

Editorial



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The International Thermal Spray Conference is the largest international gathering of this type dedicated entirely to the science and technology of thermal spray. It brings together the principal players from the various disciplines and industrial sectors—researchers, engineers, technicians, equipment and powder manufacturers, applicators, and end-users—to present cutting-edge research, exhibit the latest technology and newest equipment, exchange ideas, discuss challenges, identify business and research opportunities, and establish collaborations and partnerships. The conference is organized jointly by the ASM Thermal Spray Society (TSS), the German Welding Society (DVS), and the International Institute of Welding (IIW). Held annually, the venue for this conference rotates among cities in Europe, North America, and Asia, returning to each continent every third year. By following the papers presented at this event, it is possible to keep abreast of new developments and identify trends in the thermal spray field.

This special issue of *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* (JTST) features a selection of papers presented at the 2006 International Thermal Spray Conference (ITSC 2006) held in Seattle, WA, in May 2006. These articles have been drawn from the more than 250 papers that appeared in the Proceedings of that conference published in CD-ROM format. Authors of the selected articles were invited to submit their manuscripts to JTST, where they passed through the full review process required for publishing refereed papers. These papers represent a cross section of the wide range of topics covered at the conference.

We trust that this expanded JTST volume containing more than 50 peer-reviewed contributions based on papers presented at ITSC 2006 will be useful to readers, as a valuable reference source, and to authors, in serving as an important venue for disseminating their recent research results.

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