

## Guest Editor's Preface

The Third International Conference on Solid State Crystals - Materials Science and Applications (ICSSC-2002) was held from 14 October to 18 October 2002 in Zakopane in the WDW Koscielisko Centre, a holiday and health resort. It was organised by the Institute of Applied Physics, Military University of Technology, and the Polish Society for Crystal Growth. The financial support for the organisation of the conference came from: State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN), European Commission, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, International Society for Optical Engineering in association with SPIE (Poland Chapter), and Institute of Physics, Technical University of Łódź. The scope of the conference covered the following topics: (1) crystal growth, (2) characterisation and applications of solid state materials, (3) nanostructured materials and films, (4) optoelectronic devices, and (5) organic materials for electronics.

In view of a very broad spectrum of topics the Organisers of ICSSC-2002 decided to publish articles in Proceedings of SPIE and Crystal Research and Technology. The Organisers and the Guest Editor of the present special issue jointly selected manuscripts for publication in one of the above media during the conference after receiving the manuscripts. For publication in Crystal Research and Technology only those manuscripts were selected, which covered theoretical and experimental research in the areas of (1) crystal growth techniques and processes (bulk growth and thin films), and (2) characterisation of bulk crystals and thin films. In all 35 manuscripts were selected. All these manuscripts were then refereed following a standard procedure based on the criteria of validity, significance, originality and clarity of presentation. Unfortunately, most of the manuscripts required major revision in comparison with their original versions. Of these, 27 manuscripts are included in this special issue.

The following team worked as referees of the manuscripts: W. Bala, G. Gladyszewski, M.J. Malachowski, A. Misiuk, B. Mróz, M. Oszwaldowski, A. Piotrowska, W. Kucharczyk A. Pajaczkowska, W. Ryba-Romanowski, K. Sangwal, R. Triboulet, K. Wokulska, and Z. Zytkeiwicz. The Guest Editor is highly grateful to these referees for their efficient collaboration in the peer reviewing of the manuscripts, and to Mrs Tatiana Palczynska for looking after the correspondence. Finally, he expresses his gratitude to Prof. W. Neumann, Editor-in-Chief of Crystal Research and Technology, for his kind invitation to publish the papers as a special issue of the journal and for his encouragement, and to Mr H. Kleessen, Editor's Assistance, for preparing the final version of the manuscripts for publication.

Keshra Sangwal, Lublin

**Third International Conference on Solid State Crystals:  
Materials Science and Applications (ICSSC-2002)  
Zakopane, 14-18 October 2002**

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