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Foreword

II Italian Workshop on Alloys and Intermetallic Compounds

In the course of the 13th International Conference on Solid Compounds of Transition Elements, a number of Italian Scientists participating in the main Conference also organized a Workshop on Alloys and Intermetallic Compounds, held on 6 April 2000, dedicated to a discussion of the results presented in the main sessions, but achieved while working in a specific joint research programme.

This programme, entitled 'Alloys and intermetallic compounds: thermodynamics, physical properties and reactivity' was approved by the Italian Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica in the framework of the Programmi di Ricerca Scientifica di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale.

The programme, coordinated by Prof. R. Ferro, is aimed at improving and deepening the study of the fundamental physico-chemical aspects of Intermetallic Science.

A concerted investigation of selected groups of alloys (mainly of the first transition elements) has thus been planned in order to fully characterize their phases through the definition of their formation, stability, thermodynamics and peculiar physical and chemical properties. The co-operating Italian Research Units are the following:

Dipartimento di Chimica e Chimica Industriale, Facoltà di Scienze M.F.N., Università di Genova (scientists responsible: Riccardo Ferro and Andrea Palenzona); Dipartimento di Scienza dei Materiali e Ingegneria Chimica, Politecnico di Torino, Facoltà di Ingegneria II (Carlo Antonione); Dipartimento di Chimica, Università degli Studi di

Modena, Facoltà di Scienze M.F.N. (Pietro Baraldi); Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', Facoltà di Scienze M.F.N. (Antonio Bianconi); Istituto di Chimica, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università degli Studi di Genova (Giacomo Cerisola); Dipartimento di Ingegneria dei Materiali, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università degli Studi di Trento (Stefano Gialanella); Dipartimento di Chimica, Facoltà di Scienze M.F.N., Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza' (Daniele Gozzi); Dipartimento di Innovazione Meccanica e Gestionale, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università degli Studi di Padova (Maurizio Magrini); Dipartimento di Ingegneria Meccanica, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università degli Studi di Padova (Giovanni Principi). They acknowledge with thanks the financial support obtained from the MURST.

A selection of the papers presented by this Italian Group and discussed in this Workshop (the second of the series) have been collected all together in the following section of this issue. Special thanks have to be expressed to Dr. K.H.J. Buschow for his understanding and advice. A first workshop of this series was held in Genoa, Italy, (25–27 March 1999) and the proceedings accepted for publication in a special issue of INTERMETALLICS, Vol. 8, No. 3 (2000). Another workshop (the third one) has been subsequently held in Genoa on 26 October 2000 and its proceedings will probably be collected in a dedicated issue of the Journal of Phase Equilibria.