

Editorial

The first “Journées d’Etudes sur les Nitrures”—JENI took place in Rennes (France) in 1973, on the initiative of the Laboratories of Rennes and Limoges. Since that time, research on nitride-type compounds has become a major endeavour for scientists and engineers all around the world and today these materials successfully constitute a new class of materials.

The 10th edition of the JENI Symposium was an occasion for international specialists on nitrides to present and discuss the results of their research in the following fields: Synthesis and characterization, Ceramics and glasses, Surface properties and Spectroscopy studies.

In view of this international participation, the opportunity was taken to make “JENI 10 in Rennes, ISN’T” into the first International Symposium on Nitrides; the Symposium was held on May 29–31, 1996 in Saint Malo, near Rennes. Almost 150 specialists attended, representing 15 different countries.

The Congress was chaired by **Hubert Curien**, former French Minister for Science and Technology, Member of the French Academy of Science, Chairman of the European Academy of Science; vice-chairman was **Yves Laurent** and the secretary was **Patrick Verdier** (University of Rennes, France). The members of the International Scientific

Committee were **B. Armas** (France), **F. Di Salvo** (USA), **S. Hampshire** (Ireland), **S. T. Oyama** (USA), **J. F. Baumard** (France), **P. Grange** (Belgium) and **J. A. Ordiozola** (Spain).

Research results were presented in 8 invited lectures, in 20 oral communications and in 70 posters. The main subjects were:

- Conventional and new preparation processes (e.g. sol-gel route, organometallic precursors)
- Thin films for application in LEDs and in semi-conducting lasers emitting in the blue.
- Glasses, ceramics and cermets.
- Catalysts and chemical sensors.
- Spectroscopy studies of bulk and surface (e.g., NMR, EXAFS, XPS, DRIFT).

All participants were agreed in recognising this first ISN’T as a great success, both in terms of the quantity and in the quality of the scientific work presented and in terms of the number and international renown of the many participants.

The International Scientific Committee decided to entrust Professor S. Hampshire (University of Limerick, Ireland) with the task of organising the second edition of ISN’T.

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