FOREWORD

The International Meeting on Lithium Batteries, held in Rome from April 27th to April 29th, 1982, was attended by about 110 delegates from various countries in the world. Such a large and highly qualified attendance undoubtedly reflects the importance and the interest currently acquired by lithium batteries.

Indeed, these batteries are at a highly sophisticated stage of development and some types have already reached the market, where they have attained a steadily increasing position as optimized, high-energy power sources for microelectronic devices. Furthermore, there are consistent hopes that high-power primary, and long-life secondary, lithium batteries will also soon reach the commercial stage.

These aspects have greatly contributed to stimulate a diversified activity in research on lithium batteries, ranging from basic studies on new systems to very applied and specific investigations. A relevant part of this activity was examined at the Rome Meeting, which was organized in seven sessions, dealing with lithium cyclability, lithium electrode passivation, oxide cathodes, insertion cathodes, solid electrolytes, polymer electrolytes and general problems, respectively.

Stimulating and profitable discussions followed the presentation of the papers and, hopefully, the Meeting in Rome has succeeded in achieving a better understanding of the important and growing field of lithium batteries.

In this respect, on behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees I would like to thank all the speakers and the participants for their essential contributions. We are also indebted to the sponsors of the Meeting, the Electrochemical Society of the U.S. and the Italian Chemical Society, and to the University of Rome, the National Research Council (C.N.R.), the Comitato Nazionale Energia Nucleare e Alternativa (ENEA), the Ansaldo S.p.A., the Department of Energy of the U.S., and the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONRL, London Office) which have generously supported its organization.

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