

AIP Helps ASTM International Cut Production Time in Half

THE CHALLENGE

To update and streamline the peer review and production process while improving the level of communication with authors.

THE SOLUTION

Outsource all peer review and production for non-standards publications to AIP using AIP's Peer X-Press and XML-based production services.

Best known for its development and rapid dissemination of some 12,000 high-quality voluntary consensus standards, ASTM International also publishes journals, conference proceedings, and books. Managers at ASTM International could not justify the cost and internal development resources to invest in the same quality SGML-based in-house production process that it uses for standards for its technical papers area.

ASTM International, therefore, outsourced the management of the peer review process, editing, composition, and production of the program to AIP Publishing Services. Bob Dreyfuss, ASTM International's Assistant Vice President for Publishing Services, comments, "AIP helped us achieve economies of scale that we couldn't realize on our own. At the end of the day, our decision came down to economics and getting the most experienced people to do the work. AIP's expertise, depth, and ability to completely undertake the peer review process were the deciding factors."

THE RESULTS

- Time from submission through publication decreased by more than half
- Publication backlogs eliminated
- Better control over page layout
- Increased author satisfaction
- High-quality publications at a reasonable cost



"AIP provides the same high level of service to ASTM's technical paper authors, reviewers, and readers that the Society is known for in the international standards community. AIP has the expertise to maintain state-of-the-art systems, the economies of scale to make them affordable, and the staff to provide the quality that our members and customers expect."

— **Bob Dreyfuss**
Assistant Vice President
of Publishing Services
ASTM International

THE CHALLENGE

For standards, ASTM International's highly trained staff expertly manages an SGML-based workflow and in-house composition system. On the other hand, for the smaller technical papers operation of several journals and 10 to 15 conference proceedings per year, the staff struggled to keep up with changes in technology and competed with other areas for information technology (IT) resources.

The peer review process was managed internally with a proprietary tracking system written in Microsoft Access, with no author or editor interface. The program needed substantial updates.

ASTM International outsourced some production work for the technical papers to an off-shore vendor and maintained

internal staff to handle the editing and to oversee the vendor. In addition, staff composed the web-only journal, *The Journal of ASTM International*, with Microsoft Word, which did not give them sufficient control over page layout.

Management conducted a year-long review of peer review systems and explored bringing the composition and production in house using a system similar to their standards process, but they found that the size of the operation could not justify the expense.

ASTM International sought a partner to whom they could outsource the entire production operation of these publications, from peer review through copyediting, composition, and production.

THE SOLUTION

"AIP is our one-stop shop for production," notes Dreyfuss. ASTM International has one staff person, with administrative assistance, that coordinates the entire operation, while AIP is totally responsible for administering the day-to-day workflow.

Within four months of making the decision, AIP assumed responsibility for peer review administration, editing, and composition. An AIP project manager worked closely with ASTM International staff to cut over to the new system by the deadline.

AIP used ASTM's existing tracking system during the transition and promptly migrated the manuscripts in the pipeline to AIP's Peer X-Press web submission and review system. In the process, they were able to eliminate the backlog of manuscripts.

"AIP now tracks the authors and reviewers and all of the paperwork. The difference is that AIP staff and the Peer X-Press system have efficient follow-up routines in place," says Kathy Dernoga, ASTM International's Managing Editor for Books and Journals. "The process is more automated. In the past our staff felt they had to be very careful when dunning authors, reviewers, or editors (all of whom are volunteers) for overdue material, so deadlines often weren't enforced. Now, our contributors are more responsive and cooperative than ever."

AIP handles all manuscript trafficking, generates reports, and answers ad hoc questions. Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, AIP completes all the steps in the production process, using its end-to-end XML workflow, including:

- Copyediting to ASTM International style
- Composition
- Proofreading
- Sending files to the printer
- Sending files to aggregators
- Making CrossRef deposits
- Submitting files and metadata for the ASTM International Web site and the Scitation® online publishing platform.

"We are very pleased with the timing and the method of production," comments Dernoga. "What I really like about the production system is that the authors see both a final laid-out PDF and an edited copy of the manuscript." Authors can easily find what has been changed and they only see one set of proofs, which means the author spends less time with the paper and the process is shorter.

As soon as they are finalized, articles appear both as First Look Papers, using Scitation's e-First publishing process and also on ASTM's own web site. Later, the AIP staff creates the issue for print.

