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## Dear Reader,

we are all experiencing the pressure to continuously improve the quality and efficiency of our work or products. ISO 9000, and other standards have become buzz words in industry. For Bruker, full certification was a natural *must*, right from the start. In Karlsruhe we completed our auditing for ISO 9001-2000 last year, and we will continue to make all efforts necessary to maintain the standards of our internal processes at the highest possible level.

Of course, from our point of view, *quality improvement* has always gone far beyond the largely organizational and clerical aspects of ISO. The real challenge is to achieve continuing improvement in performance, applicability, ease-of-use, and reliability of our various instrument lines, and to increase customer support and accessibility of our services.

Therefore, against the current trend in our industry, we are continuing to establish new Bruker offices worldwide. We are pleased to inform you about new openings or extensions of our offices in Mexico, South Africa, Austria, and, soon, in Poland. We recommend your nearest “local” Bruker office for direct contacts and requests for information concerning the complete palette of products offered by any of the Bruker companies. Of course, we also encourage you to maintain contacts that you may have established with any of the Bruker “home” offices or production facilities, either for professional or personal reasons.

Instrument development at Bruker is progressing as strongly as ever. For NMR we introduced at this year’s ENC the first actively shielded 900 MHz magnet, the shielded 700 MHz wide-bore magnet, and UltraShield<sup>PLUS</sup> wide-bore magnets for 400, 500, 600 and 700 MHz systems. Furthermore, automatic tuning for CryoProbes, TopSpin software for instrument control, the Proteomics RIMS, and several new software options were announced. In the field of EPR there are a number of new hardware options and software modules available, such as the W-band power upgrade and pulsed ELDOR techniques. New applications for food production control via EPR or time-domain NMR have also been developed. For MRI a new, compact 9.4-T UltraShield Refrigerated (USR) magnet for high-field applications is now available. All of these developments are convincing proof of the continuing success of our efforts.

Some of these product-oriented topics are covered in this issue of the *SpinReport*, along with articles shedding light on various interesting and important MR applications. In particular, I wish to thank the “non-Bruker” authors for their contributions in making this issue valuable and informative reading. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have ideas, wishes, or contributions for future issues of our *SpinReport*.

Wishing you a pleasant and successful Spring and Summer, sincerely,



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