



Welcome to the New President

## Raising the Visibility of the European MSE Community

**Wilfried Kurz** of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) succeeded Alan Morrell as FEMS President in January. In this address he provides insight into how he sees FEMS and its development in the coming two years of his presidency.

After being in existence for nearly two decades the Federation of European Materials Societies, FEMS, has become an internationally known organization, representing 24 European societies of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) with over 20,000 members in total. In times of globalisation,

networking is going to play an increasingly important role. FEMS has therefore the firm intention to complement the activities of the national societies on a pan-European scale.

The general aim of FEMS is to promote information flux, interactions, coordination, and collaboration between member societies by:

- establishing contacts between national societies and their members at its well-known biennial conference, EUROMAT;
- establishing contacts between young Materials Scientists and Engineers across Europe at its biennial

conference, JUNIOR EUROMAT;

- stimulating interdisciplinary contacts between the different MSE fields: polymers; ceramics; composites; metals; biological and medical materials; materials for transport, for communication, for energy conversion, etc.;
- building a European Materials Education database;
- establishing a European job market for MSE;
- promoting young scientists through the "FEMS Lecture Award for Excellence in MSE";
- awarding the "FEMS Materials Science and Technology Award" to young



Professor Wilfried Kurz, President of FEMS

European materials scientists or engineers in recognition of their significant contribution to MSE;

- honouring outstanding personalities in the field of MSE with the most prestigious award of FEMS, the "European Materials Medal".

Further, concerted actions with other European MSE organisations are planned. They should provide a strong voice for the FEMS Member Societies and help to support the European Commission in the establishment of future MSE research programmes.

For the next two years the FEMS Executive Committee will work on two main tasks:

- strengthening links with Member Societies and other European bodies to strengthen Europe in

Materials Science and Engineering;

- raising the visibility of the European MSE community through highly successful EUROMAT conferences, through a new web-site, and through awards to top scientists and engineers.

The Executive Committee appreciates that much remains to be done to improve on the aims, to formulate new ones, and to actively help member societies fulfil their roles.

The Executive Committee and I welcome comments from our member societies, and I invite you to convey any criticisms or proposals to the new FEMS secretary, Dr. Paul McIntyre.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain  
Sincerely yours,  
Prof. Wilfried Kurz

Claudia Ranito:

### FEMS Prizewinner for World Materials Day

**Ms. Claudia Ranito** of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa was the winner of the first prize of 1500 Euro, sponsored by FEMS, in a competition organized by the Portuguese Materials Society, SPM.

This celebrated the first ever World Materials Day (an initiative of the International Organization of Materials, Metals & Minerals Societies, IOMMS) on 5th November 2003. The

prize was open to all final year (5th year) engineering students in Portuguese Universities and Polytechnics for the best thesis on a materials-related topic.

Ms Ranito was awarded first prize for her thesis entitled "Fabrication of hydroxyapatite foams for clinical applications".

**World Materials Day will take place this year on 3rd November. FEMS Member Societies are**

**invited to submit proposals for sponsorship to the FEMS Secretary.**

*Claudia Ranito with Professor J. Maret-Mendes, President of SPM*



## A Number of Changes Introduced



Alan Morrell

**I**t has been my pleasure to serve as President of FEMS for the past two years. During this time the Executive Committee has introduced a number of changes designed to improve the networking options available to our member societies.

FEMS News has been reintroduced in a two-page electronic format and will give societies an opportunity to publicise their own activities whilst providing

details of FEMS events and initiatives.

New guidelines have been developed to improve the effectiveness of the **FEMS Lecturers** programme, and for **EUROMAT Conferences** to ensure the continuity of a large high quality biennial European event. The poster format introduced for **Junior EUROMAT 2002** was a great success, and I hope that all societies will encourage their younger members to attend the 2004 conference in September in Lausanne.

Work is in hand to develop an enhanced Website and also a comprehensive **European Education Database**, which should be useful to both academic

and industrial members of FEMS societies.

A template for a **European Materials Theosaurus** has been created using EC funding from the MatNet project.

In a little over two years almost the whole of the Executive Committee membership has changed and we have recently appointed Paul McIntyre, based at IOMMM in London, as the new part-time secretary in succession to Peter Schepp. I am grateful for the support which I have been given by all members of the committee and I wish Wilfried Kurz the incoming President every success in his period of office.

Alan Morrell

## Honorary Membership



Gernot Kostorz

**A**t a special dinner in Turin, just before Christmas, the Executive Committee of FEMS bestowed Honorary Membership of the Federation on Professor Gernot Kostorz of the Department of Materials at the Institute of Advanced Physics at ETH-Zurich.

This rarely granted honour recognises eminent contributions to the Association or in the field of materials.

Gernot satisfies the criteria on both counts, having been full Professor of Physics at ETH since 1980, where his research has focussed on the relationship between the microstructure and properties of real solids.

He joined the Executive Committee of FEMS (representing DGM) in 1989 and was President of the Federation in 1992 and 1993. He becomes only the third Honorary Member of FEMS in its 18 year history.

FEMS news is available at the FEMS website ([www.FEMS.org](http://www.FEMS.org)). It can be downloaded as a PDF file in screen resolution or as a ready-to-print PDF file. Thus FEMS news can be inserted in national materials science magazines.

### Poland: AMT 2004 in June

The Committee of Metallurgy of the Polish Academy of Sciences has announced the XVIIth Physical Metallurgy and Materials Science Conference on Advanced Materials & Technologies, AMT 2004. This triennial event (in English) will be held in Łódź, Poland's second largest city, on 20-24 June. There will be 10 special seminars, encompassing many aspects of advanced materials, including metals and alloys, ceramics, polymers and composites as well as functional materials, details of which are available on the following website: [www.AMT-2004.p.lodz.pl](http://www.AMT-2004.p.lodz.pl).

The 7<sup>th</sup> event in the biennial series

## JUNIOR EUROMAT 2004 Approaches

**T**he 7th event in the biennial Junior EUROMAT series, sponsored by FEMS, will take place at the University of Lausanne on the banks of Lake Geneva on 6-9 September.

Aimed primarily at MSc and PhD students, the format will be the same as in 2002: poster displays will be complemented by short oral presentations by the

authors. Thirteen topic areas will cover all aspects of Materials Science and Engineering, details of which are available on the website [www.junior-euromat.org](http://www.junior-euromat.org). Last time, the conference attracted over 300 par-

ticipants from 26 different countries and included 265 poster presentations. This year the fees for students will not exceed 180 Euro and inexpensive accommodation will be available locally.



A regular feature of Junior EUROMAT is the beach party on the shores of Lake Geneva.

### FEMS news

Editorial Committee: Dr. P. McIntyre (IOMMM; Chairman), A. Morrell, R. Kickuth.  
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**Slovenia:** Slovensko društvo za materiale (SDM)