

Preface

European R&D on advanced as well as traditional ceramics and glasses is becoming increasingly dynamic and innovative. Thousands of fascinating ideas, results and materials are coming from laboratories across the continent. At the same time, European laboratories are enthusiastically forging links with each other and with partners around the world. Interaction is becoming a key word in European science.

The conferences of the European Ceramic Society are traditional forums for researchers, not only from Europe, but also from other parts of the world. The conferences are focused on attracting contributions on all aspects of ceramic and glass investigations as well as inorganic nanomaterials and characterisation methods. Their aim is to provide timely, authoritative discussions on new achievements, developments and on-going research in already established, as well as emerging, fields.

After Istanbul in June 2003, the IX Conference and Exhibition of the European Ceramic Society was held from June 19 to June 23, 2005 in Slovenia. The Conference took place in the Bernardin Hotel, located between the historical city of Piran and the well-known tourist resort of Portorož.

The Conference was organized as follows:

- Plenary Session
- Eight parallel oral symposia:
 - A: Basic Science
 - B: Processing
 - C: Analytical Methods
 - D: Inorganic Nanomaterials
 - E: Materials in Electromagnetic Fields
 - F: Structural Ceramics
 - G: Bio Ceramics
 - H: Traditional Ceramics
- Poster Session
- Student Lecture Competition
- Special COST 525 Session (Electronic Ceramics—Grain Boundary Engineering)
- Announcement of the winners of the International ECERS Award and the Stujits Award

A Student Lecture and Poster Competition was organized by Prof. Serdar Özgen from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, and Prof. Stane Pejovnik from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and representatives from 14 countries delivered oral

presentations covering various fields of materials science. The winner of the Student Lecture Competition was Sylvain Deville, GEMPPM, Villeurbanne, France. The winning poster, which was selected on the basis of the poster's technical content and the quality of the presentation, was presented by Špela Kunej, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Three exceptional Plenary Lectures were presented during the second day of the Conference:

- Norbert Kroó, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary: "ERA, EP7, ERC and Central Europe"
- Tanja Pak, University of Ljubljana, Academy of Fine Arts, Slovenia: "Searching for the Infinite in the Finite—Artist's Approach to design with Glass"
- Sylvain Deville, GEMPPM, Villeurbanne, France: "Reinforcement and degradation mechanisms in biomedical grade zirconia-containing ceramics: macroscopic to nanoscopic analysis. Contribution of atomic force microscopy"

The participants were from 43 countries and from all 5 continents. In total there were more than 700 attendees. In addition, 17 industrial exhibitors and 5 art exhibitors attended the conference. During the conference, 16 Key Note and 69 Invited Lectures were presented, and there were 411 oral and 488 poster contributions: a total of 984. After a rigorous reviewing procedure, 266 papers were accepted for publication in a special issue of the Journal of the European Ceramic Society.

During the conference a new President of ECERS was inaugurated. After 4 years of the presidency of Dr. Gian Nicola Babini, Prof. Derek Thompson was inaugurated as new President of ECERS.

Along with the scientific part of the conference several meetings were held, among them a meeting of the Council of ECERS, a meeting of the Educational Committee, and a meeting of the Scientific Committee.

The question of how to reinforce the cooperation between ECERS and the American Ceramic Society was the subject of several meetings attended by leaders of ECERS and a delegation from ACERS, which included Dr. Kathryn Logan, Dr. Stephen Freiman, Dr. Garry Messing, Dr. L. David Pay and Mr. Glenn Harvey.

A very special moment at each European Ceramic Society Conference is the announcement of the winners of the

International ECERS Award and the Stujits Award. The winners in Portorož were:

- Dr. Yukio Sakabe from MURATA Mfg. Co. Ltd., Kyoto, Japan (International ECERS Award) for his continuous scientific contributions to a better understanding of electronic ceramics,
- Prof. Hasan Mandal from Anadolu University, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Eskişehir, Turkey, for excellent scientific results achieved during investigations of non-oxide structural ceramics.

After the celebration of the award winners President D. Thompson announced the decision about the next organizer of the X ECERS Conference. It will be organized by the German Ceramic Society, in Berlin, 2007.

It would be impossible to organize such an event without the participation of numerous enthusiastic colleagues. Special recognition goes to the organizers of all the symposia, who unselfishly spent several months in organizing each symposium. And after the conference they continued their work by reviewing the contributions to be published in this special issue of the Journal of the European Ceramic Society. The organizers would like to thank all plenary and invited speakers, oral and poster contributors and the session chairs, who made the conference such a success.

