



Preface

Special Issue JPS: CONAPPICE 2004

Since its formation by scientists of public and private research centres and industrial companies in 2002, the Spanish Fuel Cell Association (APPICE) has been devoted to promote the development and dissemination of the fuel cell technology in Spain. During its first 2 years, the association has organized several meetings and workshops, has participated in exhibitions and conferences to make available training and information on fuel cells to interested social agents. Nowadays, more than 30 companies together with scientists of different universities and research centres interested in fuel cells are forming part of the association. At this stage, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas among research groups and companies, APPICE organised the First Congress on Fuel Cells in Spain (CONAPPICE 2004, San Sebastian, October 13–15, 2004). The scope of this congress covered research and demonstration work by most Spanish research groups, but also with some participation from Portugal, France and USA. More than 80 communications were presented, 42 as oral presentations and the others in poster sessions. It is worth mentioning the participation of the Energy Director, European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and the General Director from the *Ente Vasco de la Energía* and representations of the *Gobierno*

Vasco, Gobierno de Aragón, Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa and the U.S. Department of Energy. Their presence indicates the interest of these institutions on the fuel cells technology.

Part of the communications presented in CONAPPICE 2004 has been selected for publication in this special volume of the *Journal of Power Sources*. They deal with materials and electrocatalysis for the different fuel cell types, mainly PEMFC, MCFC and SOFC, together with single cell testing and some application cases. The next congress will be organised in 2006.

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