

Editorial

The German Materials Society (DGM) and the German Ceramic Society (DKG) have established a joint committee on High-performance Ceramics with several sub-committees on special topics, such as Strengthening of Ceramic Materials (Verstärkung keramischer Werkstoffe). Several papers presented at a symposium on results discussed and generated within this sub-committee are grouped in this special issue of the *Journal of the European Ceramic Society*. The symposium was held at the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg on 8–9 October 1991. It was meant, on the one hand, to give a survey on research activities in the field of the toughening of ceramics in Germany and, on the other hand, to contribute to a better understanding of the micromechanics of the various toughening mechanisms under realistic loading conditions.

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