

Preface

This special issue contains the proceedings of the Seventh International Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics held in Orléans, France.¹ It was the seventh in a series of well established workshops (Gaithersburg, 1988, Torino, 1990, Graz, 1992, Köln, 1995, Aix en Provence, 1998, Leoben, 2001) on both experimental and theoretical aspects of thermophysical behavior of matter in subsecond times regimes. It includes papers on rapid resistive and inductive heating (volume), pulse laser heating (surface), and levitation techniques. Such tools provide a unique approach to studying thermophysical properties of matter under conditions near and far removed from thermodynamic equilibrium.

The conference was organized by the French National Agency for Research (CNRS) represented by the Research Centre on High Temperature Materials (CRMHT) placed under the Honorary Presidency of Dr. Iskender Gokälp, Director of the Laboratory of Combustion (LCSR) in Orléans.

The seventh workshop consisted of ten sessions with 31 presentations on the following topics: volume heating, laser heating, nuclear materials, radiation, plasmas, and high-temperature spectroscopies. A poster session was also included (17 presentations). An informal workshop atmosphere was chosen to facilitate an exchange of ideas and information amongst scientists and researchers from academia, research institutions, and industry with common scientific and technical interests.

The workshop hosted 54 participants from Russia and eastern countries (9), Western Europe (36), Asia (6), and the U.S.A. (3). This special issue of the *International Journal of Thermophysics* consists of 26 selected papers presented at the workshop.

Following the tradition of previous workshops, tourism was included in the program with an afternoon visit on the roofs of the castle of Chambord.

¹The sponsors of the Seventh International Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics are gratefully acknowledged: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, Ministère de l'Education Nationale de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche, Ville d'Orléans, Université d'Orléans, and Conseil Régional du Centre.

I would like to thank the members of the International Scientific Committee, Michel Boivineau, Ivan Egry, Erhard Kaschnitz, Gernot Pottlacher, and Francesco Righini for their help in organizing the conference, as well as W. M. Haynes, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Thermophysics*, for his large contribution to publishing this issue.

The Eighth International Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics will be held in 2007 at Karlsruhe, Germany. It will be organized by Michael Sheindlin from the “Institut für Transurane” (ITU). I look forward to attending this workshop and meeting with my colleagues of the subsecond thermophysics community once again.

Francis Millot

*Chairperson of the Seventh International Workshop
on Subsecond Thermophysics*