

## Foreword

The 12th International Conference on Solid Compounds of Transition Elements (SCTE'97) was organized by the Laboratoire de Chimie du Solide et Inorganique Moléculaire, CNRS - Université de Rennes, France. It was held April 22–25, 1997, in a convenient conference site: Le Palais du Grand Large, nicely situated along the beach in the historic corsair city of Saint-Malo, on the north coast of Brittany.

Previous conferences in the series were organized in Paris (1965), Enschede-Twente (1967), Oslo (1969), Geneva (1973), Uppsala (1976), Stuttgart (1979), Grenoble (1982), Vienna (1985), Oxford (1988), Münster (1991) and Wrocław (1994).

Up to now the conference has mainly been devoted to solid state chemistry and physics of the chalcogenides, pnictides, hydrides, and intermetallic compounds, but the oxides and halides were generally excluded. After 32 years of existence, it has been decided that oxides and halides should be fully integrated into the main topics of the conference, so that it becomes one of the main forums for exchange of information on all discoveries and modern trends in solid state chemistry and physical properties of Solid Compounds of d and f Transition Elements.

256 abstracts were submitted from 30 nations. The conference program included 4 plenary lectures, 4 invited talks, 54 contributed oral presentations and 194 contributed papers in 4 poster sessions of 3 hours. The main topics (chalcogenides, oxides, intermetallics) were subdivided in order to be represented nearly every day, allowing all authors to show their results and to get informed in their field of interest in the best conditions in lively poster sessions.

I express my thanks to all those who contributed to make the conference successful. I am particularly grateful to the members of the International Advisory Committee for their advice and encouragement, and I am also very much indebted to the supporting organizations and sponsoring companies listed below, for their financial support allowing the participation of many young researchers and of scientists from the eastern countries.

Henri Noel  
*Chairman and Proceedings Editor, SCTE '97*