

THE LEADING EDGE EDITORIAL BOARD 2024–2025 REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Leading Edge (TLE) continues to serve as SEG's principal fast-turnaround publication for broad-interest, peer-reviewed technical content and Society news. Special sections organized around monthly themes (see Table 1) continue to balance emergent trends with advances in traditional exploration geoscience topics.

In 2025, journal staff and volunteers navigated a major transition, migrating from Clarivate's ScholarOne manuscript submission and peer review management system to Exeter Premedia Services' Kriyadocs system. In addition to handling submissions and peer review, Kriyadocs now manages issue production—a task previously performed in-house by SEG staff. The system migration required significant coordination but positions *TLE* for enhanced operational efficiency going forward.

TLE submissions reached a six-year high, with 134 manuscripts received between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025, demonstrating continued strong engagement from the global geoscience community. Editorial Board membership during this time reflected diversity across industry, academia, and U.S. national laboratories, though opportunities remain to improve alignment with academic, gender, and geographic distributions within the Society. These efforts will further strengthen *TLE*'s position as a leading global publication in exploration geoscience. The journal maintains its commitment to rapid peer review, and its content remains among the most accessed in the SEG Library.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

System Transition

During the reporting period, SEG migrated its journals, including *TLE*, from the ScholarOne manuscript submission and peer review system to Exeter Premedia Services' Kriyadocs platform. This transition required coordinated efforts among Editorial Board members, staff, and authors to ensure operational continuity while implementing the new system. In addition to manuscript management, *TLE* will now use Kriyadocs for issue production—a process previously handled internally by SEG staff.

Journal Data

TLE continues to lead the SEG publications portfolio in providing rapid peer review and efficient time to publication, representing a key element of its value proposition for contributing authors. Between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025, *TLE* received 142 manuscript submissions—the highest number since the 2018–2019 reporting period—reflecting sustained interest from the research community.

The journal’s content remains among the most accessed in the SEG Library, underscoring its relevance to SEG members and the broader geoscience community. Authorship demographics remain globally diverse, with strong representation from contributors outside the United States, demonstrating *TLE*’s reach across SEG’s international constituency.

Best Paper

The 2024 Best Paper in *The Leading Edge* award, selected by vote of the *TLE* Editorial Board, was presented to:

“Diverse applications of DAS and their added values: A case study from Minami-Aga pilot CCUS project, onshore Japan”

by S. Nakayama, Y. Yamada, K. Fujita, T. Mouri, P. Bettinelli, J. Le Calvez, Y. Maehara, T. Mizuno, P. Armstrong, O. Podgornova, R. Bidyck, M. I. Rahmat, and D. Hill.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to three exceptional papers:

- **“Integration of FWI-derived reflectivity in seismic interpretation”** by Dhananjay Kumar and Raihaan Ali.
- **“On-demand high-resolution areal scouting via unmanned aerial vehicles enables sustainable near-surface geoscience data acquisition”** by Ahmad Ihsan Ramdani, Pavel Golikov, Khaled Alsoqair, Valerii Serpiva, and Ezzedeem Alfataierge.
- **“Novel approaches to uncertainty estimation in seismic subsurface characterization”** by Matt Walker, Alistair Crosby, Angus Lomas, Eric Kazlauskas, Reetam Biswas, Pedro Paramo, Kevin Wolf, and Madhav Vyas.

Journal Metrics

TLE continues to demonstrate strong impact within the geoscience research community, as reflected in multiple bibliometric indicators. The journal’s CiteScore of 3.1 (based on citations from 2021–2024; Elsevier, 2025) indicates robust engagement with published content. Its SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) of 0.368 and Source Normalized Impact per Publication (SNIP) of 0.82 reflect *TLE*’s influence relative to comparable journals, accounting for variations in citation practices across disciplines.

The Impact per Publication (IPP) of 1.27 demonstrates that *TLE* articles are cited at a rate exceeding one citation per paper. Google Scholar metrics further highlight the journal’s reach, with an h5-index of 25 and h5-median of 36 (2020–2024), underscoring *TLE*’s role in disseminating highly cited research that advances exploration geophysics and related disciplines.

Table 1. *TLE* technical paper submissions by issue, 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Issue	Special section	Special section papers	Standalone technical papers
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September 2024	The Eastern Mediterranean	5	1
October 2024	Geophysical methods in archaeology	4	1
November 2024	Fiber optics	6	2
December 2024	Reservoir characterization	9	0
January 2025	General submissions	6	2
February 2025	Generative and physics-informed AI	7	0
March 2025	Near-surface geophysics in the energy transition	5	2
April 2025	Geophysical applications to geothermal exploration and development	3	4
May 2025	Elastic full-waveform inversion	16	0
June 2025	Rock physics: Honoring Amos Nur's legacy	8	0
July 2025	4D full-waveform inversion	5	1
August 2025	Urban and infrastructure geophysics	3	4
Total		77	17