

Editorial

The European Ceramic Society will hold its 2nd Conference from Wednesday 11th September to Saturday 14th September 1991 in the city of Augsburg, Germany. Members of the ceramics community will have an excellent recollection of the first meeting held two years ago in Maastricht, Netherlands and there is every expectation that the meeting in Augsburg will follow this fine tradition.

In accordance with the rules of the European Ceramic Society the Augsburg meeting is being organized by colleagues in the German Ceramic Society and they have been successful in assembling a programme that well reflects the diversity and interest of current developments in the subject. The number of contributions now stands at 600 and it is clear that the meeting will again provide an exceptional opportunity to experience the full diversity of current international work.

A major attraction at the meeting will be the set of keynote lectures which the Organizing Committee has assembled. These include:

- R. E. Newnham** Electroceramics in the 1990s and beyond,
- B. C. H. Steele** Status of Ceramic Components for Fuel Cells,
- R. Kochendörfer** Design Concepts for Improving Reliability of Ceramic Components,
- S. Hirano** Chemical Processing of Electroceramics,
- R. Carlsson, E. Lidén, M. Persson, L. Bergström** Surface Modification of Ceramic Powders,
- D. Seyferth** Synthesis and Chemistry of Polymeric Precursors for Ceramics,
- M. Rühle** Microstructural and Microanalytical Characterization of Interfaces by High Resolution Electron Microscopy,
- K. Niihara, A. Nakahira** New Design of Structural Ceramic–Nanocomposites,
- P. Zannini** Research and Development in Traditional Ceramics: Recent History and Future Trends,
- R. E. Green Jr, J. W. Krynicky** Recent Advances in Nondestructive Evaluation of Ceramic/Ceramic Composites,
- E. Roess** Perspective Markets and Development Trends in Electronic and Magnetic Ceramic Components,
- W. B. Snyder** Recent Developments in Microwave Sintering in the United States.

In addition, there are two workshops planned for the meeting. The first, moderated by **W. Böcker** and **R. Kochendörfer**, is on the theme 'How can we improve reliability of ceramic components; the second, moderated by **R. E. Green Jr** and **H. Reiter** is on the theme 'How can we detect flaws and evaluate stresses in monolithic ceramics and ceramic composites'. Special topics sessions at the meeting will be held on 'Materials Research Activities in European Community programmes' which will be treated by **J. Wurm** and 'Ceramic Education in European Countries' which will be presented by **I. Berger**.

The context for these events is provided by a set of lecture and poster presentations on themes grouped under such headings as Electroceramics, Structural Ceramics, Powder and Processing Technology, Composites, Powderfree Processing, Traditional Ceramics, Microstructures and Interfaces, Materials Development and Oxidation. The conference will be the occasion for the holding of the 2nd Stuijts Memorial Lecture.

Members and friends of the European Ceramic Society have every reason to gather in Augsburg for such a stimulating and diverse programme!

R. J. Brook
Editor