Preface

The series of papers presented in this issue of Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry are a selection of papers delivered at the conference of TERMANAL 2003. The conference was organised in every three year and it has a long 45 years' tradition. 16th TERMANAL was held on 8-10 October 2003 at Stará Lesná situated in the High Tatras region that belongs to the beauty spots of Slovak Republic. The main organiser was the Slovak Group for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (SGTAC). 70 participants attended the conference, mainly from the Slovak Republic (44) and the Czech Republic (17), but also from other countries: Hungary (2), Spain (2), United Kingdom (2), Australia (1), Germany (1) and USA (1). The scientists dealing with inorganic and organic materials, ceramics, glass, pharmacy, polymer science and TA methods and instrumentation presented 4 plenary lectures, 18 lectures and 23 posters. The sponsorship was provided by the companies TA Instruments, Chromspec (representative of Netzsch), Shimadzu and Medic-Labor (representative of Perkin-Elmer); these companies also exhibited their TA instrumentations.

The conference TERMANAL was initially intended to be a local forum for the discussion within Czechoslovak thermoanalytical community. However, the number of participants from abroad is continuously increasing. Consequently, the participants of the conference decided that the next TERMANAL would be organised as an international Central-European conference. Further, they decided to shorten the period between the conferences and to organise them every odd year. Thus, the next international conference, 17th TERMANAL, will be held in autumn 2005, preferably in September.

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