

## Foreword

## Microwave Materials and their Applications 2000

The International Conference “Microwave Materials and their Applications—MMA 2000” was held in Bled, Slovenia, from 30 August—2 September 2000. The meeting was organised in response to the rapid growth in the science and technology of microwave materials during the last five years of the twentieth century. At small symposia within major international conferences, including the American Ceramic Society Convention and the ECerS Electroceramics Conference, increasing numbers of workers indicated that there was a growing need for a focussed conference on Microwave Materials and their Applications. It was perceived that there may be a need for a regular series, but the first would be organised jointly by Slovenia and the UK, and based in Bled, Slovenia.

The concept of MMA was that the focused meeting would have three primary themes:

- Synthesis of microwave materials
- Measurement techniques
- Design of components and their applications

In this way it should be highly relevant to industry. The aim was to improve the flow of knowledge from academe to industry, and for industry to identify the problems that required fundamental study.

The conference attracted 110 delegates. During the three days, 44 invited and contributed papers were presented orally and 31 as posters. On the final afternoon there was a wide-ranging Round Table session. This issue contains a selection of the papers presented at the conference; all papers have been subjected to full external, independent refereeing.

The conference chairs would like to acknowledge the work of Matjaz Valant, whose efforts ensured the efficient organisation and operation of the conference. The industrial sponsorship was appreciated, and played a key role in assisting the participation of a number of delegates.

The MMA Conference has aided the development of the International Microwave Network. This is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of microwave materials and their applications (<http://www.umist.ac.uk/MatSci/research/microwave>).

The next MMA conference is due to be held in the UK in 2002.

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