

# Editorial

The International Thermal Spray Conference is the largest conference worldwide entirely dedicated to the thermal spray science and technology. This is a unique occasion where all players in the field can meet for sharing recent research results, exchanging ideas, and establishing new research and business partnerships. This yearly conference is organized jointly by the ASM Thermal Spray Society (TSS), the German Welding Society (DVS), and the International Institute of Welding (IIW). There are typically between 300 and 400 communications presented, and most of them are assembled in the conference proceedings published at the event.

This special issue of the Journal regroups a series of high-quality papers that were presented at the ITSC Conference held in Orlando, FL, May 5 to 8, 2003. The authors of these selected papers were invited to submit their manuscript for publication as peer-reviewed articles in the Journal. The papers were selected according to their quality, originality, and significance to the thermal spray field. They cover a wide range of topics, including new spray technologies, recent developments in advanced and nanostructured materials, laser treatment, and industrial applications of thermal spray coatings. This special issue of JTST is the third one dedicated to papers presented at the ITSC 2003 Conference. The first two issues, Vol 13, No. 1 (March, 2004) and No. 3 (October, 2004), were devoted to the special symposium on thermal barrier and environmental coatings.

Recognizing the importance of the contributions presented at the ITSC conferences over the years, we intend to continue publishing in this Journal a selection of papers presented at this event. The publication of these papers as peer-reviewed papers in an archived journal will contribute to the dissemination of significant research advancements on the international scene.



**Christian Moreau**

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Editor-in-Chief