

## Editorial

Following on from the very successful MMA2000 (held in Bled, Slovenia), the International Conference “Microwave Materials and their Applications—MMA 2002” was held in York, UK, from 1–3 September 2002. The MMA series of meetings was organised in response to the rapid growth in the science and technology of microwave materials and recognition of the need for dedicated conferences on Microwave Materials and their Applications.

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

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

In this way the conference 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 require fundamental study.

The 2002 conference attracted 130 delegates. It is pleasing to report that major groups from academe and industry in Korea, Japan, China, USA and Europe were well represented. During the three days, 42 invited and contributed papers were presented orally and 82 as posters. A particular development this year was a large number of papers on characterisation techniques as well as dielectric property measurements. This in part reflects the development in instrumentation, but also the greater

theoretical understanding of these complex materials. On the final afternoon there was a wide-ranging Round Table session. Whilst there is still a need for high quality bulk materials for base station resonators, the growing importance of thin film and integrated components was also highlighted. This volume 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 Ms Paula Tipton, whose efforts ensured the efficient organisation and operation of the conference. The industrial sponsorship from the UK and Japan was appreciated, and played a key role in assisting the participation of a number of delegates.

The MMA Conferences operates in association with the International Microwave Network. This is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of microwave materials and their applications and new members are welcome (<http://www2.umist.ac.uk/Material/research/microwave>).

The next MMA conference will be held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2004.

R. Freer  
*Materials Science Centre*  
*University of Manchester/UMIST*  
*UK*