



## International Lead Award Acceptance Speech



I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the International Lead Award Committee, and especially to Dr Wilson and Dr Moseley, for granting this award to me. It is a great honour for me to receive this highly prestigious international prize. Now that I am approaching the end of my professional research career, this recognition stirs up a special feeling of appreciation in me. Once again, thank you very much, indeed!

I accept this award with the conviction that it is very much an acknowledgement of the work of the whole team of the Lead-Acid Batteries Department of the Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, which is comprised of highly qualified scientists, engineers and technicians. Without our collective talent, hard work and technological discipline, I would never have been able to make the achievements for which I am now granted this award. So, on behalf of our team, I would like to thank the Award Committee for its high appraisal of our research activities.

The lead-acid battery is a complex dynamic system. Or shall I call it 'a complex world'? After 44 years of investigations, I now realize that I have come to understand only the outlines of this complex world. The battery is a meeting point for chemistry and electrochemistry, physics and crystal growth, kinetics and thermodynamics of electrochemical reactions, metallurgy and corrosion processes, as well as a number of phenomena associated with the efficient transformation of chemical energy into electrical energy, and vice versa.

The lead-acid battery was invented at the dawn of the electrical power industry. And the discovery and practical utilization of electricity as a form of energy is the greatest achievement of mankind. The lead-acid battery became one of the main portable sources of electric power. Throughout the years, it has entered so deeply into the life of ordinary people and has found such a wide application in all spheres of society that we all have become accustomed to it in our everyday life.

Perhaps this is the reason why politicians and financiers have come to the erroneous conclusion that the lead-acid battery has reached maturity and therefore does not merit further investment. During the past 15 years, only the Advanced Lead-Acid Battery Consortium (ALABC) has continued to provide financial support for the advancement of lead-acid batteries. Thanks to the investigations performed within the numerous ALABC projects, it would appear that conditions are being created presently for a new revival of the lead-acid battery.

May I once again thank the lead industry for having honoured me with this award and let us work together for new achievements in the development of our favourite battery—the lead-acid system!

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