newly-opened beamlines had been undergoing preliminary testing and optimization at the time of the first publication. Since that time, most of the preparatory works have been completed and full-time experiments have begun, resulting in a significantly greater number of research descriptions in this second volume.

We have classified synchrotron radiation research into the following five fields and invited five specialists from the Proposal Review Committee to be Editing Coordinators of their respective research fields:

Life Science: Professor Isao Tanaka (Hokkaido University)

Diffraction and Scattering: Professor Makoto Sakata (Nagoya University)

XAFS: Professor Masaharu Nomura (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization)

Spectroscopy: Professor Atsushi Fujimori (the University of Tokyo)

Instrumentation and Techniques: Professor Tsuneaki Miyahara (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Since **SPring-8 Research Frontiers** is not a scientific journal, the authors are limited in number and will be serve as contact persons.

We express our sincere thanks to these Editing Coordinators for their efforts in preparing the introductory overviews and making comments on each research field. We also express our thanks to the users and facility staff members of SPring-8 for contributing their reports.

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