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A Year of Sound Progress

Check for updates

In February 2025, we proudly launched *npj Acoustics*, bringing the discipline of acoustics into the Nature Portfolio series. Its addition marked an important milestone, as the Portfolio had long felt incomplete without a journal dedicated to a field so essential to modern society. Acoustics underpins many aspects of our daily lives, from healthcare, construction and defense to human and animal communication, environmental understanding and the sustainable use of natural resources. Within the Nature Portfolio *npj Acoustics* is now uniquely positioned to champion this vibrant field while also fostering collaboration with other Nature Portfolio journals on topics that contribute to acoustics or are enabled by acoustics research.

Over the past year our Associate Editors have done an outstanding job in raising the profile of the journal across the global acoustics community. We have also assembled a diverse Editorial Board of 23 members whose expertise spans a wide range of acoustics-related disciplines and geographical regions. Their support has been instrumental in promoting the journal worldwide and in upholding the rigorous editorial standards that define *npj Acoustics*.

This strong foundation has already translated into encouraging momentum. As of 1st April 2026, the journal has attracted 129 manuscript submissions covering topics across the breadth of acoustics, from hearing loss in humans¹ to Arctic soundscapes and their impact on marine life². The latter paper, in particular, captured significant public and media attention, including coverage in a BBC special report³. To date, the journal has published 34 research articles, 8 reviews and 2 perspectives.

We are also delighted that the journal has launched 7 article *Collections*, which have made an important contribution to both the breadth and visibility of the content we publish. These

Collections showcase world-class research on topics of broad relevance and international interest. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Editors in targeting both established researchers and rising stars working in areas of high novelty and significance, the journal has attracted strong submissions. We are especially grateful to our Guest Editors for their excellent work in shaping these *Collections* and bringing high-quality manuscripts to the journal.

As a fully open access journal, *npj Acoustics* is helping to bring high-quality acoustics research to a truly global audience. Since launch, the journal's papers have attracted 105 citations and 151,412 combined downloads, demonstrating not only strong early engagement with the content we publish, but also the growing visibility, reach and influence of the journal across the field.

Looking ahead, the Editorial Team will continue to build on this momentum by attracting high-quality papers that present bold ideas and significant advances across the field of acoustics. Our ambition is for the journal to achieve an impact factor between 5–10 within the next 3–5 years. Key areas of focus will continue to include the generation, propagation, sensing, manipulation and perception of sound, as well as the analysis of related acoustic phenomena.

As part of the *npj series*, the journal's editorial direction will continue to be shaped by active members of the research community. We remain committed to encouraging the involvement of early and mid-career researchers through publishing, editorial contributions and peer review. At the same time, we will continue to uphold the rigorous editorial standards that the community expects, with an average turnaround time of 18 days to first decision.

We warmly encourage the acoustics community to continue supporting *npj Acoustics* by submitting their best work, accepting invitations to review and helping to share and

champion the journal among colleagues and collaborators. We are excited by what has been achieved in this first year and even more excited about what lies ahead.

We look forward to hearing from the community and to seeing where the next wave of acoustics research will resonate.

Kirill V. Horoshenkov ✉

Editor-in-Chief of *npj Acoustics*, School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.

✉ e-mail: k.horoshenkov@sheffield.ac.uk

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