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Preface

These volumes represent the Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Rare Earth Research Conference, which was held at Argonne, Illinois from July 11 to 15, 1999. The Conference had ten symposia supplemented by three poster sessions. Symposia focussed on recent research directions, innovative concepts, and contemporary applications in rare earth and actinide research. This Conference had as its themes environmental chemistry, materials science, coordination chemistry, applied spectroscopy, medicinal chemistry and imaging, physics, spectroscopy and non-linear optical properties, solid state chemistry, solid state electrolytes, and x-ray and neutron scattering.

The program sought to achieve a balance among chemical and physical topics, reflecting an increased emphasis on applications of lanthanides and actinides that have characterized much work in recent years.

The Proceedings of the Conference are being published as a bound volume and also as regular issues of the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*. All papers that appear in the Proceedings are subject to two peer reviews and must meet all standards of the Editorial Board of the *Journal*.

The papers appearing in the Proceedings are grouped into the same areas as the Conference symposia. Invited papers (presented orally at the Conference) are followed by contributed papers. The Conference policy is that only

papers actually presented at the Conference may appear in the Proceedings. Researchers who wish to read the abstracts from other presentations are referred to the Conference Program and Abstracts booklet.

The Program Chairman and the Editors take this opportunity to thank the chairs of the symposia, who organized the oral sessions, and to the session chairs, who organized the poster sessions. These chairs also participated in the reviewing process by reviewing papers or by recommending others as reviewers. We also express our appreciation to the authors and to the many reviewers who generously gave of their time to make this a successful conference.

We look forward to the participation of many f-element researchers from throughout the world at the Twenty-third Rare Earth Research Conference, Davis, California, July 14–18, 2002.

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