

# Editorial



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This special issue of the *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* features a selection of papers presented at the International Thermal Spray Conference 2008 (ITSC 2008) held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, June 2-4, 2008. The theme of the conference, "Thermal Spray Crossing Borders," underlined a number of important elements: (i) to advance the field of thermal spray, information exchange, the sharing of ideas, and discussion must take place at an international level; (ii) thermal spray markets and business opportunities must cross borders and continents; and (iii) the use of coatings allows materials to cross into applications and operating conditions that would otherwise not be possible for the uncoated component.

This conference continued the tradition of international thermal spray events that have played an important role in advancing this field. The ITSC, held annually, is organized jointly by the ASM Thermal Spray Society (TSS), the German Welding Society (DVS), and the International Institute of Welding (IIW). The venue rotates on a 3-year basis among locations in Asia, Europe, and North America. It brings together key players, including researchers, developers, manufacturers, and end users, representing the full scope of activity in this area. The gathering provides an opportunity of hearing about cutting-edge research; identifying new applications and market opportunities; learning about current technical challenges and future needs; finding solutions for existing problems; generating ideas for orienting future research programs; and obtaining information on a wide array of the latest technology, materials, and equipment available in the field. A key aspect of the event is the networking opportunity, during which research collaborations are often initiated and business partnerships formed.

This volume contains over 50 papers drawn from the nearly 300 appearing in the Proceedings of ITSC 2008 published in CD-ROM format by DVS (Editor: E. Lugscheider). Authors of the selected papers were invited to submit manuscripts to the *JTST* where they were passed through the full peer review process required for publishing peer-reviewed papers in this journal. These papers represent a cross section of the topics covered at the conference and provide insight into the latest developments and current trends in the thermal spray field. We hope this expanded *JTST* issue serves as a valuable reference source.

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