

## The Gaston Planté medal presentation address

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Available online 5 June 2006

I am particularly pleased to be here with you—the most distinguished representatives of the lead-acid battery community. The mere fact that you meet here for the sixth time, is a clear indication that once again the International Lead-Acid Battery Conference LABAT has been recognized as one of the most attractive events for both scientists and engineers working in the field of lead-acid batteries all over the world. This fact has still another meaning: we electrochemists (I am electrochemist myself) practically implement the recommendations of the Lisbon Strategy of the EU from year 2000—to make “knowledge-based economy”. The creative work and activities of the inventor of the lead-acid battery Gaston Planté, whose effigy is represented on our medal, is another excellent example of a brilliant combination of scientist and inventor.

In the context of the above said, 16 years ago, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences established the Gaston Planté award to

honour the great French scientist and to emphasize the necessity of a fruitful collaboration between scientists and engineers working on improvement of the existing lead-acid battery technology as well as on inventing new, and I hope, better batteries of this type. I think the activities and achievements of the previously awarded medallists have fully confirmed this idea.

Prof. Pavlov, the Chairman of the Sixth International Conference LABAT’2005 announced the name of this year’s winner. I am most pleased to be able to honour Prof. Zen-Ichiro Takehara by presenting the Gaston Planté Medal to him in recognition of his achievements in the lead-acid battery field.

Congratulations, Prof. Takehara!



Prof. Popov presenting the medal to Prof. Takehara



Prof. Popov, Prof. Takehara and Prof. Pavlov