

Preface

Ulm, a city located in Baden-Württemberg is a center of electrochemistry in Germany, due to R&D organizations dedicated to various aspects of electrochemistry and relevant topics: University of Ulm, Department of Electrochemistry, Department of Surface Chemistry and Catalysis, Center for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research, Electrochemical Energy Storage and Energy Conversion, Division Ulm (ZSW), DaimlerChrysler Research Center Ulm, Energy Supply and New Propulsion Systems Division.

This concentration was a consequence of the decision of the government of Baden-Württemberg to create an interdisciplinary R&D and teaching center for energy technology. Since the beginning of the nineties, these three organisations have been working together, mainly in the field of energy storage and energy conversion. In 1993 they started, with the scientific support of the late Prof. Dr. Heinz Gerischer, to organize an annual meeting called *Ulmer Elektrochemische Tage*, UECT (Ulm Electrochemical Days). The aim of the meeting was to stimulate expert discussion on R&D results in electrochemistry, with participants especially from Germany, but also with well known guests from abroad. The scope of the topics chosen for the meeting ranged from fundamental to applied electrochemistry, depending on the organizer in charge:

1st UECT (1993) *Applied Electrochemistry*
2nd UECT (1994) *Charge Storage in the Double Layer*

3rd UECT (1995) *Electrochemical Engineering*
4th UECT (1996) *Electrochemistry for Energy and the Environment*
5th UECT (1997) *Fundamental Aspects of Electrolytic Metal Deposition*

The topic selected for the 6th UECT was *Electrochemical Energy Storage and Energy Conversion*, mainly organized by (at that time) Daimler-Benz. 172 Participants from 12 countries attended the meeting. The 22 papers presented provided an overview of high power electrochemical storage systems, battery systems for electric and hybrid vehicles, polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells, fuel cell systems and components for electric vehicles, together with aspects of traffic energy supply. There was sufficient time for stimulating discussions, including 12 poster presentations with indepth treatment of the subjects.

The 6th UECT was a milestone for this well established event. Due to growing interest in this meeting, for the first time, it was held in the Edwin-Scharff-Haus and English was the official conference language.

Future meetings will be organized every two years by a committee consisting of representatives from Daimler-Chrysler, Ulm, University Ulm and ZSW, Ulm. The 7th UECT meeting is scheduled to be held in June 2000.