

Preface

The papers contained in this issue of the *Journal of Power Sources* represent the presentations given at the Sixth ILZRO International Lead/Acid Battery Seminar held in Nice, France on 13–15 May, 1992, at the Hotel Plaza Concorde. The content and the publication of the manuscripts both represent something of a change from past ILZRO Seminars and thus some comments are appropriate.

In the past, the content of the Seminars was not specific to any area of lead/acid technology and was, at least in part, focused on contractors doing research for ILZRO. This Seminar featured a full day's session on electric vehicle technology and lead/acid's place in it, including two battery-powered vehicles kindly provided for display by EDF (Electricité de France), through the kind offices of François Wilmotte and Jean-Louis Richard. Heartfelt thanks are due to Jean Alzieu of EDF and these other gentlemen. As ILZRO is deeply involved in the formation and administration of the Advanced Lead/Acid Battery Consortium, the ALABC, such a focus on electric vehicle technology will probably continue at future Seminars.

The remainder of the presentations are not specific to any particular area of lead/acid technology, but an effort has been made to shift the emphasis toward fundamental research and new techniques being used to study lead/acid electrochemistry and battery systems. While this effort has not been completely successful, the trend will be carried on at future ILZRO Seminars.

In the past, the Seminar Proceedings were published by ILZRO in a camera-ready format and distributed upon request beyond the Seminar participants. The publication of the Proceedings of the Sixth International Battery Seminar in the *Journal of Power Sources* will ensure more widespread dissemination of the research results, which should be beneficial not only for ILZRO but for the authors of the Seminar presentations.

The Seminar was attended by some 97 participants, a number which allowed for close interaction and extensive personal discussions outside of the formal presentations. As in the past, the Seminar preceded the BCI meeting, which this year was held in Monte Carlo near Nice. The Seventh International Lead/Acid Battery Seminar will again be held in conjunction with BCI in May of 1993 in Phoenix, AZ, USA.

While it was relatively difficult to arrange the Seminar in Europe, the efforts of many people greatly relieved the burden. Special thanks are due to Messrs Wilmotte and Richard for coordination and assistance within France and to Catherine Perkins of ILZRO, who basically organized all of the nontechnical aspects of the Meeting. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the kind assistance of Luc Albert of Metaleurop and Detchko Pavlov of CLEP in Bulgaria for filling the thankless tasks of being session Chairs. Finally, appreciation is due to the individuals who gave presentations at the Seminar; without their efforts it would have been greatly diminished.

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