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Preface

XVII International Symposium on Metastable, Amorphous and Nanostructured Materials (ISMANAM 2010) 4–9 July 2010, Zurich, Switzerland

It is our pleasure to present this special issue of *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*, containing the proceedings of the 17th International Symposium on Metastable, Amorphous and Nanostructured Materials (ISMANAM 2010), which was held at the historic central campus of the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland from 4–9 July 2010.

ISMANAM 2010 was a great success, hosting more than 400 participants from 44 countries. Of 481 contributions to the symposium, 44% were from Europe, 34% from Asia, 20% from the Americas, 1.8% from Africa, and 0.2% (1 contribution) from Oceania. There were 11 plenary, 10 keynote and 41 invited talks; 130 contributed talks; and 289 posters. Together they covered a wide range of topics including metallic glasses, severe plastic deformation, thin films and coatings, magnetic materials, nanostructured metals, hydrogen storage, and others. The full scientific spectrum, from fundamental physical modeling and properties to technological application, was represented.

ISMANAM has been officially organized as an annual meeting since 1994 (Grenoble), and has since then been held in Quebec, Rome, Sitges, Wollongong, Dresden, Oxford, Ann Arbor, Seoul, Foz do Iguaçu, Sendai, Paris, Warsaw, Corfu, Buenos Aires, Beijing and finally Zurich. Each year, the ISMANAM steering committee acknowledges the outstanding achievements of one senior and one junior scientist. In 2010, the Senior Researcher Award was given to Prof. Kenneth F. Kelton (Washington University in St. Louis, USA) and the Junior Researcher Award to Dr. Konstantinos Georgarakis (Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble, France and WPI AIMR, Tohoku University, Japan).

We sincerely thank the ISMANAM steering committee, our outstanding local organizing committee, our corporate sponsors and the cities/cantons of Zurich and Lucerne for their efforts and support, without which this enjoyable and productive meeting would not have been possible. We also thank all of the contributors to the symposium, and to these proceedings, for providing a lively and intellectually stimulating global ISMANAM community. We hope that this community remains strong for many years to come.

The 114 papers comprising this special issue are organized into 8 sections, based on topics which broadly reflect the themes of the symposium sessions. The contributions of plenary, keynote and invited speakers are highlighted in each section, as well as some papers from contributed talks.

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