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## Preface

The primary aim of the Asian Battery Conference is to provide a forum to assist and sustain the success of lead-acid batteries in their existing, new and up-and-coming markets through the active exchange of scientific, technical and commercial information. It is encouraging that the Conference has grown in strength over the years, despite some very challenging times for the industry.

As with each of its predecessors, the Ninth Asian Battery Conference (9ABC), which was held in Bali, Indonesia, enjoyed strong support from the industry. The proceedings produced the following valuable information.

- Notice of the advent of 42 V automotive systems and the potential for lead-acid technology to play a key role in meeting performance needs and cost targets.
- The importance of partial state-of-charge operations and their impact on battery design and performance.
- A call for more detailed data to help the industry strengthen itself.
- A bullish outlook on industrial battery growth and lead prices going forward.
- Advances in the design of valve-regulated lead-acid batteries in the areas of raw materials, separators, additives, and manufacturing technology.

- Tighter specifications for lead and lead alloys and the ability of the lead industry to respond to the requirements for higher purity.
- It is evident that there are major challenges for the lead-acid battery, but more importantly there are also significant opportunities for growth.

The Asian Battery Conference has deservedly gained a world-wide reputation for being a very friendly and interactive event, as well as one that highlights the considerable technical advances that are taking place in lead-acid batteries. The proceedings published in this volume clearly demonstrate that the 9ABC has sustained this fine record of achievement. Pasmenco, the Conference Organizer, is grateful to CSIRO for co-ordination of these papers and to the authors who have given so generously of their time.

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