We are indebted to the International Advisory and Technical Committee for their advice and assistance in the organization of the conference.

Special thanks go to the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, for their overall support of the conference.

We also appreciate all the technical support in organising the conference, which was given by Auditorium Portorož and Hotel St. Bernardin. They made our stay in Portorož both successful and pleasant.

Finally, we are most grateful to all our colleagues and students from the Jožef Stefan Institute for their contribution to the overall success of the conference.

IX European Ceramic Society Exhibition and Conference Committees:

a) Organizing Committee:

Conference Chairman:	Danilo SUVOROV
Conference Vice-Chairman:	Matjaž VALANT

b) International Advisory Committee:

D. Suvorov (Slovenia), Chairman

F.J. Cambier, O. van der Biest, P.H. Duvigneaud (Belgium)
 J. Kutzendörfer (Czech Republic)
 E. Ringgaard (Denmark)
 H. Ljungqvist (Finland)
 J.F. Baumard, G. Fantozzi (France)
 S. Kovziridze (Georgia)
 M. Blumenberg, J. Heinrich (Germany)
 C.J. Stournaras, C. Kalliantas (Greece)
 J. Szepvolgyi, I. Kotsis (Hungary)
 G.N. Babini (ECERS President), P. Zannini (Italy)
 L. Berzina (Latvia)

R. Metselaar, A.J.A. Winnubst (The Netherlands)

G. Abrahamsen, S. Pedersen (Norway)

Z. Pedzich, K. Haberkro (Poland)

A.M. Sousa Correia (Portugal)

I. Teoreanu, A. Volceanov (Romania)

V. Schevchenko, M. Shults (Russia)

N. Branislav, S. Bošković (Serbia & Montenegro)

A. Molnar, P. Sajgalik (Slovak Republic)

S. Pejovnik (Slovenia)

E. Criado, J. Bakaly (Spain)

R. Carlsson, H.O. Nilsson (Sweden)

A. Çavuşoğlu, H. Mandal (Turkey)

D.P. Thompson (ECERS President Elect), B. Lye (United Kingdom)

c) Technical Committee (Symposia Chairs and Organizers):

- Symposium A: General—Basic Science

Danilo Suvorov, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dragan Uskoković, Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA, Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro

- Symposium B: Processing

Darko Makovec, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Elis Carlström, Swedish Ceramic Institute, Göteborg, Sweden

Omer van der Biest, Leuven Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium

- Symposium C: Analytical Methods

Miran Čeh, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Iztok Arčon, Polytechnic Nova Gorica, and Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Thomas Gemming, Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung, Dresden, Germany

Ferdinand Hofer, Graz University of Technology, Graz, Austria

Anton Meden, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Albert Prodan, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Symposium D: Nano-Ceramics, Composites & Nano-Technologies

Dragan Mihailović, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Symposium E: Materials in Electromagnetic Fields:

Matjaz Valant, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Jorge R. Frade, Univ. Aveiro, CICECO, Portugal

Philippe Thomas, CNRS, Faculté des Sciences, Limoges, France

Darja Lisjak, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Symposium F: Structural Ceramics

Tomaž Kosmač, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Gilbert Fantozzi, INSA, Lyon, France

Mritrunjay Singh, Nasa Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, USA

Hai-Doo Kim, KIMM, Changwon, Korea

Robert Danzer, University of Leoben, Austria

- **Symposium F: Bio Materials**

Tomaž Kosmač, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Besim Ben-Nissan, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Jérôme Chevalier, INSA, Lyon, France

Wolfram Hoeland, Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein

Georg Berger, BAM, Berlin, Germany

Marjan Bele, National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia

- **Symposium H: Traditional Materials**

Antonio Barba-Juan, Universitat Jaume I, Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica (ITC), Castellón, Spain

José M. Ferreira, Universidade de Aveiro, Departamento de Engenharia Cerâmica e do Vidro, Aveiro, Portugal

Tiziano Manfredini, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy

- **Student Lecture and Poster Competition:**

Serdar Özgen, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Stane Pejovnik, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

- **COST 525: Electronic Ceramics—Grain Boundary Engineering:**

R. Freer, University of Manchester and UMIST, Manchester, UK

D. Suvorov, Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

d) **Endorsements:**

European Ceramic Society (ECERS)

American Ceramic Society (ACERS)

Ceramic Society of Japan (CSJ)

Korean Ceramic Society (KCS)

Slovenian Chemical Society

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