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## The Gaston Planté Medal Presentation Address

Dear Professor Pavlov,

Distinguished participants in the Fifth LABAT Conference, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the privilege to address the audience of the International Conference on Lead–Acid Batteries on behalf of the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Professor Ivan Juchnovski and the Governing Council of the Academy.

We are very happy to meet you all here in Bulgaria.

It is with great satisfaction and pride that we are noticing the presence of so many distinguished scientists and engineers from five continents, representing the most prestigious centers of research and development in the field of lead—acid batteries.

This is a clear indication that once again LABAT'02 has been considered as one of the most attractive and important events for your community.

I would also like to extend my greetings to the companies that are presenting their products during the conference and especially to the Bulgarian private company MONBAT, participating for the first time as a general sponsor of the conference.

This year for the sixth time, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, following the decision of the International Committee composed of recognized authorities in the field, is awarding the medal with the effigy of Gaston Planté, the inventor of the lead–acid battery.

The medal is given for outstanding contributions to the development of the invention of Gaston Planté and I would like to give the floor now to Professor Detchko Pavlov, Chairman of the International Planté Medal Committee to announce the decision of the committee.

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