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Preface

This issue contains the proceedings of the 13th Edition of the International Conference on Solid Compounds of Transition Elements, held at the Convention Centre of Stresa, Italy (4–7 April 2000).

The Conference was organized by the Department of Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry of the University of Genoa (Divisions of Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry) and it was along the lines of a number of Conferences organized by several European Laboratories. Previous conferences in this series were held in Paris (1965), Enschede-Twente (1967), Oslo (1969), Geneva (1973), Uppsala (1976), Stuttgart (1979), Grenoble (1982), Vienna (1985), Oxford (1988), Münster (1991), Wrocław (1994) and Saint-Malo (1997).

More than 200 participants coming from more than 25 countries attended the Conference.

Suggestions and information from the Scientific Committee and the evaluable assistance given by the Organizing Committee were all precious. Several sponsors cooperated in supporting the Meeting organization and the publication of the proceedings. All the participants would like to express warm thanks to all these persons and bodies which are listed in the issue.

Overall about 200 contributions (plenary lectures, oral and poster communications) were discussed. About 120 of them have been presented for publication in this special issue of JALCOM.

The various papers have been listed and divided into a sequence of topics, as reported in the 'Content Index'. They could have been ordered according to several criteria, and we have chosen to sequence roughly according to the position (from right to left) in the Periodic Table of the most significant element of the compounds or systems described in each paper.

Parallel to the main conference, a workshop was held by an Italian group in which papers dedicated to alloy investigation were presented. These papers have been collected at the end of this issue.

We would like to thank Dr. Prof. K.H.J. Buschow, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, as well as the Editorial staff of the Elsevier Science Limited, Materials Science and Engineering, for their assistance, kindness and willingness to help.

We are glad to report that Prof. Boller of Linz was asked by the Scientific Committee to be the organiser of the next Edition of the International Conference on Solid Compounds of Transition Elements. He kindly accepted, and the 14th Edition will be held in 2003, probably around Easter time.

Riccardo Ferro
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Guest Editors