



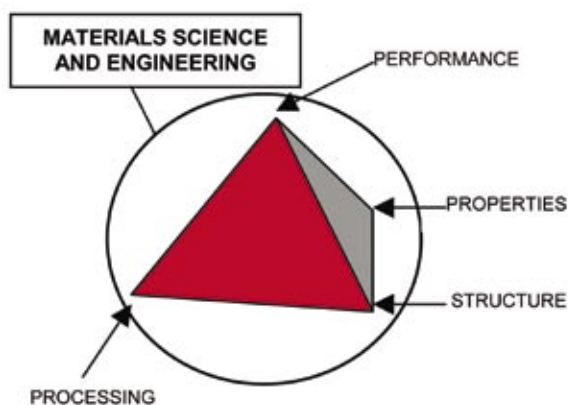
The President's invitation:

Welcome to Junior EUROMAT 2004,

an event held in Lausanne at the site of the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (also known as EPFL for „Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne”). In total some 15,000 young people are studying here, some in our field of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE).

Materials very often set the limits for what can be achieved by man, be it an airplane, a watch, a computer or a biological device such as a heart valve or artificial tissue; it is thus well recognised that MSE is a core enabling technology, vital to furthering our capabilities in virtually all fields of engineering. MSE is thus widely viewed as one of the pillars of modern civilisation, one of three key technologies, together with biotechnology and information technology.

After nearly half a century of existence, our discipline is now well recognised, with its own intellectual cohesiveness, its own methodology, and its own research community and journals. MSE is unique because of two features: (i) its specific field of activity with respect to all materials often defined as the space between the apexes of the tetrahedron below, and (ii) its dual grounding in the basic sciences and in engineering. These two features make MSE distinctly



The Materials Tetrahedron – covering all materials: polymers, metals, ceramics...

different from physics, from chemistry, and from mechanical or chemical engineering.

As in any discipline, MSE conferences are a unique tool for information exchange. This is true even in our age of communication. They are vital because of the possibility to meet colleagues with similar or complementary interests and experiences, to discuss and ask questions, to exercise the art of presentation and of chairing a session – often in English which is for most of us a foreign language.

Junior EUROMAT is organised like a summer school with its informal atmosphere, which should help young scientists and engineers, mainly MSc or PhD students, to be at ease at what is often their first conference. Despite this relaxed atmosphere JUNIOR EUROMAT is a highly professional conference. As last time, this conference is planned to be a posterconference only.

Therefore there is no difference between „no-ble” lectures and „second class” posters. And everybody gets the chance to present an



Junior EUROMAT, Lausanne, 5-9 September 2004: The poster conference for young materials scientists

abstract of her/his lecture. This year's JUNIOR EUROMAT is formed of 13 topics covering virtually every aspect of MSE, from nano- to bio-, from mechanical and physical properties to processing, etc.

It is also a truly international conference. There will be some 240 presentations and as many participants coming from 30 countries with the strongest participation from the Czech Republic and from Germany but also participants from countries as far as USA and Mexico or Japan and China. In the opening ceremony, the plenary paper will be presented by Prof. C. Humphreys from Cambridge University, the 2001 recipient of the highest award of FEMS, the FEMS Materials Medal. On Wednesday afternoon,

10 materials engineers from industry will present themselves and their companies for discussions with the students.

The success of this conference series, which started in 1992, seems to show that the concept which is due to Dr. Peter Schepp from the German Materials Society (DGM) satisfies a real need. In the name of the Executive Committee of FEMS I would like to thank Dr. Schepp and his collaborators for their high quality work in organising this event.

And to you, participants, I wish a very interesting and successful meeting at Lausanne.

Prof. W. Kurz
President of FEMS
Institute of Materials
EPFL, Lausanne



Krzysztof Kurzydowski (3rd from left) with EC Members Robert Singer, Wilfried Kurz, Aleksandra Czyska-Filemonowicz, Bill Clyne, Pavel Lukác & Bart Blanpain

Key Tasks for Committee Members

FEMS President, Wilfried Kurz, has allocated lead responsibility for a number of key tasks to individual members of the Executive Committee.

For example, Bill Clyne looks after Conferences and Short Courses. He reports that Junior EUROMAT 2004 promises to be another very successful event, with well over 300 papers to be presented as both posters and very brief talks. Preparations for EUROMAT 2005 are also well advanced, with about 60 symposia already defined and abstracts now starting to come in.

Bart Blanpain heads up activity on the FEMS Database, a searchable source of information for the Executive Committee on both people and institutions within the European Materials community. The focus is on people with expertise and organisational skills relevant to the EUROMAT series of conferences. The database includes Societies, University Departments, Research Institutes, Commercial Organisations and Journals. It will be refined and expanded over the next few years and used as a source of information for the FEMS Website. Alan Morrell is responsible

for Liaisons with Industry. He reports that future initiatives will include seminars on topics of interest to Industry coupled with Industrial Exhibitions at EUROMAT conferences. Jobmarkets and the new FEMS Database should give opportunities for Industry to link up with Materials Scientists and Engineers seeking placements.

Paul McIntyre deals with FEMS News and, the FEMS Website. FEMS News now appears regularly, at three-monthly intervals. Printed copies of each issue are sent to every FEMS Member Society and extra copies are printed for special events such as Materials Congress 2004 and Junior

EUROMAT 2004. In addition, e-mails are sent to everyone on the FEMS Database to tell them of each new issue.

The FEMS Website, www.fems.org has been transformed recently following the appointment of Dave Hudson at Cambridge University as the new Webmaster. In addition to being the main vehicle for the publication of FEMS News and information on FEMS Awards and forthcoming events, it provides information on all the FEMS Member Societies and Executive Committee Members.

Key Tasks of other Executive Committee members will be re-reported in the next issue of FEMS News.

News from the FEMS Executive Committee: Materials Research in Poland

At its most recent meeting in Krakow, the FEMS Executive Committee invited Prof. Krzysztof Kurzydowski, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Scientific Research in Poland, to explain the needs for a European strategy, as seen from a new member state. He described the well-organised research structure in Poland, where his committee conducts detailed evaluations of each Polish institution every four years for ranking purposes.

Education is gaining in importance and between 1991 and 2003, the number of university students rose from 385,000 to 1,800,000 (up from 13% to 43% of the eligible age group). There has been an 8-fold increase in the number of PhD students, with 6,000 doctorates being awarded annually. Poland has a good system of state research funding and networks in materials.

There are seven National Projects involving people from various groups on subjects of national interest such as: New Technologies for Manufacturing Nanostructured Metals and Alloys; Polymer Materials Modified by Nano-Particles; Technology/ Properties/Applications; and New Materials and Technologies for Biomedical Applications.

An important objective of Poland has been participation, as an Associate Member, in the EU's 6th Framework Programme. It succeeded in winning support for a Network of Excellence on multifunctional materials, which involves 18 universities and 22 companies. The areas in which Professor Kurzydowski feels that coordinated European action will be most important include the mobilisation of human resources and the participation of industry in research.

EUROMAT 2005: Call for Papers



The Technical University of Prague

The call for papers for EUROMAT 2005, Prague, 5-8 September 2005, is open until 31 January 2005. Abstracts not exceeding 300 words in length may be submitted through the website: www.euromat2005.fems.org

FEMS news

is available at the FEMS website (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.

FEMS news

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