

## Preface

# Boron, borides, and related compounds Proceedings of the 14th International Symposium on Boron, Borides, and Related Compounds (ISBB '02)

The 14th International Symposium on Boron, Boride, and Related Compounds (ISBB '02) was held at Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 9–14 June 2002. The meeting was devoted to the latest progress made mainly in the chemistry of boron and related compounds. The continuing significance of this research field is illustrated by the broad range of topics covered by ISBB '02, e.g., new compounds, novel technological processes, phase diagrams, structure and composition of refractory compounds, composites, cermets, alloys, glasses, characterization and properties of different compounds, superconducting  $MgB_2$  and related compounds, X-ray and neutron diffraction structure investigation, and so on. Much more papers were devoted on this symposium to the new compounds and even to new compound classes.

This symposium gathered 110 participants from 17 countries: Austria, Belarus, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

This Special Issue of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* contains a collection of 42 articles that cover all topics presented at ISBB '02. We thank all the reviewers for their careful reading and evaluating. Special thanks go to editor and editorial staff of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* for the opportunity to publish ISBB '02 proceedings in this issue.

The next symposium will be held at Hamburg University in Germany in 2005, chairwoman Professor Barbara Albert, as the first chairwoman of these symposium series. We wish her good luck and hope that the continuation of this successful series of meetings will result in further progress of the science of boron, borides, and related compounds.

V.N. Gurin

M.M. Korsukova, Secretary  
*Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute of the  
Russian Academy of Sciences,  
26, Politekhnikeskaya Str.,  
St. Petersburg 194021, Russia*