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Preface[☆]

This volume of the *Journal of Power Sources* collects many of the contributions presented at the last UECT (Ulm Electro-Chemical Talks), on June 11 and 12, 2008. The topics of this 11th UECT have been performance, safety and quality related to batteries, super capacitors and fuel cells.

High performance Li-Ion-Batteries and PEM-Fuel Cells are key technologies for future drive trains as well as for stationary energy storage and power supply applications. New materials and advanced designs have been successfully demonstrated in many prototypes. Fleet testing under all day conditions could demonstrate very encouraging results.

With the upcoming commercialization the emphasis has to be laid on safety and quality features combined with further improvements in performance. These topics were the guidelines for organizing the 11th UECT.

The conference has been a huge success: more than 250 participants from 15 countries worldwide listened to 35 exciting lectures and discussed new developments presented on 70 posters. The event provided a perfect environment for an intense communication between people from industry and science. For the first time tutorials on Li-Ion-Batteries and Fuel Cells have been organized and could attract many participants.

The Award of Excellence of the 11th UECT was given to Dr. Norbert Schall from Süd-Chemie AG for his outstanding work in the area of advanced materials for Li-Ion Batteries. The awards for the best poster contributions were given to Ata Roudgar (Simon Fraser University, Canada), Marilena Mancini (University of Roma) and Toby Astill (Simon Fraser University, Canada).

The Ulm Electrochemical Talks started in 1993 as an electrochemical workshop to discuss questions of the future of the applied electrochemistry. In the following year's aspects of the charge

storage in the double layer (2nd UECT), electrochemical engineering (3rd UECT), electrochemistry for energy and environment (4th UECT), and electrolytic metal deposition (5th UECT) were in the focus of the workshops.

With the 6th UECT in 1998 the organizers have changed the concept of this event from a German workshop on different electrochemical topics to an international conference with the focus on electrochemical energy storage and energy conversion. The conference is scheduled every 2 years and lasts for two days. There are no parallel sessions; all contributions are made in English. Most of the lectures are invited lectures.

Since the 6th UECT nearly all lectures and selected posters are contained in a special issue of the *Journal of Power Sources*, which opens a good opportunity for the speakers to reach many interested reader of the whole world, by the way with a very high citation index.

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