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Preface

This issue contains the Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Solid Compounds of Transition Elements (SCTE2008), held at the Westin Bellevue Hotel/Conference Centre Dresden, Germany, July 26–31, 2008. The conference was organized with the support of the Max-Planck-Institut für Chemische Physik fester Stoffe, Dresden.

Succeeding to Paris (1965), Enschede-Twente (1967), Oslo (1969), Geneva (1973), Uppsala (1976), Stuttgart (1979), Grenoble (1982), Vienna (1985), Oxford (1988), Münster (1991), Wrocław (1994), Saint Malo (1997), Stresa (2000), Linz (2003) and Cracow (2006), Dresden had the honour to host this scientific meeting with a fine tradition in 2008.

Almost 300 participants from all over the world decided to come to the city of Dresden to present their results on new and novel classes of materials containing transition elements. Chemists and physicists, specialists of metallurgy and material sciences, experimentalists and theoreticians, young and experienced researchers had a forum for direct and unimpeded discussions as well as for the exchange of knowledge and results at the conference.

The scientific program consisted of 102 oral contributions including 4 keynote lectures, and 190 poster presentations. About 50 contributions are presented for publication in this special issue. The program of the conference covered the topics crystal chemistry, chemical bonding and electronic structure, magnetic and electronic transport properties, especially superconductivity, and catalytic activity of different classes of intermetallic compounds, like borides, silicides, germanides, complex metallic alloys, pnictides, and oxides. In addition, a special session in memoriam of Erwin Parthé was organized.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee we would like to thank all those who contributed to the 16th International Conference on

Solid Compounds of Transition Elements: The International Advisory Board for its assistance, all participants and the referees.

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We would like to thank as well Prof. K.H.J. Buschow, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Alloys and Compounds for the possibility to publish the Proceedings of SCTE2008 in JALCOM and the Editorial Staff of Elsevier, Science Ltd. for their kind assistance.

The International Advisory Board has decided that the 17th International Conference should be held in Bordeaux, France in 2010 with Prof. D. Fruchart and Prof. B. Chevalier as conference chairs.

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