AIP also produces ASTM International's conference proceedings and manuals. After papers associated with a meeting or symposium are officially published in ASTM International journals, AIP collects them and produces a book, which is highly valued by conference attendees.

Dernoga says, "The AIP staff has been fabulous. I could not be happier. If AIP has a better way to do something, we are very eager to hear it, and they are very responsive to any needs we have."

Adds Dreyfuss, "The experience of migrating our publications operation to AIP certainly met our high expectations."

**To learn more about
ASTM International, visit
<http://www.astm.org>.**

THE RESULTS

Elapsed Time from Submission through Publication Decreased by more than Half – from 14 Months to 6 Months

Peer X-Press and AIP staff have made the submission and review process more efficient and eliminated publication backlogs. The published papers are thus more current. As soon as papers are ready they are available online as First Look Papers.

Better Control over Page Layout

Papers are now typeset and composed by experts using dedicated composition software, resulting in professionally laid out publication pages and decreased production time.

Increased Author Satisfaction

Authors can now submit manuscripts online, manage their revisions, and check on the status of their papers. They spend less time reviewing proofs, and are able to preview the final layout of their work.

High Quality Publications at Reasonable Costs

ASTM’s operational costs decreased, and the costs and technical resources required for maintaining or redeveloping dated software were completely eliminated.

SERVICES USED

Peer X-Press Online Manuscript Submission and Peer-Review System

Production Services

Composition

Books and Special Publications

E-First Publishing

Stage	Start Date	Triggered By / Affected Person * = done via Change User
Manuscript Sent to Production	2006-05-24 15:31:30	Amy North*
Manuscript Ready for Publication	2006-05-24 10:07:46	Amy North
Decision Sent to Author	2006-05-24 10:07:45	Amy North
Waiting to Send Decision to Author	2006-05-23 19:33:47	Leslie Struble
Manuscript Accepted	2006-05-23 19:33:46	Leslie Struble
Associate Editor Decision Complete	2006-05-23 19:33:46	Leslie Struble
Associate Editor Decision Started	2006-05-11 17:08:05	Bouzid Choubane
Editorial Board Member Review Completed	2006-05-11 17:08:05	Bouzid Choubane
Editorial Board Member Review Started	2006-04-28 15:52:49	
Review Complete	2006-04-28 15:52:49	
Review Received	2006-04-28 15:52:40	
Review Received	2006-03-30 13:40:29	
All Reviewers Assigned	2006-03-30 08:31:26	
Review Started	2006-03-30 08:31:25	
First Reviewer Accepted	2006-03-30 08:31:25	
Potential Reviewers Accept	2006-03-30 08:31:25	
Review Started	2006-03-28 17:11:58	
Potential Reviewers Accept	2006-03-28 17:11:57	
Contacting Potential Reviewers	2006-03-28 15:44:57	Amy North /
Contacting Potential Reviewers	2006-03-28 15:44:38	Amy North /
Potential Reviewers Assigned	2006-03-28 11:54:51	Bouzid Choubane
Waiting for Potential Reviewer Assignment	2006-03-24 09:04:33	Amy North
Editorial Board Member Assigned	2006-03-24 09:04:33	Amy North
Potential Editorial Board Member Accept	2006-03-24 09:04:32	Amy North
Potential Editorial Board Member Assigned	2006-03-24 09:03:53	Amy North
Initial QC Complete	2006-03-24 09:03:39	Amy North

Detailed Status Information	
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Current Revision #	1
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Running Title	Development of Pavement Smoothness Index Relationship
Manuscript Type	Paper
Symposium/Workshop	(E17) Pavement Surface Condition Performance Assessment
Category	(E17) Pavement Surface Condition
Author	Prof. Jian Shih Chen (National Cheng Kung University)
Author	Mr. Chien-Chung Hsu
Member	Dr. Bouzid Choubane
Member	Prof. Struble
Member	Dr. #1 (Revd: 2006-03-30), Mr. #2 (Revd: 2006-04-28)
Author Notification	Yes
Assignment	No
Assignment	Accept, no revision / 2006-05-24 Previous Decision

- ▲ AIP manages all aspects of production for *Geotechnical Testing Journal* and other ASTM International peer reviewed journals, from submission to publication in print and online.
- ◀ AIP’s Peer X-Press manuscript tracking system allows editors and staff to track detailed status information about submitted manuscripts.

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