

Preface

**Boron, borides, and related compounds:  
Proceedings of the 15th International Symposium on Boron, Borides,  
and Related Compounds (ISBB 05)**

The 15th International Symposium on Boron, Borides, and Related Compounds (ISBB 05) was held at the University of Hamburg, Germany, 21–26 August 2005.

This series of conferences has been held triennially since 1959 and continues to be attended by a well-established international community of chemists, physicists, and materials scientists who work on boron-containing materials.

More than 120 participants from over 20 countries contributed to the ISBB 05, which was focused on solid-state synthesis and characterization and evaluation of the physical properties of mostly hard and refractory compounds with interesting electronic and magnetic properties.

The symposium attracted considerable public attention from the media, e.g., *Financial Times Deutschland*, *Deutschlandfunk*, and *Nachrichten aus Chemie, Technik und Laboratorium*. It was supported by many sponsors from industry (Toyo Kohan, Beiersdorf, H.C. Starck, Bayer, Stoe, ESK Ceramics, Netzsch Gerätebau, VCI) as well as research institutions and foundations (DFG, MPG, University of Hamburg, Hamburgische Stiftung für Wissenschaften, Verein der Freunde und Förderer, FB Chemie der UHH). We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all again for their support.

We are greatly indebted to Elsevier and especially to the editor, Professor M.G. Kanatzidis, who have made this

special issue of the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry* possible; Stephen Sims' technical assistance was of invaluable help. The reviewers did a great job of evaluating and commenting on the submitted publications to ensure the highest possible quality of this issue; the linguistic and organisational input of Gudrun Parsons is gratefully acknowledged, too.

This collection of articles represents the scope of subjects that were discussed at the ISBB 05, and it defines the state of the art in solid-state chemistry and materials research of boron, borides, and borates. We hope that this highly interdisciplinary field of science will continue to grow and gain further visibility in terms of both basic and applied research.

The next symposium will be organized by Professor K. Kimura and will be held in Japan. We are very much looking forward to this meeting. The Japanese community is among the largest and most active in the world of boron, and the presentation of new findings on this exciting class of materials will find an excellent panel at that conference.

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