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# Journal of Nuclear Materials

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## Editorial

### Preface 12th STTNM-2008

The *Symposium on Thermochemistry and Thermophysics of Nuclear Materials* STTNM is one of the oldest in the field of nuclear technology starting out in Vienna, Austria in 1962 under the auspices of the IAEA. During the past 40 years the subjects of the meeting gradually changed from fundamental thermodynamics of actinoides and their compounds to more applied studies including fusion materials, fission product chemistry and structural materials.

The 12th symposium, STTNM was held from 30th August to 3rd September, 2008 in the conference facilities of the Parkhotel in Pörschach situated at the most beautiful part of the Lake Wörthersee in Carinthia, the southernmost federal district of Austria. The symposium attracted 68 persons from all together 16 countries in the world led in numbers by Europe (39) and Japan (19) followed by USA and Canada (5). The scientific programme consisted of five invited lectures, 38 normal contributions and 20 poster communications, addressing the latest results and the current trends in the field of thermochemistry and thermophysics of nuclear materials. Integrated in the 12th STTNM was also a COST – P16 workshop on strong electron correlations in actinoid materials.

Recent energy issues made STTNM-2008 a timely conference and an excellent forum to present and to assess the current and future status of the field of thermodynamics and thermophysics of nuclear materials. A large number of contributions on advanced fuels reflected the current interest of especially young researchers in these fields. The *Kubaschewski Honorary Lecture* of the 12th STTNM – introduced in 2004 to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the field of Thermodynamics of Nuclear Materials – was presented by Professor Don Olander from the Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, USA entitled 'Recent Developments in Nuclear Fuels for Future Reactor Designs'.

We thank the various session chairmen for their help in keeping sessions on time. Particularly acknowledged needs to be the effort of Dr. Andriy Grytsiv who as a conference coordinator guaranteed a smooth flow of presentations.

From the total of 63 scientific contributions a set of 33 manuscripts were submitted before the start of STTNM for publication in form of Conference Proceedings as a special issue of the International Journal of Nuclear Materials. Finally, the special issue will comprise a selection of 30 papers, all peer reviewed. We thank all the authors who contributed to these proceedings, and furthermore thank all referees for their competent analyses of the manuscripts. The organization of a conference such as STTNM resides on the efforts of many persons over many months. As chairman of STTNM I am truly indebted to all the members of the organizing committee for all their personal engagement and efforts to make the 12th STTNM a scientifically successful and socially unforgettable event.

Last but not least the support of several organizations is acknowledged sponsoring many facets of the conference. Without it STTNM-2008 would not have been so successful.

As part of the Closing Ceremony Professor Shinsuke Yamanaka invited the 13th STTNM to be held in Japan. Thus the next Symposium on Thermochemistry and Thermophysics of Nuclear Materials (13th ST<sup>2</sup>NM) will be organized by the University of Osaka in 2012.

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